



## Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very productive week at Buick with our Primary 1 pupils settling into their new routines. It has been a smooth transition for our children from Nursery into P1 with Miss Stirling and Miss Greer. We look forward to them staying till 2pm from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.









### P6 Trip to Cuningham Church

On Tuesday morning, P6 visited Cuningham Memorial Church. They learned about the history of our local church during Victorian times.

Many thanks to Rev. Mullholland who answered all the children's questions and showed us lots of interesting Victorian artefacts.

Our former Vice Principal, Miss Orr, accompanied the class on the trip. Our children are now going to create lots of amazing artwork based on the Victorian theme. Even though it was a very wet morning for a walk, our staff and pupils all had a great time.



### Behaviour

Buick Memorial prides itself on having kind, polite and well-mannered children who are fulfilling their academic potential by giving of their best each day in school and with their homeworks.

During Assembly this week, Miss Peters reminded children about the importance of being kind and treating others with respect. This led to a discussion about behaviour and school expectations.

If school rules are not adhered to, sanctions must be put in place to deal with any inappropriate conduct. These sanctions are part of our school Behaviour Policy and we will be strictly enforcing the steps outlined. Parental support in these matters is greatly appreciated.

The expectation of good behaviour continues whilst travelling to and from school on the bus. Pupils who are not complying with the seatbelt and travel rules, are putting others in danger by distracting the driver. Children who do not behave in an acceptable manner **will not be allowed** to travel as they jeopardise the safety of others.

### Assessments

We will be continuing with Baseline Assessments in P1-P7 over the next two weeks. These skilful judgements inform teaching and learning experiences and opportunities. Your child's class teacher will carefully monitor and track your child's progress throughout the academic session. In May, we will complete our End of Year PTE / PTM Assessments and evaluate the individual progress made.



## Parenting

As a school, we actively dissuade children bringing mobile phone devices to school. This is in line with school policy. If any emergencies arise during the school day, we will contact you directly.

Furthermore, parents who choose to give their primary school child a mobile phone or tablet device at home, **MUST** ensure that the parental controls are locked, and children are kept safe online. In Buick, we teach our children about internet safety, but we cannot monitor devices at home - this is a parental responsibility! Parents should not bring any Whatsapp, Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram or Tik Tok issues to the school. It is not our responsibility to govern such interactions beyond school hours.

We actively encourage all parents who provide their child with such devices to routinely monitor browser history and the apps with which your child is engaging. Primary school children should not have any social media accounts as they are far too young! Please let children be children - there is plenty of time for those platforms when they are older, matured and truly ready for them.

**"Can I get a phone?"**

**Parent Line NI**  
0808 8020 400

**Simple question, but what is your answer?**

**Are you debating this question?**  
**Do you feel smartphones are to be avoided?**  
**Has your child just got their first phone?**  
**We understand your responsibilities & concerns.**  
**Parentline has gathered information to help you to make this decision and help keep everyone informed, connected and safe.**

**For your FREE PACK**  
**Call us now 0808 8020 400**

## 2-3 Club

Places in 2-3 Club this must be booked in advance via ParentMail to allow staffing to be planned accordingly. Our 2-3 Club cost remains fixed at £3 per pupil, per day and is open to all P1s (w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> September), P2s and P3s in Term One. This Club is operated by Mrs Francey, Miss Lowry and Mrs S. Greer.

### Child Protection

If you have any concerns about your child's safety in school, you can speak to Mr Beattie, (Designated Teacher for Child Protection), or to Mrs Shirlow, (Deputy Designated Teacher). If you are still concerned, you may contact the Principal, Miss R Peters, who oversees the Safeguarding Team within Buick Memorial Primary School. Additionally, you may contact the Board of Governors. Our Child Protection Governor is Rev. Philip Moffett.

If you have any concerns about a child or community activity out of school hours, you can talk to a Social Worker at the Social Services Gateway Team on 0300 1234 333 or PSNI on 101.

Like all primary schools, Buick links with PSNI Officers to engage in Operation Encompass. This is a legal requirement which ensures appropriate information is shared accordingly.

As professionals, we have a legal duty of care for children. As part of this, 'Notes of Concern' are completed inhouse if staff have any worries regarding a child's presentation. This presentation includes their attendance, personal hygiene, nutritional provision, growth and development, uncharacteristic behaviours and comments/worries they share about home life. If appropriate, these records may be shared with Social Services.

If your individual circumstances or family composition has changed over the summer, please contact the school to inform us. These open lines of communication will ensure each child's needs are met.

### Dining Centre and Lunches

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September is Week 3 of our new Lunch Bunch Menu. School dinners remain at a cost of £2.60 per day. Any pupil with a food allergy must complete the relevant form before availing of food from our Dining Centre.

We would like to remind parents that they should clearly name pack lunch bags too as they can easily get misplaced or swapped in a school environment! Also, please do not send food to school which your child cannot open or does not like! It is important that children have enough food and drink to sustain them for the full day.

Parents are encouraged to be mindful about sending in big bags of sweets as lunch. As nutrition is essential for growth and brain development, please carefully consider the content of your child's packed lunch.

### Free School Meals

We have a number of children enrolled within the school who would be entitled to free school meals but are not registered as such. If your child is not currently on the 'Free Meals Register' and you feel that they could/should be, please visit [www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals) to make an application. It is in the school's best interest to have all children who are eligible registered as such, as this impacts on the budget allocated for this academic year.

Parents who have applied should not presume their child will receive a free school meal immediately. Only parents who have completed the registration process and who have received written confirmation will be on our list. The Education Authority has stated that pupils who are awaiting processing should pay £2.60 per day, if availing of a school meal, until the registration process has been completed.

### Social Media

A gentle reminder to parents that Buick Memorial Primary School or Nursery Unit should not be mentioned in any social media posts. This aligns with the Ballymena Primary Principals' letter which we shared a few weeks ago. It is disheartening to read negative comments online which are factually incorrect or misleading to the public. Miss Peters will happily meet with any parents to address their concerns. Social media will not resolve any matters.

## Term 1A

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Buick Ju-Jitsu P2 & P3 = 2-3pm and P4-P7 = 3-4pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Coaching For Christ in Buick
	3pm - 4pm - P4-P7 Boys and Girls Football Training
	6pm - Primary 1 Information Evening
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Primary 1 pupils staying until 2pm
	Some Nursery pupils staying until 1:30pm
	3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	3pm - 3:45pm - Netball
	3pm - 3:45pm = Scripture Union for P5 pupils (1/4)
	6:30pm - Board of Governors' Meeting
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Buick Ju-Jitsu P2 & P3 = 2-3pm and P4-P7 = 3-4pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	10:30am - Primary 6 pupils to Swimming (1/10)
	Coaching For Christ in Buick
	3pm - 4pm - P4-P7 Boys and Girls Football Training
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	P7 Parent SEAG Transfer Interviews
	3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	3pm - 3:45pm - Netball
	3pm - 3:45pm = Scripture Union for P5 pupils (2/4)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Buick Ju-Jitsu P2 & P3 = 2-3pm and P4-P7 = 3-4pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Coaching For Christ in Buick
	10:30am - Primary 6 pupils to Swimming (2/10)
	3pm - 4pm - P4-P7 Boys and Girls Football Training
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Citizenship
	3pm - 3:45pm - Netball
	3pm - 3:45pm = Scripture Union for P5 pupils (3/4)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Buick Ju-Jitsu P2 & P3 = 2-3pm and P4-P7 = 3-4pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Coaching For Christ in Buick
	10:30am - Primary 6 pupils to Swimming (3/10)
	3pm - 4pm - P4-P7 Boys and Girls Football Training
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	3pm - 3:45pm - Netball
	3pm - 3:45pm = Scripture Union for P5 pupils (4/4)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Service
	Dining Centre - Harvest Special
	Buick Ju-Jitsu P2 & P3 = 2-3pm and P4-P7 = 3-4pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Coaching For Christ in Buick
	10:30am - Primary 6 pupils to Swimming (4/10)
	3pm - 4pm - P4-P7 Boys and Girls Football Training
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Interviews - 1pm finish for all pupils
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parent Interviews - 1pm finish for all pupils
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parent Interviews - 1pm finish for all pupils
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Coaching For Christ in Buick
	10:30am - Primary 6 pupils to Swimming (5/10)
	Parent Interviews - 1pm finish for all pupils
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Interviews - 1pm finish for all pupils
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October = Half-Term Holidays	

Kind regards,  
R. Peters. Principal



# **THE TRUTH ABOUT** **SCREEN TIME**



**Excessive screen time limits children's face-to-face interaction, reducing essential back-and-forth conversations crucial for language development and understanding.**

**YOU DON'T NEED TO GO SCREEN-FREE OVERNIGHT:**

- **HAVE SCREEN-FREE MEALTIMES FOR FAMILY CHATS**
- **SWAP SOME SCREEN TIME FOR STORY TIME WITH REAL BOOKS**
- **PLAY OUTDOORS AND TALK ABOUT EXPERIENCES**
- **DO CHORES TOGETHER WHILE TALKING**
- **MAKE A FAMILY SCREEN PLAN: NO SCREENS IN BEDROOMS, SWITCH OFF AN HOUR BEFORE BED**

**EXPERTS ADVISE NO SCREEN TIME FOR UNDER-2S (EXCEPT FAMILY VIDEO CALLS), AND UNDER 1 HOUR DAILY FOR AGES 2-5.**

**REMEMBER TO WATCH TOGETHER AND DISCUSS WHAT'S SEEN TO SUPPORT LEARNING.**



**MID ULSTER**  
PRIVATE SPEECH THERAPY

SARAH COREY  
SPECIALIST SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST  
[SARAH@MIDULSTERSPEECHTHERAPY.COM](mailto:SARAH@MIDULSTERSPEECHTHERAPY.COM)



We are restarting on

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

September 2025

7-8pm

**Fun & Games, Quizzes, Songs, Group Activities  
and Bible Stories**

If you are in P1- P7, you are invited!



Register Online at [www.Cullybackey.elim.org](http://www.Cullybackey.elim.org) or  
<https://forms.gle/eYpEUMeuvMHVrNMC7>