

Welcome to Bushes Primary's **August & September** Newsletter!

A very warm welcome back to you all! I hope you all had a wonderful summer!

It has been wonderful to see our new P1 pupils join our school settle in so well! Welcome back to our P2-P7 pupils too, they have made a positive start to the year. Thank you for your continued efforts in ensuring your children come to school every day looking smart in their uniforms. We, as a staff team, are very much looking forward to the year ahead and I am sure, by continuing to work in partnership, it will be another very successful one for all of our pupils.



Staffing and Classes

In our Early Learning and Childcare Class, we say farewell to Mrs Anna Odolczyk, our Early Year's Graduate. I would like to thank Anna for all of her work in her time with us and wish her every success in her new post.

In the school, we welcome Miss Lucy Dempster who will work with Primary 6/5, Mrs Leigh Donaldson who will be working with Primary 4a and welcome back Miss Taylor Bain who will work with Primary 5/4 and Primary 6/5.

Primary 1a with Mrs Sweeney-Gardner	Primary 5/4 with Mrs Irvine and Miss Bain
Primary 2/1 with Miss Fowler	Primary 5a with Mrs Diver and Mrs Robertson
Primary 2a with Miss Boyle	Primary 6/5 with Miss Dempster and Miss Bain
Primary 3a with Mrs Hendry and Mrs Wake	Primary 6a with Mr Bannerman and Mrs Warnock
Primary 4/3 with Mrs Collin	Primary 7/6 with Mrs McIntosh and Mr Ramsay
Primary 4a with Mrs Moseley and Mrs Donaldson	Primary 7a with Mrs MacLeod and Mr Ramsay
NCCT and pupil support	Mrs Lynn Paterson Mr Neil Ramsay Mrs Abi Bryan Mrs Alison Warnock Mrs Donna McConnell

Keeping in Touch



We will be continuing to use the Seesaw app this session. Please make sure your details are up-to-date, and you can access your account on this app. Using this app will enable us to send home letters and newsletters via this system without having to print them – this will be good for the environment and for the school budget too allowing us to buy more resources to support your child's education. All letters and newsletters are also available on the school website. If you need to have a letter or newsletter printed, please contact the school office.

Please note that although Seesaw is an excellent tool for communication, we would ask that any queries, reporting of absences etc. is made directly with the school office and not through Seesaw. For this reason, direct messaging to the teacher has been turned off and the initial contact must be made via the school office.

We are continuously updating and adding new features to the school website. Keep checking our website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/bushes/> for the latest news and information from Bushes Primary. Our annual Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan will also be available on the school website by 26th September at the latest.

Lastly, if you wish to discuss something with a member of staff or the Senior Leadership Team, please contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient time as it is not always possible to meet a member of staff on demand. We work hard to respond to such requests as quickly as possible. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Appointments

We would ask that wherever possible children attend appointments out with the school day. I am aware however, that this is not always possible, and I would ask that in such cases you telephone the office to inform them. This will allow office staff to accurately record any appointments and inform the teachers, so they are aware. Thank you for your help with this.

Nut Free School



I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school. Nuts and products containing nuts e.g. Nutella, Snickers bars etc. should not be brought into school. There are a number of pupils within the school with life-threatening nut allergies and it is imperative that this ban on nuts and nut containing products is adhered to. Thank you for your support in this matter.

We are also a school that promotes healthy eating. I would appreciate your support in not sending your child into school with fizzy drinks as we have found consuming them can make it harder for children to concentrate.



Dogs in the Playground

A reminder that dogs are not permitted within the playground regardless of whether they are on a leash. This rule also applies to any dogs that are being carried by their owner within the playground. Anyone not following these guidelines will be asked to take the dog out of the playground.

Pupil Equity Fund



As part of our Pupil Equity Fund Plan for this session I am delighted to announce that we will continue to have in place teaching staff for a few days each week whose work will focus on working closely with identified pupils to raise their attainment. We will also continue to invest in software to support children's learning both in school and at home (Sumdog, IDL and Seesaw) as well as materials and supports for health and wellbeing (PATHS). Look out for further details regarding these initiatives this session.



School Photographs

Monument photographers will be visiting the school and ELC Class on **Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th September**. Please ensure your child comes to school or the ELC Class on both days ready to have their photographs taken. Once the photographs have been taken, proofs will be sent home for you to decide if you wish to purchase any of the photographs. Instructions for ordering and payment information will be included with the proofs; however, you are under no obligation to make a purchase.



Parent Council

We have a very active and supportive Parent Council, and I am very appreciative of everything they do for the school. Last year, despite many challenges, a lot of money was raised (nearly £5000!) with the money raised being used for a variety of actions which benefitted pupils. We are always looking for new members and I would encourage you to support the vital work the Parent Council does for the school. Parent Council meetings are usually scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month and are held in the staff room at 6.30pm. Dates are advertised on Seesaw with the first meeting of the year to take place on **Tuesday 2nd September**.

Visit the Classroom/Playroom Evening



An opportunity to attend a 'Visit the Classroom/Playroom' evening is being offered on **Wednesday 27th August between 4.30pm and 5.30pm**. A letter with further details will be sent home.



Car Park

Just a quick reminder that the school car park is for staff use only. Unfortunately, we only have enough space to accommodate staff's cars and by entering the car park to drop off or pick up, you may be placing children at risk. I would ask that you do not enter the staff car park. Thank you for your understanding and support in this.



Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices



If you deem it necessary for your child to bring a mobile phone with them to school, it must be switched off and kept in their school bag at all times. Children are not permitted to use their mobile phones within school time and the school takes no responsibility if they are lost or damaged. Children should not be using their mobile phones to take videos or photographs within the school grounds.

Children should not be bringing other electronic devices to school to use at break times or in class. At Bushes, we like to encourage children to build friendships and relationships with one another and find that the use of such devices at these times does not support this.

I am grateful to you for your support in both matters.

P.E. and Jewellery

A reminder that we strongly recommend that for best health and safety practice, children do not wear earrings to school on days they have P.E. However, if this is not possible, parents wishing their children to wear earrings must ensure that they are studded and not hooped. Parents must also ensure that earrings are either taped up before the start of the school day, provide tape to your child to administer the tape if you feel they are capable of doing so independently or that the pupil is able to remove the earrings by themselves. Please note that adults in the school do not take responsibility for taping up pupil's ears and that pupils are responsible for the safekeeping of their jewellery.

Children will also be asked to remove watches and other jewellery during P.E. lessons as per council policy. Children can wear comfortable trousers, leggings or joggers on P.E. days but should still wear a school polo shirt and jumper/cardigan as per the uniform guidance.

There is also a growing trend for false/very long natural nails being worn by children. During physical education, this can constitute a hazard to both wearer and others. Nails for staff and children/young people need to be sufficiently short to prevent injury to self and others.

Water Bottles



Staying hydrated has many proven health benefits including increased levels of concentration. With this, I would ask that you provide your child with a refillable water bottle and encourage them to bring it to school each day filled with fresh, plain water. They will have the opportunity at break and lunchtimes to refill these bottles from our water fountain.



Attendance and Timekeeping

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the majority of parents/carers who ensure that their children come to school regularly and on time. Attendance and timekeeping are key to ensuring your child has the opportunity to achieve to their fullest potential and as such it will continue to be monitored closely. If attendance and timekeeping percentages fall below certain levels, I am duty bound to inform you of this and will do so via letter.

Parents/Carers are kindly requested, whenever possible, not to take children out of school during term time as holidays out with term time are having a negative impact on children's learning and in some cases, there is a clear link to children's attainment. Children are being assessed formatively by their teachers throughout the school session and children are missing out on key assessments due to unauthorised absences during term time. We **will not** fulfil any requests for work to be issued for children to complete whilst they are on holiday during term time.

Dates for diary and school holidays



Please find on the next page a note of dates for your diary for this school session. Can I also draw your attention to the link on our school website to Renfrewshire Council's website page which details the school holiday dates. Go to <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/bushes/> click on the 'information' tab at the top of the page and then choose 'school holidays'.



Celebrating Children's Successes!

Don't forget to remind your child to share any successes outside of school with myself (e.g., sporting, doing tasks by themselves etc). We regularly share these at assembly and in our newsletters and like to mark any achievements our pupils make!

If you have any concerns regarding your child please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

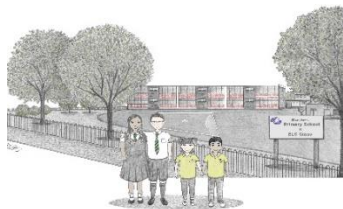
Craig McCrorie

Dates for Diary 2025-2026

August	
Wednesday 27 th	Visit the classroom/playroom 4.30pm-5.30pm (ELC Class and P1-P7)
September	
Tuesday 2 nd	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 11 th	Parent Council Disco
Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th	Maths Week Scotland
Tuesday 23 rd and Wednesday 24 th	School and ELC Class Photographs
Wednesday 24 th	P7 Open Evening at Gleniffer High School
Friday 26 th - Monday 29 th inclusive	Holiday
Tuesday 30 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
October	
Wednesday 8 th	Parents' Night (3pm-9pm P1-P7) (ELC Class 5pm-7pm)
Friday 10 th	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th inclusive	Holiday
Monday 20 th	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
Tuesday 21 st	First day of term
Thursday 30 th	Parent Council Disco
November	
Monday 3 rd – Friday 7 th	Primary 1 Enrolment
Wednesday 5 th	P6s Residential Trip Meeting-provisional date
Friday 7 th	Non-Uniform Day
Tuesday 11 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 12 th	Flu Vaccinations
Saturday 22 nd	Parent Council Winter Fayre
December	
Monday 1 st	Holiday
Friday 5 th	P3-7 Christmas Carols
Tuesday 9 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Tuesday 9 th (morning and afternoon)	ELC Class, P1 and P2 Nativity
Wednesday 10 th	P4s Christmas Party
Thursday 11 th	P3s Christmas Party
Friday 12 th	P5s Christmas Party
Monday 15 th	P6s Christmas Party
Tuesday 16 th	P7s Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 th	P2s Christmas Party
Thursday 18 th	P1s Christmas Party
Thursday 18 th	ELC Class Christmas Party
Friday 19 th AM	P1-P7 Pantomime
Friday 19 th	Finish at 2.30pm
Monday 22 nd – Monday 5 th January inclusive	Holiday

January	
Tuesday 6 th January	First day of term
Tuesday 13 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
February	
Friday 13 th	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 16 th and Tuesday 17 th inclusive	Holiday
Wednesday 18 th	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
Friday 20 th	World Thinking Day
March	
Tuesday 3 rd	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
Wednesday 11 th	Parents' Night (3pm-9pm P1-P7)
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th	P6s Residential Trip to Lockerbie Manor
April	
Wednesday 1 st	P1-P7 Open Afternoon
Thursday 2 nd	Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 2 nd	Finish 2.30pm
Friday 3 rd – Friday 17 th inclusive	Holiday
Monday 20 th	First day of term
Tuesday 28 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 30 th	P7s Parents and Carers Evening at Gleniffer High School
May	
Friday 1 st	ELC Class and P1-P7 Sports Days (to be confirmed)
Monday 4 th	Holiday
Thursday 7 th	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
Wednesday 13 th and Thursday 14 th	P7s Induction at Gleniffer High School
Thursday 14 th	New Primary 1s Induction at Bushes
Friday 22 nd	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 25 th	Holiday
Thursday 28 th	Parent Council Disco
June	
Tuesday 9 th	Parent Council AGM Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 17 th and Thursday 18 th	P7 School Show
Tuesday 23 rd	P7 Prom
Monday 29 th	P7 Leavers' Service
Tuesday 30 th	Finish at 1pm

Please note some dates may be unavoidably changed.



Bushes Vision, Values and Aims

"Blossom at Bushes"



Our Vision

To create the happy environment our school community needs to thrive, all stakeholders have established a clear Vision and set of Core Values as well as our aims for the whole school community.

Our Vision

We believe that all children are created equal and are owed the best we have to give. As a whole school community, we will work together tirelessly to develop and advance the unique set of skills and talents each of our pupils have and encourage every one of them to believe they can be successful and empower them to achieve amazing things.

Our Values are at the root of everything we do at Bushes:

Build each other up through **KINDNESS** and **FRIENDSHIP**

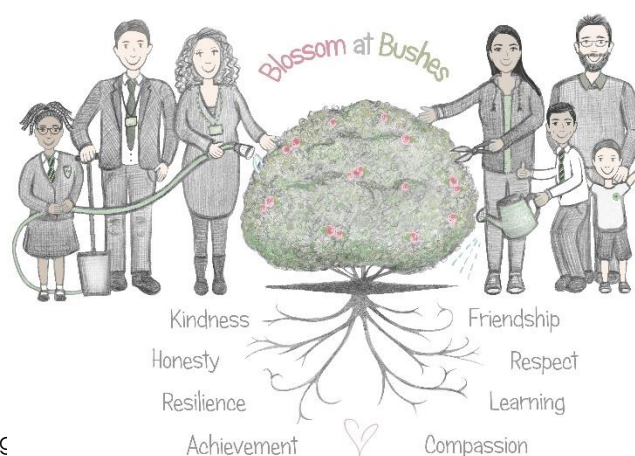
Uphold **HONESTY**

Share **RESPECT**

Have **RESILIENCE**

Encourage **LEARNING** and **ACHIEVEMENT**

Show **COMPASSION**



Aims for our Pupils

- To provide a happy, safe, stimulating, supportive and nurturing full potential as both learners and people, and can develop respect for themselves, others and their surroundings.
- To provide a rich, exciting and progressive curriculum which engages and motivates children and through which every child can develop fully as lifelong learners with skills to equip them for their future.
- To encourage children to be independent, motivated, curious, creative and resilient learners who have a love of, and are capable of leading, their own learning.
- To provide children with the opportunities to contribute their voice to, and play an active role in, the development of the School and ELC Class.
- To provide opportunities for every child to feel part of, and be able to positively contribute to, the school, local and global community, helping them to become responsible members of society.
- To actively promote good physical and mental health amongst all children.
- To celebrate children's achievements and ensure they receive recognition and praise for their efforts and achievements in all areas of their life, both within and out with the ELC Class and School.
- To provide equity for all children.

Aims for our Families and Community

- To provide a supportive and nurturing environment, working collaboratively and in partnership with parents and carers to help every child achieve their full potential.
- To empower parents and carers to play an active role in their child's education.
- To develop and sustain close links between parents and the local community to further children's learning.
- To promote, support, respect and value parental engagement in contributing to the ongoing development of the school.

Aims for our Staff

- To provide a supportive and nurturing environment wherein staff work collaboratively to provide the best educational experience possible for every child.
- To support them in keeping up to date with latest National and Council policies and procedures and continuing to develop their practice through Continual Professional Development opportunities.
- To nurture and respect each child as an individual and play an active role in their personal, as well as their educational development.
- To serve the community of Bushes with empathy, progressive learning and pride.