



Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter

Friday 26th January 2024



Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share with you exciting news from Primary 3HM! 😊 As part of Literacy in P3, pupils have been focusing on various forms of writing. Most recently, they have been developing their narrative writing skills by constructing a story based on a super pet. Such was the effort applied by the class, these stories were entered into the Young Writers' competition. After thousands of entries from across the UK, all 29 pieces of work from P3HM were chosen for publication in 'Super Pets - Fantastic Fiction', a great achievement. Well done to all pupils - we are so proud of you!



Uniform Shop

Our Uniform Shop will open again next week (Monday - Friday). Please telephone the office on 028 2588 0368 to place your order. These items will be available for payment and collection from Monday 5th February 2024. Please note our uniform shop will not open again until Term 3.

Book Fair

Traditionally, Buick has hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in the lead up to World Book Day. This year, the Book Fair will be open from Thursday 22nd February until Tuesday 27th February. Classes will visit the Book Fair during the school day. Parents may wish to visit the Book Fair to purchase a book with their child at 2pm/3pm when collecting them from school on these days.

In previous years we distributed the tokens but unfortunately, these often ended up lost or misplaced. This year, we will retain the token and deduct the £1 off each book purchased at checkout. Thank you for your continued support.

Number Day

On Friday 2nd February it is Number Day! Our pupils will be engaging in various activities in their classes. Pupils do not need to dress up or pay any money for this fun day in school.

Breakfast Club and 2-3 Club

At Buick, we offer a Breakfast Club to allow children to be dropped off from 8am at the back gate. Pupils then engage in a variety of activities and have breakfast in the Dining Centre, until the school bell rings at 8:45am.

Additionally, pupils who normally finish at 2pm can stay until 3pm, for a small fee of £3 to cover staffing costs. This facility allows families to have one collection time and also encourages your child's social interactions with other children beyond their class environment. Places are booked in advance via ParentMail.

Please utilise these supplementary clubs before and after school. They are dependent upon your support to continue to flourish and remain in operation in 2024/25.

In the Community

A promotional poster for a football camp. The background is a collage of football-related images: a player's legs with a football, a player's legs with a football and orange cones, and a football on a green field. The text is overlaid on this background. At the top, 'SKY BLUE' is in large blue letters, and 'HALF-TERM CAMP' is in large white letters. Below this, a calendar icon is next to the dates '15TH & 16TH FEB'. Underneath the dates is the time '10AM - 1 PM' and the location 'BALLYMENA SHOWGROUNDS 3G'. At the bottom left is the Ballymena United Youth Academy crest, which is a blue shield with three orange towers and a banner that says 'BALLYMENA UNITED YOUTH ACADEMY'. At the bottom right, it says 'HOSTED BY SAMUEL MCILVEEN' and 'OPEN TO ALL 2017-2012'.

SKY BLUE
HALF-TERM CAMP

 **15TH & 16TH FEB**
10AM - 1 PM
BALLYMENA SHOWGROUNDS 3G

 **HOSTED BY**
SAMUEL MCILVEEN
OPEN TO ALL 2017-2012

School Office Opening Hours

The school office is open from 8.45am to 3.30pm and closed between 1pm-1.30pm for lunch. Please bear this in mind when ringing the school. Additionally, please be considerate of school life if you don't get through and, if necessary, leave a voicemail.

Nut Allergies

We have a number of pupils in school with allergies to particular foods such as nuts. Buick is a 'NUT FREE SCHOOL'. We respectfully ask parents to think carefully about what items they give to their child. Please encourage healthy eating and do not send any nut products into the school environment. We must eliminate the risk of anaphylactic reactions. Your co-operation in this matter is essential in keeping all children safe.

Parents

We want to work in partnership with you to benefit your child. However, this week, we have received a number of calls related to disagreements between parents which have then permeated into school life. Buick's role is to provide a high-quality education for all children - not to mediate between adults or spend excessive amounts of time investigating matters beyond the school environment. Please do not contact the school to resolve issues that are not within our jurisdiction. This includes social media. If you allow your primary school aged child to have Snapchat, Tik Tok, Facebook or Instagram - it is your job to monitor it! Your understanding and compliance in these matters is essential in moving forward.

Dates for Your Diary - Term 2

Wednesday 31 st January	Buick Ju-Jitsu 2pm - 3pm = P1& P2 3pm - 4pm = P3-P7
Thursday 1 st February	P7 Swimming (4/10) 3pm - 4pm Football Training (P4-P7 boys only)
Friday 2 nd February	P7 team to attend Road Safety Quiz Tim Bailie visiting Buick Pupils who wish to buy The Proud Parakeet should bring £5 to school. 3pm - 4pm Rugby Training for P5-P7 (boys and girls)
Monday 5 th February	Parent Interviews - Pupils will finish at 1pm
Tuesday 6 th February	Citizenship Parent Interviews - Pupils will finish at 1pm
Wednesday 7 th February	Parent Interviews - Pupils will finish at 1pm Buick Ju-Jitsu 2pm - 3pm = P1& P2 3pm - 4pm = P3-P7
Thursday 8 th February	Parent Interviews - Pupils will finish at 1pm P7 Swimming (5/10) 3pm - 4pm Football Training (P4-P7 boys only)
Friday 9 th February	Staff Development Day - Buick closed to pupils
Buick Memorial will be on Half-Term Holidays from Monday 12 th February - Friday 16 th February, inclusive.	

SEAG Transfer Scores

Best wishes to our Primary 7 pupils who will be receiving their SEAG Transfer scores on Saturday morning. In previous years, we would have distributed the Buick mobile for parents to contact Miss Peters. However, with this being the first year of SEAG, the results and what they will equate to are unknown.

Parents will receive a Literacy and Numeracy score. These will be added together to give an overall score. Scores are then placed into bands.

It is important that all parents are aware of this new system. For this reason, please see the attached pages which will explain this new scoring matrix further. This is the only information available at present.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards, R. Peters (Acting Principal)

SEAG Outcomes – what they mean

Every pupil who sat the SEAG Entrance Assessment receives 5 outcomes. Two of these, the TSAS and the Band are used by academically selective schools when they are applying their Year 8 Admissions Criteria and the other three outcomes, the English / Irish SAS, the Maths SAS and the Cohort Percentile, provide additional information.

- **TSAS (Total Standardised Age Score)**

This is worked out by adding a pupil's English / Irish SAS to their Maths SAS.

The highest TSAS is 282 and the lowest is 138. An "average" TSAS is 200.

This means that 50 out of every 100 pupils who sat the Assessment have a TSAS of 200 or more. An average TSAS of 200 does not mean that a pupil only got 50% of the questions right or that they got $200/282 = 71\%$ of the questions right. It only tells how a pupil did compared to other pupils.

- **Band**

Pupils whose TSAS is in the top 40% are in Band 1, the next 10% in Band 2, the next 10% in Band 3 and so on. Band 6 covers around 20% pupils who are not in one of the top 5 Bands.

- **Cohort Percentile**

The whole group of pupils who sat the Assessment across N.Ireland is called the cohort. The higher the percentile the better a pupil has achieved compared to all the pupils. e.g. if a pupil's score is in the 80th percentile they would be higher than 79% of all the pupils and lower than 20% of all the pupils.

- **English / Irish SAS and Maths SAS**

The highest English / Irish or Maths SAS is 141 and the lowest is 69.

An "average" SAS is 100.

This means that 50 out of every 100 pupils who sat the Assessment have an English / Irish SAS of 100 or more and 50 out of every 100 have a Maths SAS of 100 or more.

The TSAS is worked out by adding the English / Irish SAS to the Maths SAS.

The Table below shows the link between TSAS, Cohort Percentile and Band for pupils who sat the Assessment in November 2023.

TSAS	236-282	224-235	215-224	207-214	200-206	193-199	185-192	175-184	Less than 175
Cohort Percentile	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	Less than 20
Band	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

What TSAS or Band will a pupil need to gain a Year 8 place in a particular school for September 2024?

- This question is impossible to answer. It will depend on the school and on the TSAS or Bands of the pupils who apply this year.
- Parents choose which schools they want to apply to for their children.
Imagine that two schools have 120 places and 160 applicants. In school A the pupil who is in 120th place in the rank order may have a TSAS of say 209 or be in Band 1 (if the school is using Bands); in school B the pupil in 120th place may have a TSAS of say 185 or be in Band 4 (if the school is using Bands).
Schools do not know how many pupils will apply in any year nor do they know, in advance, what SEAG outcomes those pupils will have.
- Historically, some schools have only been able to take pupils with higher AQE or PPTC scores or Grades and some have been able to take a broader range of Outcomes.
- Based on the number of academically selective places in SEAG schools there are, overall, enough academically selective places for about 65% of all the pupils who sat the SEAG Entrance Assessment.
- It is possible, using historical data, to make some comparisons between SEAG, AQE and PPTC outcomes.
- In the Tables which follow these comparisons are given to provide a guide with approximate "estimates".

SEAG Outcomes – a comparison with historical AQE and PPTC outcomes

The average SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) is 200.

PPTC used the same range as SEAG (138-282) BUT the PPTC average SAS was 231.
This means that a SEAG TSAS of 200 is “equivalent” to a PPTC SAS of about 231.

AQE used a different range. Its highest SAS was about 130 with an average SAS of about 103.
This means that a SEAG TSAS of 200 is “equivalent” to an AQE SAS of about 103.

SEAG provides 6 Bands with 1 being the highest.

Pupils with the top 40% TSAS scores are placed in Band 1, the next 10% in Band 2 and so on.

Being placed in Band 1 means that the pupil has a SEAG Cohort Percentile of 60 or higher. Pupils with the highest cohort percentiles have achieved the highest TSAS in the Entrance Assessment.

AQE never used Bands although some AQE schools created their own Bands.

PPTC used Grades, which are very similar to SEAG Bands. About 40% of SEAG pupils are in Band 1; slightly over 40% of PPTC pupils had Grade A; with both SEAG and PPTC around 20% are in Band 6.

Many parents and teachers are familiar with AQE and / or PPTC outcomes. The tables below are designed to provide a helpful comparison guide.

SEAG comparison with historical AQE and PPTC outcomes:

Approx PPTC /GL “Equivalent” SAS	SEAG TSAS	Approx AQE “Equivalent” SAS	SEAG Band	SEAG Cohort Percentile
282	282	130	1	100
258	236		1	90
249	224	113	1	80
242	215	109	1	70
236	207	106	1	60*
231	200	103	2	50*
226	193	99	3	40*
220	185	94	4	30*
214	175	88	5	20*
200	<175		6	<20

*This is the minimum cohort percentile needed for that Band

Two examples:

A SEAG TSAS of 215 would be “equivalent” to a PPTC SAS of about 242 or an AQE SAS of about 109.

A SEAG TSAS of 185 would be “equivalent” to a PPTC SAS of about 220 or an AQE SAS of about 94.

Minimum PPTC /GL SAS needed for Grade	PPTC/ GL Grade	Approx “Equivalent” SEAG TSAS
234	A	206
229	B1	197
224	B2	190
219	C1	183
213	C2	174
<213	D	<174

The approximate historical AQE and PPTC/GL SAS figures are based on published data from schools which used a Cohort Percentile banding model and on PPTC outcomes data provided to all parents.



BREAKFAST

Back gate
open from

£1 Entry

8am – 8:10am

CLUB

See Weekly
note for food
prices

EAT



Breakfast Club offers lots of YUMMY
healthy breakfast foods to fuel you
with energy for the school day!



FUN



Games/Jigsaws/Books/Interactive Board



SOCIALISE



Make new friends

