



Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026



Hello Parents/Carers,

Our Nursery pupils continue to join us through personalised start dates and times. This staggered entry ensures each child's social and emotional needs are met and opportunities to meet staff are provided.



Primary 2

Primary 2 engaged in a morning of outdoor curriculum activities with great enthusiasm. In Buick's outdoor learning environment, the children have the opportunity to enhance balance, coordination, spatial awareness and gross motor skills and are provided with opportunities to build strength, confidence, resilience and problem-solving skills. Outdoor play also encourages children to take appropriate risks, make choices, work together and develop independence. At Buick we are committed to the continued development of this wonderful aspect of our school curriculum.



Child Protection

If you have any concerns about your child's safety in school, you can speak to Mrs Shirlow, (Designated Teacher for Child Protection), or to Miss Stirling, (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.

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 children were reminded 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.

Dining Centre and Lunches

Monday 14th September is Week 3 of our new Lunch Bunch Menu. School dinners remain at a cost of £3.10 per day. Any pupil with a food allergy must complete the relevant Special Diet form (on our website) before availing of food from our Dining Centre.

Parents are encouraged to be mindful about sending in big bags of sweets as lunch. Nutrition is essential for growth and brain development, please carefully consider the content of your child's packed lunch. This week, we have noticed some questionable lunch box choices! Please ensure your child has nutritious snacks to fuel their brains. We have attached the Eatwell Plate for guidance on appropriate lunches. Please do not send sugary sweets to school as this harbours children's ability to sit and concentrate. Thank you.

On Monday 21st September we will be having a Theme Day - Munch Monday! Please see the Menu Below:

**Bangers and Brain Power
Bean there done that
No more lie in chips
Ketchup with Homework
Lettuce learn with the boring salad
And Top of the Class Cookie
With an apple juice a day... keeps the teachers away.**



A colorful poster for 'SCATE' (Sunshine Corner at the Elim). The title 'SCATE' is in large, bold, blue and orange letters. Below it, 'SUNSHINE CORNER AT THE ELIM' is written in blue. A dark blue banner with white text says 'STARTING 15TH SEPTEMBER!'. To the right, an orange starburst contains the text 'FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN'. In the center, a white box with a black border lists details: 'EVERY TUESDAY EVENING' (with a calendar icon), '7PM - 8PM' (with a clock icon), 'CULLYBACKEY ELIM CHURCH' (with a location pin icon), and 'BUS PROVIDED' (with a bus icon). Below this box, three sections are shown: 'FUN & GAMES' with a game controller icon, 'CRAFTS' with scissors and glue icon, and 'BIBLE STORIES' with an open book icon. At the bottom, a black banner with white text says 'ALL P1 - P7s ARE INVITED! REGISTER VIA THE QR CODE.' with an arrow pointing to a QR code. The background features a cross, musical notes, and various colorful shapes.

SCATE
SUNSHINE CORNER AT THE ELIM

STARTING 15TH SEPTEMBER!

FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

EVERY TUESDAY EVENING
7PM - 8PM
CULLYBACKEY ELIM CHURCH
BUS PROVIDED

FUN & GAMES
CRAFTS
BIBLE STORIES

ALL P1 - P7s ARE INVITED!
REGISTER VIA THE QR CODE.



A colorful poster for 'Teddy Bears Picnic'. The title 'Teddy Bears Picnic' is written in white on a dark blue banner. Below it, the date and time 'Saturday 12th September 10am - 2pm' are written in white. The background features a cartoon illustration of a brown bear and a white rabbit sitting on a red and white checkered picnic blanket in a lush green field. The bear is holding a bowl of food, and the rabbit is holding a bowl of food. A basket of fruit sits on the blanket. In the background, there are green trees and snow-capped mountains under a blue sky. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'Contagious' with the text 'Contagious' and 'Contagious' below it. At the bottom right, there is a QR code with the text 'Scan to register' below it.

Teddy Bears Picnic

Saturday 12th September
10am - 2pm

Contagious
Contagious

Scan to register



1st
CULLYBACKEY
SCOUT GROUP

STARTING BACK
IN SEPTEMBER!

STARTING MONDAY, 14TH SEPT '26

	SQUIRRELS (AGES 4-6)	MON 6.30 TO 7.30PM
	BEAVERS (AGES 6-8)	MON 6.30 TO 7.30PM

STARTING FRIDAY, 18TH SEPT '26

	CUBS (AGES 8-10.5)	FRI 6.30 TO 8PM
	SCOUTS (AGE 10.5 - 14)	FRI 8.15PM TO 10PM
	EXPLORERS (AGES 14 TO 18)	FRI 8.15PM TO 10PM

FUN, FRIENDS, ADVENTURE AND SKILLS FOR LIFE!

EVERY ADVENTURE STARTS WITH YOU!

PLEASE CONTACT
CULLYBACKEYSCOUTTRUSTEES@YAHOO.COM
FOR MORE DETAILS AND WAITING LISTS

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 to make an application. It is in the school's best interest to have all children who are eligible registered, 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 from EA will be on our list. The Education Authority has stated that pupils who are awaiting processing should pay £3.10 per day, if availing of a school meal, until the registration process has been completed.

2-3 Club

Our After-School wraparound care has commenced and from Monday 14th September will be open to P1 children as well as P2 and P3 pupils in Term 1. Places on this must be booked in advance via ParentMail to allow staffing to be planned accordingly and costs £4 per pupil, per day. This Club is operated by Mrs Francey, Mrs Steele and Miss Lorimer.

School Council

This week P3-P7 classes have been engaging in selecting their School Council Representative. We look forward to seeing our new cohort and listening to their ideas for fun, fundraising and school operations!



Partnerships with Parents

Parents are actively encouraged to contact the school, should they have any queries regarding Buick matters. Posts **should not** be put onto social media.

All parents should ensure they have read the Welcome Guide from their child's class teacher which documents all processes and procedures.

Please find attached Buick's Social Media Guide which is aligned with various other Ballymena Primary Schools. Thank you for your adherence to this policy.



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
FREE WORKSHOP**

Parent LineNI
0808 8020 400

Worry to Wonder

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

PICK THE DATE/TIME THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU!

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER	TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
7-8.30PM	10-11.30AM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM	ONLINE VIA ZOOM

CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE
0808 8020 400

Buick Ju-Jitsu

Buick Ju-Jitsu starts back next Wednesday for all familiar children. Our Sensei's from The Dojo, Mikey and Shayne, are raring to go! (P2 & P3 at 2pm; P4-P7 at 3pm - both sessions are 1 hour long.)

A free Taster Session will be offered to all pupils in a few weeks' time. Primary 1 pupils will be able to avail of this club after they have settled into the later 2pm finish.

All payments go straight to Ju-Jitsu, not Buick. Pupils attending these classes must demonstrate appropriate listening skills and behaviour as places are continually reviewed.

Term 1A

Monday 14 th September	Primary 1 - 2pm Finish Board of Governors' Meeting at 6:30pm Bookings open at 7pm (Parentmail)-P7 (SEAG) Interviews
Tuesday 15 th September	3pm - 3:45pm - P6 & P7 Scripture Union with Rev. Moffett and Mrs McQuiston (1/4)
Wednesday 16 th September	2pm - 3pm or 3pm - 4pm - Buick Ju-Jitsu
Thursday 17 th September	Coaching For Christ in Buick 2/12 Choir Auditions - please book via ParentMail 3pm - 4:15pm - Football Training for P5-P7 Boys 1/12
Friday 18 th September	2pm-3pm - P3 After School Club 3/3
Monday 21 st September	Munch Monday in the Dining Centre
	P7 Parent/Teacher telephone interviews (SEAG)
Tuesday 22 nd September	P7 Parent/Teacher telephone interviews (SEAG)
	3pm - 3:45pm - P6 & P7 Scripture Union with Rev. Moffett and Mrs McQuiston (2/4)
Wednesday 23 rd September	2pm - 3pm or 3pm - 4pm - Buick Ju-Jitsu
Thursday 24 th September	Coaching For Christ in Buick 3/12 P6 Swimming 1/10 3pm - 4:15pm - Football Training for P5-P7 Boys 2/12 3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Friday 25 th September	Buick Closed - TransformEd. Staff Development Day
Monday 28 th September	P7 Parent/Teacher telephone interviews (SEAG)
	3pm - 3:45pm - Hockey Training for P7 Girls and Boys (1/6)
Tuesday 29 th September	P7 Parent/Teacher telephone interviews (SEAG)
	3pm - 3:45pm - P6 & P7 Scripture Union with Rev. Moffett and Mrs McQuiston (3/4)
Wednesday 30 th September	CS Moments Photographer in School for Individual and Family Pictures 2pm - 3pm or 3pm - 4pm - Buick Ju-Jitsu
Thursday 1 st October	Coaching For Christ in Buick 4/12 P6 Swimming 2/10 3pm - 4pm - Eco Club 1/2 3pm - 4:15pm - Football Training for P5-P7 Boys 3/12 3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Friday 2 nd October	Learn With Lauren's Sensory Stories with Primary 1 pupils 1/3 2pm-3pm - P2 After School Club (1/3)
Monday 5 th October	3pm - 3:45pm - Hockey Training for P7 Girls and Boys (2/6)
Tuesday 6 th October	3pm - 3:45pm - P6 & P7 Scripture Union with Rev. Moffett and Mrs McQuiston (4/4)
Wednesday 7 th October	2pm - 3pm or 3pm - 4pm - Buick Ju-Jitsu
Thursday 8 th October	Coaching For Christ in Buick 5/12 P6 Swimming 3/10 3pm - 4pm - Eco Club 2/2 3pm - 4:15pm - Football Training for P5-P7 Boys 4/12 3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Friday 9 th October	2pm-3pm - P2 After School Club (2/3)
Monday 12 th October	3pm - 3:45pm - Hockey Training for P7 Girls and Boys (3/6)
Tuesday 13 th October	3pm - 3:45pm - Netball Training (1/6)
Wednesday 14 th October	2pm - 3pm or 3pm - 4pm - Buick Ju-Jitsu
Thursday 15 th October	Coaching For Christ in Buick 6/12 P6 Swimming 4/10 3pm - 4:15pm - Football Training for P5-P7 Boys 5/12 (cont'd on next page)

Thursday 15 th October (cont'd)	3pm - 3:45pm - Choir
Friday 16 th October	Learn With Lauren's Sensory Stories with Primary 1 pupils 2/3 2pm-3pm - P2 After School Club (3/3)
Monday 19 th October	School Nurses in Buick for Nasal Flu Spray 3pm - 3:45pm - Hockey Training for P7 Girls and Boys (4/6)
Tuesday 20 th October	3pm - 3:45pm - Netball Training (2/6)
Wednesday 21 st October NO After School Clubs	Pupils Finishing at 1pm for Parent Interviews 2pm - 3pm or 3pm - 4pm - Face-to-Face
Thursday 22 nd October NO After School Clubs	Coaching For Christ in Buick 7/12 P6 Swimming 5/10 Pupils Finishing at 1pm for Parent Interviews by telephone
Friday 23 rd October NO After School Clubs	Learn With Lauren's Sensory Stories with Primary 1 pupils 3/3 Pupils Finishing at 1pm for Parent Interviews by telephone

Kind regards,
R. Peters,
Principal



Ballymena Primary Principals' Association

Joint Guidance on Social Media Posting

We tend to forget that almost anybody can see what we are posting online and comments that may have been made in the heat of the moment can easily be copied and then shared by others, even after the original post has been deleted. As Ballymena schools, we wish to urge our school communities to work together, communicate appropriately and remember at all times that parents/carers are representatives of their schools. Inappropriate actions on social media can impact negatively on the life and welfare of those connected with the school.

The partnership of parents and school is central to achieving the best pastoral and educational outcomes for all our pupils.

- All parents have a responsibility in role-modelling effective, appropriate and safe communication on social media.
- Parents/Guardians should be aware of their responsibilities regarding their use of social networking by accessing their own school's social media policy.

Methods of proper school communication with parents/carers include:

- School prospectus, school website, newsletters, texting service, emails, letters and face to face meetings.
- Pictures taken of school members be confined to the school's online platforms.
- Parents should be aware that primary aged children should not be on social media platforms. It is the parents' duty to protect their children from unhelpful social media contact. It is also not the school's responsibility to deal with any social media issues which have taken place outside school.
- Parents should not share complaints about a child, teacher or school through social media as such action, and subsequent comments by others, may cause significant emotional distress to those persons referenced and/or the school community as a whole. Every school has a published Complaints' Procedure which should be adhered to by both parents and the school.

Please remember that perceived complaints written in the heat of the moment and posted on social media may have a personal bias and not necessarily reflect the whole truth about a situation or incident to viewers. We therefore advise parents not to be drawn into liking or commenting on such postings if they see them on social media.

Complaints to do with in-school incidents, should they arise, should be pursued through the appropriate channels by:

- Making contact with the class teacher, the Vice Principal or Principal.
- A meeting can then be arranged at a mutually convenient time to try and bring about a resolution to the issue.
- All schools have a complaints procedure that should be followed.

Parents/carers should also be aware that defamatory/unhelpful comments made online will naturally be viewed negatively by the school as the parent/carer has chosen to disregard the school's Complaint Policy. The parent may have to be asked to come in and speak to Senior Management about this breach in policy and the matter dealt with face to face, which would have been the preferred method of dealing with the initial complaint.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARENTS WHO PARTNER WITH US WITH FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING.

