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Board of Governors

The Chair of Governors is Rev. Kenneth Crowe. The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the running of the school, although the day-to-day management is delegated to the Principal, Mrs C Irwin. The Governors are committed to ensuring that Bushvalley Primary School effectively meets the needs of the children and the community it serves.

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to look through our prospectus and for considering Bushvalley Primary School as a suitable school for your child. As you read through our prospectus, I hope you will gain an understanding of the ethos and vision for our school.

“Our future depends on building upon the experiences of the past, learning from the present and preparing for the challenges of the future”

Children are at the heart of our school. At Bushvalley, we are committed to providing a safe, stimulating, welcoming, environment where the children are able to develop their personalities and skills, so that they have a firm foundation for life in an ever-changing world.

We strongly believe that education is a partnership and we work closely alongside parents to develop each child.

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities, both formal and informal provided for parents to be involved in the education of their children. At all times, we encourage a positive partnership and open communication between home and school.

If you would like to visit our school, please telephone to make an appointment. We are always delighted to welcome and show parents and visitors around our school, as it is a place of which we are all enormously proud.

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming your child.

Best Wishes,

Mrs C. Irwin

Principal





About Our School

Bushvalley Primary School is a controlled school, situated on a beautiful, rural landscape, just outside the village of Stranocum, near the beautiful Dark Hedges. Bushvalley opened in September 1996 on the site of Stranocum Primary School and was a result of the amalgamation of Ballycreagh Primary and Stranocum Primary. The well-kept building is designed and equipped to a very high standard in order to provide the very best learning and working environment for our children.

Bushvalley Primary can admit 28 pupils each year into Primary 1. The school has a wide catchment area with children attending the school from the neighbouring areas of Stranocum, Mosside, Armoy, Dervock, Ballycastle and Ballymoney. Many parents bring their children to school by car, but there is an Ulsterbus Service and also an Education Authority Bus Service.

The school building consists of 5 classrooms, a large resource area, a fully equipped ICT suite, a sensory room and a spacious Physical Education hall/dining hall. There is currently a mobile classroom and a disabled access toilet/washroom/First Aid Room.



School Meals

The school is fortunate to have its own kitchen facilities; Pupils have the option of purchasing toast, bagels and fruit each morning for their mid-morning snack. High quality meals for lunchtime are prepared and cooked on the premises.

As a Health Promoting School, Bushvalley Primary is committed to encouraging and developing positive attitudes towards food and a healthy diet. The school recognises the important role which it can play in contributing to childhood nutrition and the development of the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthier food choices. Healthy eating education forms an important part of our school's curriculum. The importance of nutrition and healthy food choices is explicitly taught through The World Around Us and PDMU.



Curriculum

Our aim is to provide all children with the widest possible range of curriculum experiences. We keep up to date with educational change and adjust our teaching methods to keep in line with the demands of the Northern Ireland curriculum.

The Curriculum focuses on the following 6 areas of learning:

Language & Literacy	Mathematics and Numeracy	The Arts	The World Around Us	Personal Development and Mutual Understanding	P.E
Talking and Listening Reading Writing	Processes Number Handling Data Shape and Space Measures	Art & design Music Drama	History Science and Technology Geography	Emotional development Health Moral thinking Social skills	Knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities

In addition to the curriculum the pupils are also taught languages with a focus on Spanish.

ICT is an integral element in all aspects of teaching and learning and is assessed in a cross-curricular basis. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive smartboard and children have access to computers, laptops and iPads. Furthermore, we have a well-equipped computer suite where all children have the further opportunity to develop their ICT skills.

To help achieve a broad and balanced curriculum, our dedicated staff employ a range of teaching approaches, (including whole class, group work and individual teaching) depending on the subject being taught and the needs of the children. Activities are carefully planned and matched to suit the individual interests, needs and ability of the child. This ensures effective teaching and learning. The children have the opportunity to extend their reading skills through our Accelerated Reader Programme. This Programme enables pupils to read a book, take an online quiz, then receive immediate feedback. With the regular feedback, we have found that the pupils are motivated to make progress with their reading skills. We also offer a range of interactive online learning programmes for P1-P7 including Reading Eggs, Mathseeds and Mathletics.

Outdoor Learning

Bushvalley Primary School recognises the importance of outdoor learning for pupil development. We have an extensive outdoor play area comprising of monkey bars, climbing wall and a balancing bridge. We also have a range of outdoor play equipment including trikes, bikes and large construction toys. Bushvalley Primary School also has its own outdoor classroom and a school polytunnel. Bushvalley is fully accredited as a Forest School by the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association. Bushvalley has also achieved the Eco-School Green Flag Award.





Assessment

Pupils' progress is continuously monitored throughout the school year. Standardised Tests are used from P3 – P7 to assess the progress of each child and each class. End of Key Stage Assessment for Year 4 and Year 7 pupils are also carried out annually in keeping with statutory obligations. Results have indicated that pupils at Bushvalley Primary School achieve above average for Northern Ireland.

Transfer Procedures

Bushvalley dedicates time to SEAG Transfer Assessments. We ensure that all pupils are well prepared for admission to secondary school. The majority of pupils transfer to Dalriada, Coleraine Grammar, Ballycastle High or Ballymoney High.





Assembly and Religious Education

Pupils have the opportunity to attend/lead assembly each Tuesday morning. Local ministers also visit and partake in our assemblies on a regular basis. A programme of Religious Education is offered within class throughout the school. Pupils may be withdrawn from Religious Education teaching, if desired, following consultation with the Principal.



Special Educational Needs

At Bushvalley Primary School, we pride ourselves on our outstanding provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs. All staff work in close partnership with the children, parents and relevant outside agencies to ensure the specific needs of pupils are addressed. Bushvalley has a school sensory room, which ensures that all children's learning needs are supported. We also provide one day learning support weekly.

Bushvalley is delighted to have achieved the Autism NI Education Champion Award and is also dedicated to being a Dyslexia Friendly School.



Music and Drama

In addition to the music taught throughout the school as part of the curriculum, we provide pupils with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, experienced tutors offer lessons for strings and brass instruments. We also offer private lessons for, guitar, drums ukulele and piano. Furthermore, private tutors offer singing lessons. Pupils are encouraged to enter music exams and we are delighted with the great success celebrated over the years! The pupils have the opportunity to develop their musicianship by joining the School Choir. As well as performing at school events, pupils perform at Coleraine Music & Drama Festival and other community events.

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."





Extra- Curricular and After School Activities



At Bushvalley, we are passionate about providing an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. Throughout the school year these activities include some of the following:

Hockey | Nature Rangers | Bushcraft | Gymnastics | Gardening Club
Little Chefs | Good News Club | Coding | First Aiders | Netball
Tag Rugby | Agri-Club | Little Artists | Football

Causeway Coast and Glens Sports Development Officers also work closely with our school and offer some of the following coaching sessions; Muti-skills, Multi-sports, Table Tennis, Curling, Boccia, Archery, Volleyball & Basketball. Our sports' teams have successfully competed in several local and regional level competitions.

In addition we also offer the following clubs; SEAG Transfer Club, Scripture Union and Cycling Proficiency.

“Being part of a group or team provides a sense of belonging, with extra-curricular activities offering an opportunity for your child to interact with others with similar interests and potentially build friendships outside of their usual circle.”



Educational Trips

At Bushvalley, we organise regular educational visits for our pupils to enhance the learning that they experience. Our Primary 6/7 pupils also have the opportunity to go on an annual residential trip. Previous residential trips have been to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester and Dublin.



Pastoral Care

We recognise that happy children are the best learners and so we provide a comfortable and safe learning environment. We strive at all times to develop each child to his or her potential by creating an atmosphere based upon good relationships between staff, pupils and parents. We recognise that we have a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional wellbeing. At all times, the school will endeavour to provide a secure, caring and safe environment for learning.

Positive Behaviour

The school adopts a positive approach to behaviour, expecting all pupils to behave in a responsible manner by always showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people. The co-operation of parents is sought to maintain high standards of pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of school uniform, having the proper equipment for learning and the supervision of homework. Bushvalley has Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (P4-P7). The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors help to educate their peers on bullying, lead on anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference and help keep their peers safe both online and offline.

Child Protection

All schools have an obligation to ensure the safety of the children in their care. If a child makes a disclosure to an adult, or if an adult has concerns about a child, these will be reported to the School's Designated Teacher. The school has a Safeguarding Policy, which lays out procedures to be followed when concerns arise. Bullying will not be tolerated in Bushvalley. All staff members are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, as well as to protect and reassure the victim.





Digital Services & Communication

High standards of communication are central to effective home/school partnership. Therefore, at Bushvalley we have embraced modern technology as our main mode of contact. Communication at Bushvalley is through the following methods:

ParentMail App

School Facebook | School Website

SeeSaw | School Newsletter



Uniform

At Bushvalley Primary School, we take pride in our uniform and expect pupils to wear it every day.

Pupils wearing clothing in school colours creates a unified community, reduces competition among pupils and improves school spirit.

The uniform is as follows:

Girls' Uniform

Grey skirt/pinafore

Blue polo shirt (bearing school logo)

Navy sweatshirt (bearing school logo)

White knee length socks

Black shoes

Summer Option: Blue checked cotton dress

Formal:

Blue shirt

School tie

Grey skirt/pinafore

Boys' Uniform

Grey trousers

Blue polo shirt (bearing school logo)

Navy sweatshirt (bearing school logo)

Grey socks

Black shoes

Summer Option: Grey shorts

Formal:

Blue shirt

School tie

Grey trousers

School ties, sweatshirts and polo shirts can be ordered through the school office.

"Our uniform is part of our school identity, uniting our pupils and we hope they take pride in wearing it."







School Day

⇒	Breakfast Club opens:	8.00am
⇒	Children arrive at school: Staff on playground duty.	8.30am
⇒	School day begins.	9am
⇒	Mid-morning healthy break and outdoor play:	10.30 - 10.45am (P1-P3) 10:45 - 11.00 am (P4-P7)
⇒	Lunchtime:	12pm - 12:45pm (P1 & P2) 12:15pm- 1pm (P3-P7)
⇒	<u>P1 Finish</u> First week in September: Remainder of the school year:	1pm 2pm 2pm
⇒	<u>P2 Finish:</u>	2pm
⇒	<u>P3 Finish</u> Monday and Tuesday: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday	3pm 2pm 2pm
⇒	<u>P4 - P7 Finish :</u>	3pm
⇒	End of Extra-Curricular Clubs:	4pm
⇒	PAL & Bush Buddies After School Club until:	6pm

Wrap-around Care: Breakfast Club, PAL & Bush Buddies

At Bushvalley Primary School, we recognise the busy lifestyles of families. To try and assist with families' expensive childcare costs and to create greater flexibility for parents, the school has developed an extended service of wrap-around care for all pupils in our charge. This runs during term-time from 8am – 6pm each weekday.

Our own school staff manage this facility. Parents can pay for this service through the use of the Childcare schemes available, which in turn helps families to save on costs. This service is only available to pupils from our own school.

Our wrap-around care offers the following benefits:

- *Affordable childcare costs*
- *Children already familiar with staff*
- *Access to school facilities*
- *No additional pick up/collection/transport issues*
- *Continuity of ethos/policies/organisational structure*



Bushvalley

Primary School

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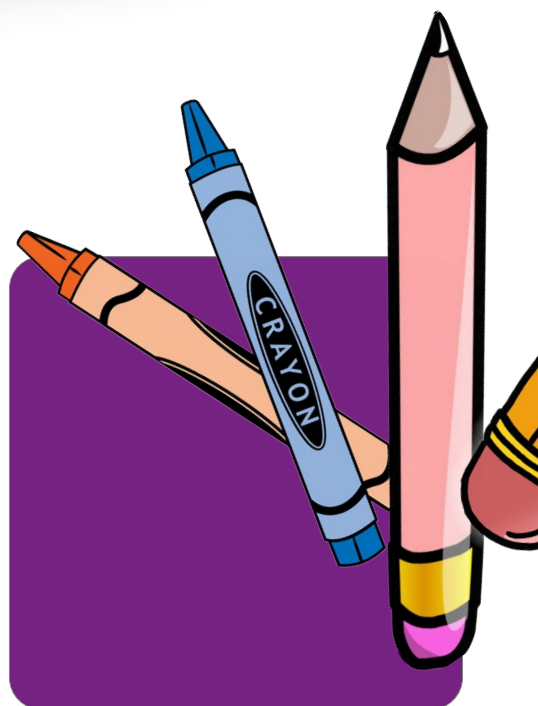
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Principal: Mrs C. Irwin

"Bushvalley is a great school, it
is fun and everyone is friendly. I
love coming to school everyday"
Primary 7 Pupil & Chairperson of the
School Council



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