



Bush Post Primary School Newsletter



September 2025

www.bpps.ie

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome to you all as we begin a new school year. We hope you and your families enjoyed a restful summer break and are feeling refreshed for an exciting year ahead.

This year brings wonderful opportunities for learning, growth and development and we look forward to working together with you to make this a successful and enjoyable year for every student.

As we begin this academic year, we would like to highlight some changes that have been made to significantly impact student welfare and their health and safety in transitioning throughout the school but particularly at lunch time.

The first change is the new mobile phone restrictions that have been introduced to maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment. Therefore, students are not permitted to use or access mobile phones anywhere on the school campus during school hours, including class time, corridors, toilets, yard and track. All mobile phones must be turned off and stored upon arrival and may only be used after school has officially ended and outside the building. We would ask for your support and all communications should come through the main office which is open from 8.30am – 4.15pm including lunchtimes.

The second major change is the reduction in the length of lunchtime and the decision to split lunch to all two separate sittings. This will allow students space to enjoy their food, and to sit and circulate in an appropriate safe space. Later this year we will review these changes and survey opinions from students, staff and parents/guardians and will adjust accordingly.

This year our facilities and staff teams have grown significantly, and we are delighted to have opened 2 ASD special class groups and appointed 8 new teachers and 7 new Special Needs Assistants.

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year here at Bush Post Primary School. We were delighted to welcome everyone back and to celebrate our Whole School Awards Ceremony, at the beginning of September, to recognise the hard work, talent, and dedication of our students. Their achievements remind us of the vibrant and supportive community we share.

This year also marks an important milestone for our school with the opening of our new ASD Classrooms in The Hub. The Hub has already become a place of learning, inclusion, and support, and we are so proud of the positive impact it is having on our students and the wider school community.

We appreciate your co-operation as we work together to support a productive and respectful learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the school office at 0429376246 or email bushpp@lmetb.ie

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Warm regards,

Kevin Joyce, Rosanna Hart & James Mc Coy



Bush Post Primary School Leaving Certificate Results Day

September 2025

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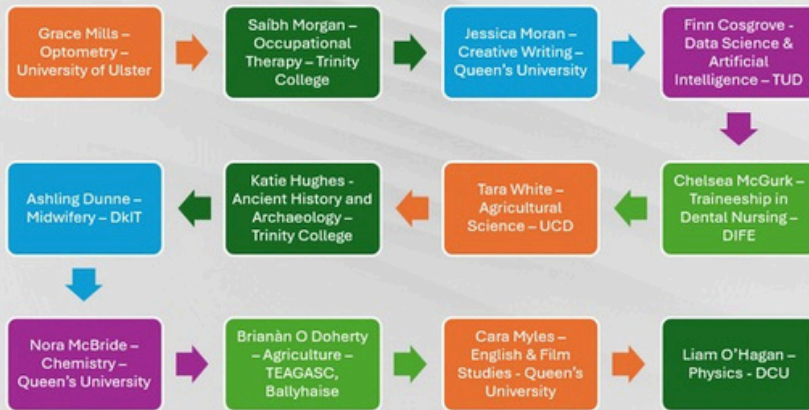


Congratulations to our sixth year students on the wonderful results in the state examinations. We wish each one of them every success in their future careers.



Class of 2025

A snapshot of some of the amazing courses that our students have chosen to study:



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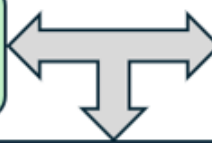
September 2025

Bush Post Primary School Mobile Phone Policy Student Feedback

www.bpps.ie

Bush Post Primary operate a policy whereby mobile phones are not to be audible or visible anywhere on school campus (including the corridors, toilets, yard, track). A breach of policy will result in confiscation of phones

Phone Not Audible



Phone Not Visible

Sanctions including confiscation for breaches

I think the rule of phones being out of sight is an amazing strategy to get us as students to understand the work and concentrate more.

I feel less stressed not worrying about messages or social media during the day.

I notice I get my work done quicker without distractions.

I am getting my work done faster without my phone distracting me.

The newly instated phone policy has had a positive impact on student's engagement in lessons, allowing them to focus on the task at hand rather than the distraction in their hands.

I actually talk to my friends more at lunch instead of us all just staring at our screens.

Transition Year News

Trip to Causey Farm

September 2025

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On Monday, 1st September, our Transition Year students travelled to Causey Farm for a team-bonding day. Throughout the visit, they took part in a range of activities such as feeding the animals, baking brown bread, working together to complete the maze, and even experiencing the famous bog jumping. The day was filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of teamwork, making it a memorable start to the year.



Transition Year News

Trip to Causey Farm

September 2025

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Bush Post Primary School Awards Ceremony



September 2025

www.bpps.ie



On September 11th the entire school body gathered in the gym for our annual awards ceremony. This is an opportunity to recognise the effort and diligence our students put into excelling in all areas of school life. In total we had over 190 awards handed out on the day. We had winners in every year group and subject area. We invited back our Leaving Certificate students who had excelled in the state exams and presented them in each subject. We wanted to honour the students who make our school a better place to be, and we awarded 'Best Young Citizen' awards to 50 pupils. This award shines a light on the importance of citizenship and community. These awards are a very important element of recognising the effort and graft that students put in daily and it's a pleasure to watch the smile on their faces when this effort is rewarded. On the morning, we presented 23 students with a 'Star Participant' award, this is recognising students from all year groups who have had 100% attendance over the school year. Mr Joyce presented 'Student of the Year' to Seán Thornton in recognition of his exceptional Leaving Certificate results and his exemplary role as Head Boy 2024/25. Mr Joyce also presented Noah Kirwan with the 'Feabhas' award. Mrs Gartland presented Aoibhe Hanratty with 'Transition Year student of the year'. Our guest speaker on the morning was Áine Breen. Áine is a past pupil of Bush and was a prefect in her graduating year 2014. She spoke to the students about her career path to date and her role as captain of the Louth ladies All Ireland Junior winning team 2025. Another wonderful success in our school calendar!



Bush Post Primary School Awards Ceremony



September 2025

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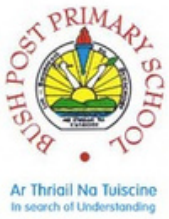
Bush Post Primary School Awards Ceremony



September 2025

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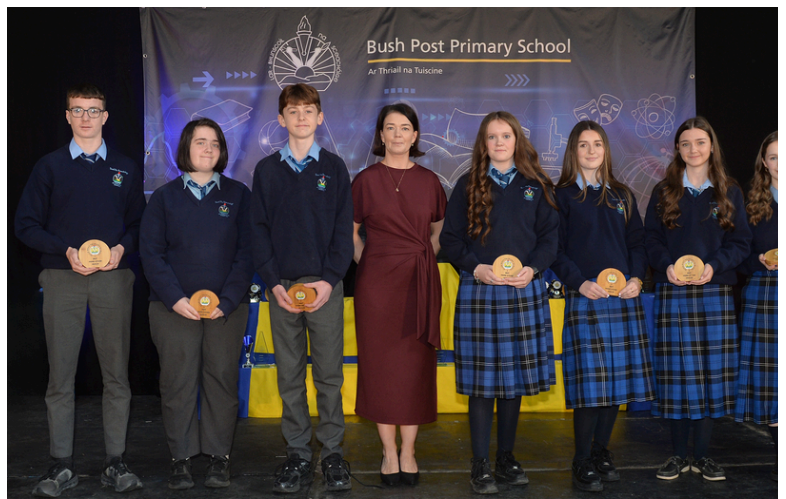


Bush Post Primary School Awards Ceremony



September 2025

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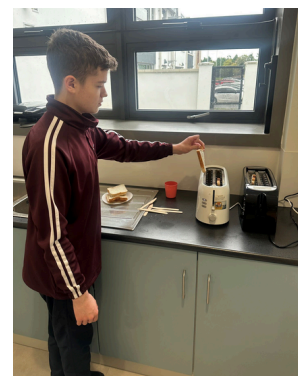
Bush Post Primary School The Hub

September 2025

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Since school returned in late August, our Hub has welcomed a wonderful group of students who are settling in really well and making great strides in their new environment. The Hub is designed as a safe, supportive, and inclusive space at the heart of our school, where every child is encouraged to learn, grow, and reach their potential at their own pace. From the very beginning, our focus has been on creating a calm and nurturing setting that helps students build confidence, independence, and friendships.

Each day in the Hub is filled with opportunities for creativity, learning, and fun. Students enjoy a balance of structured activities such as literacy and numeracy games, sensory circuits, and community-based learning, alongside time for play, art, and relaxation. Staff work closely with each student to support self-regulation, communication, and social skills, ensuring that every achievement, big or small is celebrated. We are so proud of the positive start our students have made this term and look forward to many more exciting experiences ahead.



Bush Post Primary Macbeth Trip



September 2025

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On Thursday 25th September, our 6th Year students had the wonderful opportunity to attend Druid's production of Macbeth at the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin. Tony Award winner Garry Hynes directs a cast led by Marty Rea as Macbeth and fellow Tony Award winner Marie Mullen as Lady Macbeth. As part of their English course, Macbeth is the Shakespearean text they are studying for the Leaving Certificate, and seeing the play brought to life on stage added a new depth to their understanding.

The performance was powerful, atmospheric, and thought-provoking, with striking staging and strong performances that captured the tension, ambition, and darkness of Shakespeare's tragedy. For many students, it was their first time experiencing a professional Shakespeare production, and it offered valuable insight into the play's characters, themes, and language. Students particularly enjoyed comparing the production's interpretation to their own study of the text in class, sparking lively discussions afterward. Overall, the trip was both educational and inspiring, giving students a fresh perspective on one of Shakespeare's most enduring works.

Bush Post Primary European Day of Languages



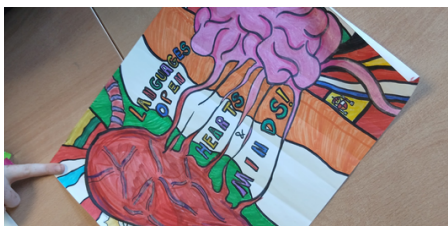
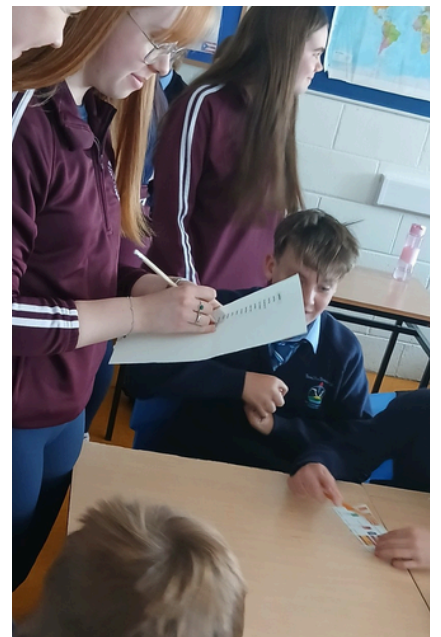
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TY and 1st Years celebrated European Day of Languages on Thursday.

Transition Year students participated in a poster competition, the theme of which was 'Languages Open Hearts and Minds'. We had some amazing entries which will be forwarded to the All Ireland Competition.

Our TY Language Leaders prepared some fun educational games for 1st Years. They demonstrated excellent skills and the activities were enjoyed by all.



Transition Year Key Dates 2025/2026



September 1st - Teambuilding Trip to Causey Farm Co. Meath
22nd - STEM Programme Day 1 Computer Science Students
30th - First Aid & Manual Handling 4 Donnard
October 7th - First Aid Training & Manual Handling 4Foy & Oriel
8th - Louth Youth Conference Fairways Hotel
14th - First Aid Training & Manual Handling 4Setanta & 4Tain
16th - Maths Trip to Airtastic Lisburn
20th - STEM Programme Day 2 Computer Science Students
November 5th - Croke Park Museum trip
10th - 14th Work Experience week 1
20th - DKIT College Careers Trip
24th - STEM Programme Day 3 Computer Science Students
December Enterprise Trade Show Business students
2nd - 5th Christmas Exams
January 9th - Sports Campus Ireland Trip
20th - National Art Gallery & Cultural studies trip to Dublin
February 3rd - Dublin Zoo Trip
9th - 13th Work Experience week 2
26th - Parent Teacher Meeting
March - Queens University Trip
5th - Grand Opera Theatre, Belfast - To Kill a Mockingbird
April 20th - 24th Work Experience week 3
Kavanagh Centre Monaghan visit
May
Summer Exams

*****Exact dates to be confirmed for some trips.

Upon returning to school, The Green Schools' Sustainability Team were straight to work. The team engaged in an online learning meeting on biodiversity with Green Schools' Ireland where they were encouraged to partake in many tasks in order that Bush PP are awarded a biodiversity flag next year. The team meet every Thursday, and students are encouraged to contact Ms. McMahon if they wish to join the team. Continuing the good work of the previous Green Schools' Committee, the team accompanied by Ms. McAleenan and Ms. McMahon have been working on areas to improve biodiversity.



The Green Schools' Sustainability Team are working hard around recycling. We invite everyone to recycle their batteries and in doing so, raise vital funds for the Barretstown children's charity. We have a bin positioned at reception where all batteries can be dropped.

Team members are also engaging in meetings with representatives of Glenmore AC and Cooley Pastoral Council. The hope is that you will soon see Re-Turn bins at Bush PP and that all plastic bottles, aluminium and steel cans will be collected and money raised going back into our community.





Dear Families,

Welcome to September and the start of an exciting new school year! As your Home School Liaison, I'm here to support you and your children throughout this journey - whether it's helping with communication between home and school, providing guidance regarding additional support or connecting you with community resources. Please don't hesitate to get in contact, together we want to make this year a success.

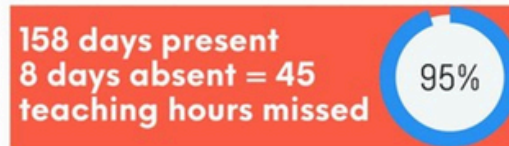
September Attendance Drive

This month we launched a special Attendance Drive to encourage all students to come to school every day and on time. Research shows that consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in student success. Students with 100% attendance will be entered into a prize draw to win student and family vouchers, the prize winners will be announced on 1st October. There will also be a prize for the best class attendance in every year group.

There will be more rewards and prizes throughout the year, so please encourage your child to be aiming for excellent attendance every month. We understand that September can be a busy and sometimes overwhelming time for students and parents alike. Establishing routines early on—like regular bedtimes, homework schedules, and healthy breakfast habits—can make a big difference in how smoothly the year goes.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Stay Connected

Communication is key! Please check the Compass App regularly as this is the school's main method of communication. It is extremely important that any student absences are explained on the Compass App. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns, no matter how big or small. Please keep an eye out for upcoming parent workshops and events designed to give you tools and strategies to support your child. You will be sent Parents' Surveys throughout the year and we really appreciate your feedback.

Parents' Association

We warmly invite all parents and caregivers to join our Parents' Association. Your participation is a valuable way to support the school community and stay connected with what's happening. This year, the Parents' Association will be organising fundraising events in order to purchase new resources for the school. Please get in touch if you would like to join. I look forward to working with you and your family throughout the school year.

Ciara Harkin
Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator
0429364635



Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have seen the new national attendance advertising campaign that is currently being aired on television, cinema and online platforms. The aim of the campaign is to encourage a broad awareness of the importance of attendance nationally, in order to reduce unnecessary absenteeism and improve educational outcomes.

1 in 5 students in primary and post-primary schools are missing a month or more of their school year.

This link provides parents with a one stop information source in order to support with attendance:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/school-attendance/>



Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you need further support around attendance.



Every School Day is a New Day

One in five of our children are missing a month or more of their school year.




Find support at [gov.ie/SchoolAttendance](https://www.gov.ie/SchoolAttendance)

 **tess** Seirbhís Taenochta Oideachais Tuála Tuila Education Support Service  Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland



LUNCH Menu

September/October

 Monday	Chicken Curry with Rice <i>Allergens: Wheat</i>
 Tuesday	Spice Bag <i>Allergens: Wheat</i>
 Wednesday	Pesto Pasta with Chicken <i>Allergens: Cashews Nuts Wheat</i>
 Thursday	Mash, Goujons, Gravy & Veg <i>Allergens: Milk</i>
 Friday	Penne Pasta with Meatballs in Tomato & Basil Sauce <i>Allergens: Wheat</i>



Hot and cold lunches served from our new kitchen every morning and lunch break by our wonderful team.



Important Dates coming up ...

- 6th October - JCSP Initiative Deadline
- 7th October - First Aid Training & Manual Handling 4Foy & Oriel
- 8th October - Louth Youth Conference Fairways Hotel
- 14th October - First Aid Training & Manual Handling 4Setanta & 4Tain
- 16th October - Maths Trip to Airtastic Lisburn
- 20th October - STEM Programme Day 2 Computer Science Students

**After school study
continues
- every Monday,
Tuesday
& Wednesday.
Snack provided!
15.50 - 17.45.**



Sinead McCrohan, the outreach officer in DCU gave a very informative talk on their University courses to sixth years on Wednesday 01st October.

Sinead spoke about links with plc courses, transport connections to DCU and new developments on campus. Students are looking forward to visiting the upcoming open day in November and were keen to ask questions following the talk.

This is the first in a series of University talks organised for our Sixth Years by the Guidance Dept to include Ulster University (Friday 24th October 10:00am), Maynooth University (Thursday 13th November 9:00am) and Galway University (Friday 17th October 10am)

Well done to all first year students who sat their CAT 4 exams on Monday 22nd September.



Save The Date

An online information evening for Students and Parents, in association with the Institute of Guidance Counsellors and Admissions Officers from Higher Education Institutions, will take place on Tuesday, 21 October at 6pm. Registration for this event is now open at www.cao.ie/webinar.

The Lennon Cup U19 squad faced St. Mary's Drogheda at Darver playing fields last Tuesday morning. The team played really well, with some superb scores coming from a wide range of players. Special mention to our goal keeper Craig Touhy who scored several 2 pointers and made numerous excellent saves. Unfortunately we lost by a point and now play a must win match against De La Salle.



Our senior girls team had a very hard-fought win over Coláiste Ghlór na Mara in Cooley on Thursday 25th September. The game certainly ebbed & flowed & it was hard to call a winner with just 5 minutes to go. Our girls playing some fantastic football & dug deep to pull off a 2 point victory led by their captain Katie McDonald. Well done girls & best of luck in your next match against The Marist in the coming weeks.

**New sports kits for the various school teams.
Basketball, Athletics, Gaelic and Rugby.**



**White Ribbon
Ireland**
Men Ending Gender-Based Violence

We are proud to be a White Ribbon School and have the White Ribbon crest emblazoned on all our new sports jerseys.