Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter
Friday 23rd October 2026



Hello Parents/Carers,
Our littlest children had their Pumpkin Party today and our Nursery was full of excitement! This is a celebration of the wonderful progress each child has made in their first 8 weeks! Thank you to the Nursery parents for their incredible support and their positive approach to partnership working! 😊







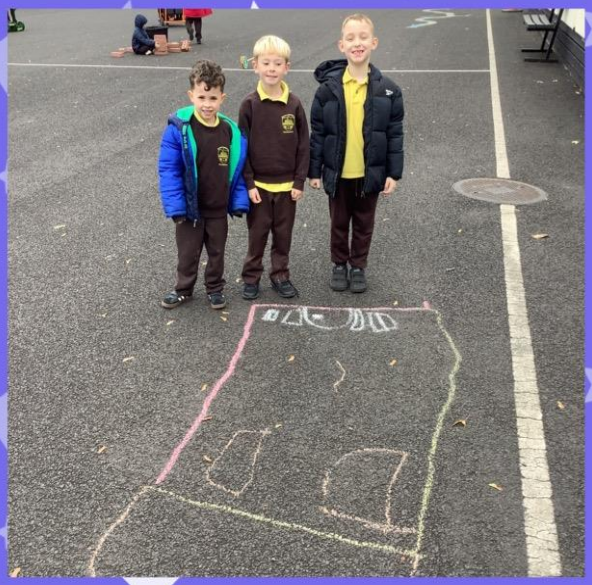
Primary 3HM

Primary 3 enjoyed their first Outdoor Learning session last week, while exploring their topic of Houses and Homes. Some children worked together to build dens, while others used natural materials to create homes using twigs, pebbles and flowers. One group got creative drawing houses and streets with chalk. It was a great opportunity to develop teamwork, problem-solving and creativity skills.














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PIC•COLLAGE

Dining Centre and Lunches

Monday 2nd November 2026 is Week 2 of our Lunch Bunch Menu. School dinners remain at a cost of £3.10 per day. At Buick, we must follow the nutritional guidelines and foods stipulated in the Education Authority's Lunch Bunch Menu. Parents are strongly dissuaded from contacting the Dining Centre to request specific food preparations/additional foods/or explicit food presentation. All communication must come through the school office.

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.

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.

Today we have attached the shortened Child Protection Policy for Parents. This will let you see what we implement and the templates on which we record our legal obligations. These records will be utilised as evidence, should the school have concerns which must be shared with external agencies.

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 and we can be mindful of emotional dysregulation.

School Photographs

Thank you to everybody who purchased school pictures from CS Moments. As a school, we gained commission of £276.45 for school funds. This will help us purchase additional materials for your children.

However, it has also been brought to our attention that some images were amended by specific parents via AI and uploaded to social media. This is disappointing. As a school, we provide this wonderful traditional opportunity for parents to purchase professional pictures.

We are now carefully considering the feasibility in continuing such an initiative.

Parent Interviews

Thank you to everyone who attended their child's Parent Interview in person or via telephone. A strong, consistent partnership between home and school supports each child's progress and wellbeing.

It is unfortunate that some parents booked a face-to-face appointment on Wednesday and didn't turn up! Others were waiting on a call when they should have been in Buick! The options were clearly stated in the ParentMail booking form, to accommodate parental wishes of a hybrid option.

It is your parental responsibility to comply with your chosen time and date. Regrettably, we could not apportion additional time to reschedule missed appointments in the approach to half-term holidays.

At Buick, we offer one parent interview per pupil. We recognise that this arrangement can be difficult for some families. However, both parents must receive the same information at the same time to ensure clear, consistent communication and to avoid misunderstandings.

Families who would welcome additional support may find the workshops below helpful.



Primary 3HM

Primary 3 have been busy designing and constructing a scarecrow for the Galgorm Scarecrow Competition. This creation will be showcased at their Pumpkin Patch Experience at Castle Kitchen! Please pop along to see it, if you're free over half term.

Thank you to Miss Orr who assisted Mrs Huter, Mrs McKay and the children to create such a spectacular scarecrow! 😊



Mrs Carleton

Today, was Mrs Carleton's last day in Primary 2. We wish her every success in her new, exciting chapter. After the half-term break, Miss Hollie Stirling will take over the P2 Teacher role on a Thursday and Friday. We are delighted to welcome our former pupil back to Buick! 😊



School Council

Our School Council members have come up with the fantastic idea of organising a PJ & Movie Day, and we would really appreciate your support in making this a fun and enjoyable day for everyone! Children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas, but please do not feel the need to purchase anything new.
A contribution of £3 per child is required to cover snacks and drinks. We kindly ask that payment is made through ParentMail before Friday 6th November. Thank you for your continued support of our School Council!



RADIO CRACKER
Ballymena

JILL BAKES FOR RADIO CRACKER



Charity Fundraiser Event

Join us for a festive evening of Christmas baking inspiration and seasonal cheer, all in support of Radio Cracker.

Featuring:

- Live Christmas baking demonstrations by Jill Bakes
- Tea, coffee & biscuits during the interval
- Opportunity to purchase Jill's recipe books
- Question & Answer session with Jill

No ticket required
Suggested donation £10

Saturday 21st November
7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)
1st Ahoghill Presbyterian Church hall

All proceeds will support the work of Radio Cracker

Term 1B

Monday 2nd November	3pm – 3:45pm – P6 & P7 Hockey (5/6) & P4 & P5 Netball 6/6
Tuesday 3rd November	Citizenship – please bring in recent medals/certificates or trophies 3pm – 3:45pm – P6 & P7 Netball (3/5)
Wednesday 4th November	Ballymena Academy Netball and Rugby Coaching with P6s (4/6)
Thursday 5th November	P6 Swimming (6/10) Coaching For Christ (8/12)
Friday 6th November	School Council PJ and Movie Day P1 After School Club (1/3)
Monday 9th November	Buick's Kindness Week – Take 5 Initiative Learn with Lauren in Nursery for Sensory Stories (1/4) Author visit to Nursery – Tracy Mulholland 3pm – 3:45pm – P6 & P7 Hockey (6/6) 3pm – 3:45pm – P5/4 Netball (1/2)
Tuesday 10th November	3pm – 3:45pm – P6 & P7 Netball (4/5)
Wednesday 11th November	Library Van Ballymena Academy Netball and Rugby Coaching with P6s (5/6)
Thursday 12th November	P6 Swimming (7/10) Coaching For Christ (9/12)
Friday 13th November	P1 After School Club (2/3)
Saturday 14th November	SEAG Paper 1 for Primary 7 pupils
Monday 16th November	CCEA Adaptive Assessments in P3/P4/P7 throughout the week Learn with Lauren in Nursery for Sensory Stories (2/4) 3pm – 3:45pm – P5/4 Netball (2/2)
Tuesday 17th November	Jo Jingles in Nursery (2/3) 3pm – 3:45pm – P6 & P7 Netball (5/5)
Wednesday 18th November	P6s visiting Cuningham Church Ballymena Academy Netball and Rugby Coaching with P6s (6/6)
Thursday 19th November	P6 Swimming (8/10) Coaching For Christ (10/12)
Friday 20th November	P7 Flight Celebration P1 After School Club (3/3)
Saturday 21st November	SEAG Paper 2 for Primary 7 pupils
Monday 23rd November	CCEA Adaptive Assessments in P5 & P6 throughout the week Learn with Lauren in Nursery for Sensory Stories (3/4)
Tuesday 24th November	Special Citizenship – Cullybackey Hub Winner Announced Rebecca from Scripture Union visiting P2
Wednesday 25th November	Netball Newbies Tournament at Seven Towers Leisure Centre
Thursday 26th November	P6 Swimming (9/10) Coaching For Christ (11/12)
Friday 27th November	-
Monday 30th November	Learn with Lauren in Nursery for Sensory Stories (4/4)
Tuesday 1st December	Citizenship - please bring in recent medals/certificates or trophies
Wednesday 2nd December	-
Thursday 3rd December	P6 Swimming (10/10) Coaching For Christ (12/12)
Friday 4th December	Buick's Little Christmas – performances by P1-P4 children – times to follow Buick closing at 12:15pm for all pupils -NO CANTEEN NOR BUSES
Monday 7th December	P7 Trip to Belfast
Tuesday 8th December	Jo Jingles in Nursery (3/3)
Wednesday 9th December	-

Thursday 10th December	Christmas Dinner in Dining Centre
Friday 11th December	Mark Ritchie's – Dance for a Difference Charity Disco (am) – non-uniform day! Nursery closing at 11:30am Buick Closing at 12:15pm for P1-P7 pupils – NO BUSES **Buick Open Day: Nursery = 11:30am- 1pm** **Primary 1 = 1:30pm – 3pm**
Monday 14th December	-
Tuesday 15th December	Carol Service at 10am in Cuningham Church
Wednesday 16th December	Nursery's Christmas Performance
Thursday 17th December	Buick Choir to Radio Cracker – live at 10:40am Buick Choir to Cuningham Church's Lunch Event
Friday 18th December	End of term – 1 o'clock finish!
Merry Christmas!	
Term 2 commences on Monday 4th January 2027	

***New additions in bold**

Looking at the dates above Term 1B, will be incredibly busy!

It is essential that parents read this newsletter each week to keep informed of all events and planned activities.

We hope you all have a lovely autumnal half term break and enjoy quality family time.

Kind regards,
R. Peters,
Principal