Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter
Friday 9th October 2026

Hello Parents/Carers,
We are absolutely delighted to inform you that we have been shortlisted for the Local Women Education Awards. Buick is into the finals for Best Primary School (County Antrim) and Principal of The Year. Miss Peters, Miss Stirling and Mr Maybin will attend the awards ceremony on Saturday night in the Europa Hotel. Thank you to our nominator – we are incredibly proud of our wee school, our committed team and everybody in team Buick is truly thankful for the recognition. 😊

Dining Centre and Lunches

Monday 12th October 2026 is Week 3 of our new Lunch Bunch Menu. School dinners remain at a cost of £3.10 per day. Please ensure your child has nutritious snacks to fuel their brains. Please do not send sugary sweets to school as this hinders children's ability to sit and concentrate.
A gentle reminder that Buick is a NUT FREE SCHOOL. Please read the ingredient lists of your child's lunches before sending items containing nut products into school. This is extremely important as it can compromise children's safety. Thank you.

Parent Interviews

Thank you to everybody who has already booked slots for Parent Interviews. This is a fundamental part of our partnership working and it allows meaningful conversations to be had.
The hybrid model of offering both face-to-face and telephone calls appears effective and meets the needs of all parents. Please ensure you arrive promptly or are available to take your call at the allotted time.
Each parent has 10 mins to talk through their child's progress, concerns and areas for development. It would be advantageous for parents to be prepared for such a conversation and to listen to suggestions/advice from our experienced teaching team.
Time must be utilised efficiently to ensure the days flow seamlessly. Thank you in advance of your support and together we can ensure every child fulfils their academic potential.

Citizenship

On Tuesday, Miss Stirling led Citizenship with the children whilst Miss Peters met with Support Staff. It was lovely to celebrate such a wonderful start to the academic year with children excelling both within and beyond Buick.

It's lovely to hear all about children's experiences and skill developments, please mark your calendar for our next Citizenship on Tuesday 3rd November – it would be lovely to see your child up at the front, sharing their success.

P1 & P7 Buddies

At Buick, we promote a kind and caring school atmosphere in which our children learn and grow together. This term, we have established our Buddies Programme. As part of this, P1 pupils will work alongside their P7 Buddy to develop their learning in a fun and encouraging way on a Friday afternoon.

This dynamic relationship has already had a positive impact on all parties with P1s learning more about social aspects of school life and Primary 7 children learning the importance of nurture and support for our younger pupils to develop their knowledge and skills. This initiative will continue throughout the year to provide a plethora of opportunities.

School Council

Miss Peters met with Mrs McKay, Mrs Cumberland and Leah from the School Council to discuss the children's fundraising ideas and wishes for school improvement.

It was agreed that the following events would be added to the Buick diary:

- Friday 6th November – Pyjama and Movie Day - £3 per pupil to cover costs of snacks
- Wednesday 17th February – School Evening Disco - £3 per pupil to cover costs of snacks
- Wednesday 24th March – Break The Rules Day - £3 per pupil to participate

*The school Council would like to use this money to bring the ice cream van to school at the end of June for every child to avail of a treat!

In terms of Charity – the children agreed to support local. So, we will be asking for Hamper Donations for Ballymena Rotary Club's Christmas Event and Ballymena's Jingle all the Way at our Carol Service.

In looking at the above, and in being mindful of the cost-of-living crisis, we are now looking to establish an effective Parent Group to organise fund raising initiatives to support the school.

Over the past few years our staff have engaged in skydives, Mud Runs, Belfast Marathon and abseiling down The Europa to raise additional funds for purchases which the EA Budget cannot afford.

It's now time to hand over to our parents! So, if you're interested in creating a wonderfully productive parent group, please telephone the office by Friday 16th October to register interest. Miss Peters will then be in touch with all volunteers to confirm a first meeting. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Online Learning

This week, we have sent you details via ParentMail of how to create your parent account for Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds. This is a full subscription to the 3P Platform (which the school has paid for) and we would like to see it being utilised to consolidate classroom-based learning. This purchase is initially a trial year of utilising some of our limited school funds as an educational tool for enriching partnership working. The usage of this online tool will be monitored and the impact on Reading, Literacy and Numeracy assessed when considering its effectiveness. Thank you for your support in this new endeavour.

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, please contact the school to inform us. These open lines of communication will ensure each child's needs are met.

Owen Daly Tournament

Well done to our Football Team who took part in the Owen Daley Football Tournament. A fairly new squad of players this year, consisting of nine players from Primary 5 and 6 and three from Primary 7.
The effort from the team was immense and resulted in the team going unbeaten throughout the tournament and not conceding a single goal! Out of 6 games they won two and drew 4, to finish runner up in their group. For such a young squad of players we feel this was a fantastic achievement.
We also want to say a big thank you and highlight the efforts of Mr Bridges at Ballymena Primary, who organised the event, which had 22 teams participating.

Outdoor Learning

As part of the outdoor learning curriculum Primary 2 enjoyed a wonderful morning in Galgorm Wood creating inspiring nature frames with foraged materials.

The Hub's
BIRTHDAY
PARTY
Come and celebrate with us
3rd Nov | The Hub | 7pm - 9pm

Term 1A

Monday 12th October	3pm – 3:45pm – Hockey Training for P7 Girls & Boys and P6 Girls (3/6) 3pm – 3:45pm - P4 & P5 Netball (4/6)
Tuesday 13th October	3pm – 3:45pm - Netball Training (1/6)
Wednesday 14th October	**Harvest Service** **Library Van** Ballymena Academy Coaching Netball and Rugby with P6s (3/6) 2pm – 3pm or 3pm – 4pm – Buick Ju-Jitsu
Thursday 15th October	Coaching For Christ in Buick 6/12 P6 Swimming 4/10 3pm – 4:15pm – Football Training for P5-P7 Boys 5/12 NO Choir
Friday 16th October	Learn With Lauren's Sensory Stories with Primary 1 pupils 2/3 2pm-3pm - P2 After School Club (3/3)
Monday 19th October	School Nurses in Buick for Nasal Flu Spray NO Hockey Training for P7 Girls & Boys and P6 Girls (4/6) 3pm – 3:45pm - P4 & P5 Netball (5/6)
Tuesday 20th October	3pm – 3:45pm - Netball Training (2/6) P6 to Cambridge House Grammar School to see 'Frozen'
Wednesday 21st October NO After School Clubs	Pupils Finishing at 1pm for Parent Interviews Face-to-Face
Thursday 22nd 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 23rd 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

***New additions in bold**

We will keep you posted on the outcome of the Local Women Awards Ceremony on Saturday night via our Facebook Page. Regardless of the outcome, we are thrilled to have made the finals!

Thank you for all your lovely comments and support on our page. Every staff member has read them, and we are enjoying the positivity.

"It takes a village to raise a child" ...and no better village than Cullybackey! 😊

Have a lovely, autumnal weekend.

Kind regards,
R. Peters,
Principal

LATE NIGHT
Christmas Shopping
Tue 3rd, Tue 17th & Fri 27th November
7pm - 9pm
The Hub Gift Shop
Main Street, Cullybackey
Plenty of gifts and cards for all the family
All profits stay local
Free G
Wrappin

Book Reading

Rebekah Beatrix

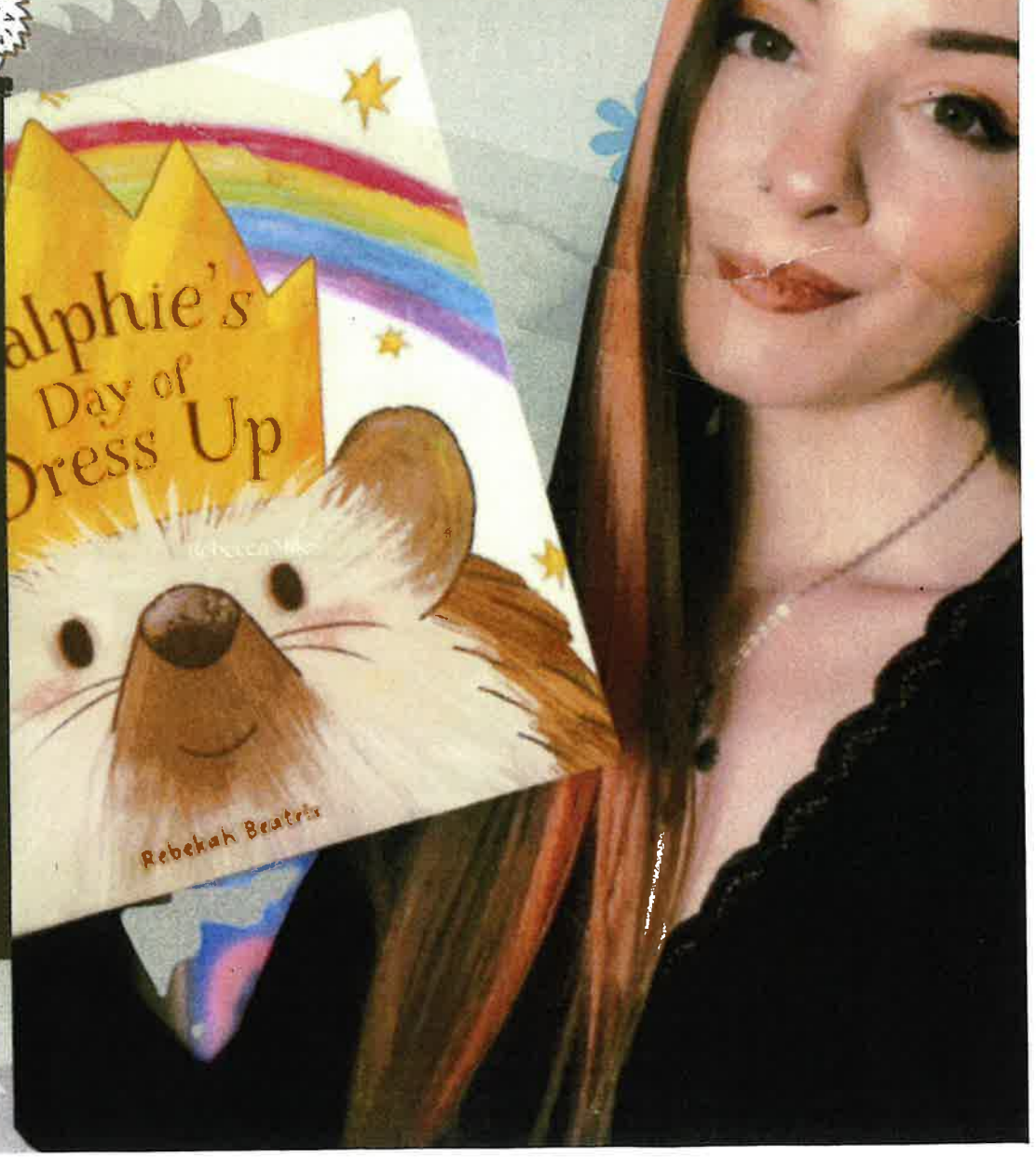
Rebekah will read the tale of little hedgehog Ralphie, as he explores a treasure chest full of costumes, each one leading to a different adventure!
**Includes short workshop to design a bookmark based on Ralphie's costumes.

Tue 27th October
11.15am - noon

The Hub, Gift Shop, Cullybackey

Suitable for:
Ages 3 - 7
*Children must be accompanied by an adult

NO FEE but must BOOK
078 212 60158



BANN MAINE WEST

COMMUNITY FUND

Turning Point NI presents

halloween

Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October 2026

Des Allen Su
Showgroun
St Patrick'
Barracks Link
Ballymen
BT43 7FU

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER
SEN ONLY SESSION

A relaxed and inclusive Halloween session exclusively for children and young people with additional needs (SEN).

Facilitated by W.A.V.E.S

45 minute time slots

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
OPEN TO ALL

A fun and inclusive Halloween event for all children, young people and families.

Everyone welcome!

45 minute time slots

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Pumpkin Patch
- Pumpkin Painting
- Messy Play
- Disco
- Halloween Themed Games
- Halloween Themed Arts & Crafts
- Sensory Corner
- Goodie Bag for Each Child

FREE ENTRY

Scan QR code to secure tickets

PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-funded by the European Union and UK Government

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

turning POINT NI