

Our Vision
At Bushmead, children are empowered to be active, confident learners where they are
inspired to be creative and excel.



Bushmead Primary School

Newsletter

16/12/2022

Our Value for December is **APPRECIATION**
Our well-being theme this half-term is **Learning Something New**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another term completed at Bushmead! As always it has been action packed with learning and we are thrilled with the progress the children are making. As always we are thankful for the hard work and commitment of our children, staff and families. Our value for December is appreciation. It is now that we reflect on 2022 and what we have achieved and what we have to be thankful for.

At the end of term we say goodbye to Mrs Debbie Giles after 13 years as our School Business Manager. Mrs Giles managed our human resources and finances and played a crucial role in the running of the school. Thank you Mrs Giles for all you have done for our staff and families. We wish you all the best as you retire. We also say goodbye to Elaine and Fiona our kitchen managers. We much appreciate all your hardwork and dedication to our school and wish you all the best in your new endeavours.

Thank you to our Reception children and team for a wonderful performance this week. It is always wonderful to see the children's confidence on stage. There will be lots of photos to follow.

Thank you to our staff for entertaining the children so raucously and brilliantly in the Staff Christmas Panto. The children absolutely love the fun and the chaos! Yet another example of our team going above and beyond to ensure that children love school. THANK YOU!



Upcoming dates. Please see our website [calendar](#)

- Children return to school on **Wednesday 4th January**
- EFL Cup County Finals (selected team) – Friday 6th January
- Yr 1 Audiology Testing 9th – 13th January
- Blue Monday – where something bright and cheerful - 16th January
- Well-being week 16th – 20th January
- Young Voices (choir) – 7th February
- Internet Safety Day - 9th February

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Joanne Travi
Headteacher



Strep A & Scarlet Fever

See advice on our website – [HEALTH & MEDICINE](#) or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>



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Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

Re: Increase in scarlet fever

We are writing to inform you of a recent [national/local] increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if you think that you or your child might have scarlet fever.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection



You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

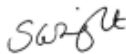
- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Stop the spread

During periods of high incidence of scarlet fever, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until **24 hours** after

the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Cartwright
Director of Public Health





Our choir performing at Christingle at Christchurch



We have had a great day in Yellow Class, decorating our classroom whilst learning to work together. Children made paper chains in repeated patterns, counting carefully as they went. We discussed who had the most and which was the longest, extending our maths vocabulary. Yellow class also enjoyed being creative with designing their own baubles.



**Launch Event: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Parent and Carer Ask the Expert Drop-in Sessions**



Date and time:

Tuesday 31 January 2023, 10.00am – 1.00pm

Venue:

The Legrave Centre (Cedar Hall), Strangers Way, Luton LU4 9ND

We are launching a programme of drop-in sessions for parents and carers to meet experts. These will take place at regular intervals.

For our launch event, we have invited a wide range of experts where you can ask for advice, guidance or discuss any concerns you may have around support for your child.

Come and join us for our first parent drop-in session and speak to SENAT, Educational Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Social Care, SENDIAS, Transitions, CAMHS, CHUMS and others!

No pre-booking required, just turn up on the day

For more information, email: SENDLuton@luton.gov.uk or call Natalie Jones on 07719 420033



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.



WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use icons which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.



STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features, but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.



Meet Our Expert

Larry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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Luton Adult Learning

Enrolling now for the new year!

Are you interested in working in a support role in school or working with young children in an early years setting? Do you already volunteer or work in school or nursery?

If so, we have a range of courses starting in the new year that will help you to progress in your career.



Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools

Course title	Delivery mode / venue	Day	Dates	Time
Becoming a Teaching Assistant	Online	Tuesday	10 January - 7 February 2023	7pm to 9pm
Becoming a Teaching Assistant	Online	Friday	6 January - 10 February 2023	9.15am to 11.15am
Level 2 Award	Online	Tuesday	28 February - 4 July 2023	9.15am to 11.45am
Level 2 Certificate	Online	Tuesday	28 February 2023 - 13 February 2024	9.15am to 11.45am

Childcare

Becoming a Childcare Practitioner	Arndale House	Wednesday	4 January - 8 February 2023	9.15am to 11.15am
Level 1 Award in Caring for Children	Arndale House	Starting end of February—dates to be confirmed.		

For more information visit our website:

Supporting in schools: <https://www.luton.ac.uk/learn-with-us/supporting-in-schools.html>

Childcare: <https://www.luton.ac.uk/learn-with-us/childcare-66730.html>

To register interest and to book an assessment and interview:

- ✉ email us at info@luton.ac.uk
- ☎ call us on 01582 490033
- 📍 drop into our centre

Follow us on ...
[Facebook](#) & Instagram
FamilyLearningLuton

You will find us in Arndale House, 2nd Floor, above The Mall shopping centre in Luton. Access is via the entrance by Chopstix Noodle Bar.

YOUNG CARERS PROJECT



**"I LOVE CHUMS BECAUSE YOU
MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND DO FUN
THINGS THAT HELP YOU COPE
WITH YOUR PROBLEMS"**

CALLING all YOUNG CARERS!

Do you provide
regular care by
helping at home
with practical
tasks such as:

- Health care
- Personal care
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Housework

Would you like
support through:

- Support groups
- 1:1 mentoring
- Drop-in sessions
- Activity days



Mental Health &
Emotional Wellbeing
Service

VISIT >> CHUMS.UK.COM

make a referral online or call us for an
informal chat on **01525 863924**



<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

This website is incredible helpful in calculating what childcare you may be entitled to. It also includes Help for Households

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>



MENU ≡



HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



Government help with childcare costs for parents.
Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

FIND THE RIGHT OFFER FOR YOU

We also have a selection of websites that offer support to our families on our website:

[Family Support](#)



SCHOOL
MEMBER





LUTON FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE



AT: DENBIGH HIGH SCHOOL
ALEXANDRA AVENUE, LUTON, LU3 1HE
STARTING: TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2023

Tuesdays: Group 1: Reception & Year 1.....5.30pm-6.30pm
Group 2: Year 2 & 3.....6.30pm-7.30pm
Group 3: Year 4, 5, & 6.....7.30pm-8.30pm

OR

AT: STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL
ST THOMAS' ROAD, LUTON, LU2 7UX
STARTING: WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023

Wednesdays: Group 1: School Years Reception and Year 1.....5.00pm-6.00pm
Group 2: School Years 2 & 3.....6.00pm-7.00pm
Group 3: School Years 4, 5, 6.....7.00pm-8.00pm

Dear Parents,
I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last **22 years**, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting January 2023. The course will run for approximately 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

About our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by **F.A qualified coaches**, who are **DBS** checked, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building **CONFIDENCE**, improving **FITNESS** and providing the most important ingredient **FUN!**
- Children will be supervised at all times, although parents are welcome to stay and watch.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an **indoor** course held in the sports hall, therefore children may wear trainers and sportswear.
- **Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Leicester City player Geoff Horsfield** quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- **Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson** quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"
- On the final week of the course we hold a presentation, whereby **EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.**
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including 'premier league' and 'penalty shoot out' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

The cost of the course is £7.50 per week; payment is made in 2 simple instalments, with the first payment of £45.00 for the first 6 weeks due on week 1. (Second payment will not be due until week 7 which will cover the second half of the course). **Please Note:** Places are limited, therefore bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT:
DENBIGH + CHILD'S NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3) OR
STOPSLEY + CHILD'S NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)
and receive confirmation by text to: 07827 322780



Friday Evening Warm Hub

Join us for a relaxing
time on a Friday evening
between 7:00 and 9:30.

We offer the chance to
play table tennis,
pool, table football,
board games
or a hot drink and a chat.



Under 18's to be accompanied by an adult

