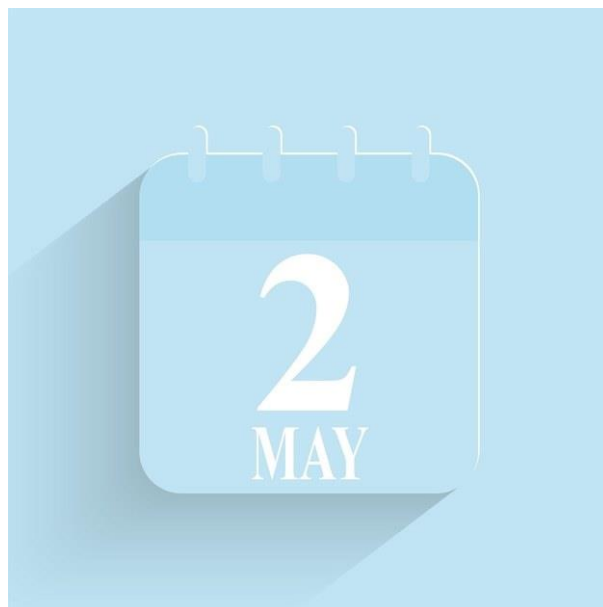




GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE





'Today's Learning for Tomorrow's World'...

Our School Mission Statement...

At Gilnahirk Primary School, we seek to provide a happy and caring learning environment for each child. We hope that by helping them realise their potential, celebrating their achievements, respecting their differences and encouraging mutual respect, we will foster self esteem and provide a solid foundation for their future.

Dear parent,

I hope you are well. It's been a good week back after the Easter break .

Here is our first update of the summer term, which contains lots of important information, so hopefully you can spend some time this weekend reading through it.

REMINDER: SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON MONDAY 5TH MAY FOR THE BANK HOLIDAY AND ON TUESDAY 6TH MAY FOR A STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE...



Please see below for an important message from our new wraparound care providers from September 2025:

Dear Parents,

We are writing to inform you of an exciting change to the after-school club at Gilnahirk Primary School. Beginning in September 2025, the club will be operated by Sinead Mooney and Cathy McClune.

Sinead and Cathy currently run Astoria Kindergarten, an Early Years setting based in Gilnahirk Primary School. Together, they bring 48 years of experience working with children ranging from two years old to young adults in their twenties. Working from a child centred approach, they are deeply passionate about empowering young children, and helping them realise their full potential.

Cathy and Sinead are both educated in BA Hons (Early Childhood Studies). They are also qualified designated Safeguarding and Child-protection Officers and hold their paediatric first aid.

The breakfast & after-school club will centre around the voice of the child approach and will use the children's ideas and interests to inform all future planning. They will offer a variety of engaging activities for your children, including:

- Arts and crafts
- Small world play
- Role-play
- Board games
- Free play outdoors
- Forest school play
- Photography
- Cookery

- Gardening and caring for our school environment
- Mindfulness and relaxation
- Music
- Multi-skills and gymnastics
- Football (both Gaelic and soccer)

The club will reflect the vibrant and successful ethos of Gilnahirk Primary School, providing children with a warm and welcoming “home away from home” experience.

Astoria Kindergarten and its wraparound care facilities will be thoroughly inspected and vetted by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Child-to-adult ratios will adhere to the Trust’s guidance for safety and supervision, ensuring the highest standards of care.

At present, we are exploring the current care options and the needs of parents for the future. To assist us in planning and accommodating your requirements, we would greatly appreciate it if you could fill out the attached Google form. **For your convenience, a link to the form can be found [here](#).**

Cathy and Sinead would also like to warmly invite you to a Parent Information Meeting on **Wednesday, 14th May at 4:00 PM in the School Assembly Hall**. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the wraparound care services and ask any questions.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts on this exciting new chapter for our after-school club.

Warmest regards,

Sinead Mooney & Cathy McClune

Please note the above information has been sent home today (Friday) in a letter in your child's school bag.

SMARTPHONE PARENTS' MEET UP - WEDNESDAY 7 MAY AT 8PM



Please see below for a message from Rachel O'Reilly, one of the parents involved in our 'Smartphone Free Childhood' group...



The recent Netflix series Adolescence has provoked a lot of discussion in the media concerning issues regarding young people and tech. Please come along and join us to share ideas for managing these issues and explore the ideas around the Smartphone Free Childhood movement. Everyone is welcome in this inclusive and supportive space to discuss navigating these challenges of parenting with each other. We look forward to seeing you and building our community further.

P6 PARENTS' SEAG INFORMATION MEETING...



We have planned a SEAG information meeting for **parents of P6 children** on Thursday 8th May at 9am in the Morrow Hall.

At the meeting, you will be informed (or reminded) of the key dates in the process, and we will also cover what SEAG preparation looks like in the summer term of P6.

Hopefully you will be able to make it along.

SPORTS DAY INFORMATION...



Sports Day is scheduled for **Tuesday 3rd June** and will follow the same format of the last few years, with each year group running a few races at the times listed below. Hopefully as many mums, dads, grannies, grandas (and whoever else!) can make it to cheer the children on in their races.

P1 - 9.00 - 9.30

P2 - 9.30 - 10.00

P3 - 10.00-10.30

P4 - 11.00-11.30

P5 - 11.30-12.00

P6 - 12.00-12.30

P7 - 12.30-1.00

Please note in the event of poor weather, we will run a contingency sports day on Thursday 5th June at the times noted above. If the weather is also poor on the Thursday, year group races will be run in the hall. In the unlikely event of this happening, unfortunately space would not allow parents to attend.

SUMMER UNIFORM...

As the summer term is now in full swing, children may wear the summer uniform, listed below:

Boys:

- School polo shirt/whit polo shirt
- School jumper for cooler days
- Grey trousers/shorts
- Black shoes

Girls:

- Blue and white check summer dress or pinafore
- White cardigan/school cardigan for cooler days
- White socks
- Black shoes/white sandals

Children may also continue to wear the normal full uniform if they prefer.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS...



BRING A BAG DAY - THANK YOU...

Thank you for the many donations that came in this morning for our 'Bring a Bag' day. The donations will be collected this afternoon and weighed. The school will then receive some funds based on the weight of the items donated.

Thanks also to our team of P7 helpers who coordinated the donation effort this morning.



1 - Ethan, Annabel, Etta, Jacob and James busy organising the 'Bring a Bag' donations.

BELFAST CITY MARATHON RELAY TEAM...

Once again this year, there will be a team of parents running the Belfast Marathon relay to raise funds for school. The runners are:

- Lee Bennett
- Paul Lavery
- Miranda Livingston
- Richard Livingston
- Jeremy Logan
- Katie McGrath
- Janet McNeice

- Glenn Porter
- Keith Roberts
- Richard Simpson

Huge thanks to all the parents willing to run a leg (or more!).

If you would like to donate, you can do so at the following link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/gilnahirk-primary-belfast-marathon-2025>

QUIZ NIGHT...

This year sees the return of our very popular Table Quiz night. Tickets are £8 per person with tables of up to 10 people. It would be great to see many of you there for what is always a good night's craic.

Tickets can be bought on SchoolMoney from now.



OTHER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS IN THE SUMMER TERM...



Fri 6 June - School Fair - details to follow

Fri 13 June - Colour Run - details to follow

HOLIDAY LIST FOR NEXT YEAR...



Please see below for the list of holiday dates for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Date	Details
Thursday 28th August 2025	School resumes for all children. Early finish
Friday 29th August 2025	Second day of term. Early finish
Monday 1st September 2025	First full day of school
Friday 26th September 2025	School closed for staff development
Friday 24th October 2025	School closes for half term break
Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025 (inclusive)	Autumn half term break.
Monday 3rd November 2025	School resumes for all children
Friday 19th December 2025	School closes for Christmas holidays
Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026 (inclusive)	Christmas holidays
Monday 5th January 2026	School resumes for the spring term
Friday 6th February 2026	School closes for half term break
Monday 9th February 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026 (inclusive)	February half term break
Monday 16th February 2025	School resumes for all children
Friday 27th March 2026	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026 (inclusive)	Easter holidays
Monday 13th April 2026	School resumes for the summer term
Monday 4th May 2026	School closed for early May bank holiday
Tuesday 5th May 2026	School closed for Staff Development Day
Monday 25th May 2026	School closed for late May bank holiday
Tuesday 30th June 2026	School closes for summer holidays. Early finish

SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...

Here are a few of the highlights from another busy week in school...

P1 TRIP TO STREAMVALE FARM...













P1 INDEPENDENT WRITERS...







P2 OUTDOOR PLAY...





P3 ARTISTS...









P4 OUTDOOR PLAY...







P6 BRITISH CROSS COPING WITH CHALLENGES WORKSHOP...















P6 VOLCANOES...







P6/7 VISIT FROM THE BELFAST GIANTS...



P7 WAU/LITERACY - TITANIC







GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

Our Gilly's Gilnahirk Value for the month of May is RESPECT

We spent some time in Assembly this week exploring the value of RESPECT and what it means to respect others and ourselves.

Why not look for opportunities at home to talk about respect with your child and encourage them to show RESPECT.





THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...

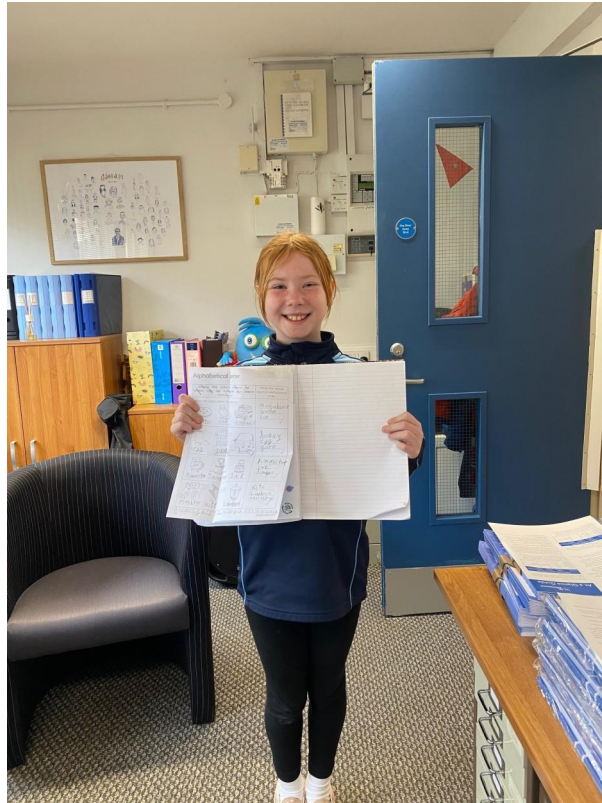




2 - Some fantastic writing in P2 from Charlotte, Oscar and Ellie. Great work, everyone!



3 - Super reading activities in P3 - well done Kora, Julia, Juliet, Rosa and Kamila.



4 - Hailey in P6 has been working so hard recently and produced a fantastic Friday progress today!



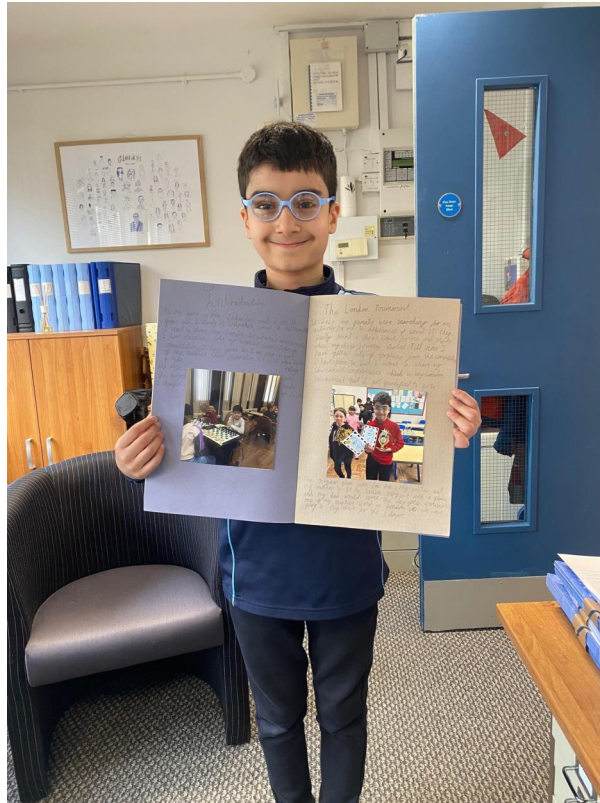
5 - Brilliant independent writing in P1 from Adlene, Ezra, Thomas, Freya and Pippa. Super work everyone!



6 - Check out this superb cartoon from Lola in P6. Beautiful work Lola - you clearly have a talent for art!



7 - Lola with her art work.



8 - Kia in P6 travelled to London recently to participate in a chess competition. He produced this fantastic scrapbook of his experiences.



9 - More super writing in P1 from Ollie, Brigid, Evelyn, Erin, Mabel, Grayson and Arthur. Well done, everyone!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

Community
Connections

If you are involved in any community linked activities and would like to promote them through our weekly update, please feel free to send to me via email dcorbett546@c2kni.net

South Eastern Health and Social Care TrustFFP Ards CICNorth Down FederationCYPSP
Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

ARDS/NORTH DOWN AREA NEURO CAFÉ

Join us for an Information and Support event for parents and carers of children with Autism and ADHD and those awaiting assessment.



The event will include:

- Information stalls with representatives from statutory and community organisations
- Interactive workshops for parents and care will commence at 10.30am
- Light refreshments will be provided

 Tuesday 13 May 2025

 10.00am - 12.00pm

 Ards Arena, 62 South Street, Newtownards, BT21 4JU

People can sign up for workshops on the day and please attend in good time to avoid disappointment.

If you require any further information contact Shauna on 07866 173 258 or Noelle on 07872 422 101.

#timetocode



SCHOOL OF PROGRAMMING

SUMMER CODE CAMPS
HOSTED AT  **BOOK NOW**

JULY & AUGUST 2025

- LEARN TO CODE USING THE LATEST PROGRAMMABLE TECHNOLOGIES.
- ALL WORKSHOPS DELIVERED BY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED TEACHERS.



JUNIOR
[AGE: 8-11]

SENIOR
[AGE: 11-18]



LEGO **MINDSTORMS**    

Check out our website for further details  **www.codeclock.co.uk**

 [instagram.com/codeclock](https://www.instagram.com/codeclock)  [facebook.com/codeclock](https://www.facebook.com/codeclock)  [twitter.com/codeclock](https://www.twitter.com/codeclock)

AGE 1.5-4 YEARS & PARENT




EARN £15

COME & PARTICIPATE IN OUR STUDY

Help shape the future of parent-toddler relationships
Join our research Parent and Toddler Interaction Experiment (PaTIE)

ACTIVITIES:
Free play, Toy clean up & Puzzles together

**SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
DAVID KEIR BUILDING
MALONE ROAD, QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY BELFAST, BT9 5BN**

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!












Knockbreda FC Academy
2015 Player Recruitment

We are looking to build upon our SBYL side as we move to 9 aside next season. SBYL experience preferred.

Contact Martin (2015 Head Coach) on 07 494578890 for more information





 follow us on social media
 


10 - Knockbreda FC 2015s player recruitment



Knockbreda FC Academy
2016 Player Recruitment

We are on the lookout for 2016 players seeking a new challenge. In which we are hoping to start up a 2nd team at this age group.

Contact Saul (2016 Coach) on 07854168817 for more information





 follow us on social media
 


11 - Knockbreda FC 2016s player recruitment

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGED 4-12

Dramarama

Performing Arts Academy

SUMMER SCHEME 2025



📍 BELMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
94 SYDENHAM AVENUE,
BELFAST BT4 2DT

📅 ONE WEEK ONLY
FOR OUR SPECTACULAR
10TH ANNIVERSARY
21ST - 25TH JULY 2025

🕒 MON - THURS: 9AM-2:30PM
FRI: 9AM-3:20PM

TO BOOK A SPACE OR FIND OUT MORE CONTACT US

📞 Sarah Steen-Calderwood: 07885243386
✉ dramaramaperformingarts@gmail.com
📘 facebook.com/dramaramaperformingarts

12 - Dramarama Summer School

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED SUMMER OF
PERFORMANCE TO CELEBRATE OUR 10TH YEAR
OF DRAMARAMA SUMMER SCHEME!

CONFIDENCE BUILDING
PERFORMANCE SKILLS
IMPROVISATION
SCRIPT DEVISING
DRAMA GAMES
DANCING
ARTS & CRAFTS



THIS YEAR MARKS OUR 10TH YEAR OF
DRAMARAMA SUMMER SCHEME!
We strive to make each year at Dramarama
summer scheme our best yet! We take so much
pride in spreading joy and helping our young
people build their confidence and enjoy
performing.
Our week-long program is open to all children
aged 4-12, and will culminate in a showcase for
parents & loved ones on the Friday afternoon.
Our talented coaches are passionate about
making sure all our pupils have a wonderful
week and get the chance to shine and grow their
talent in a supportive and safe environment.
From the movie stars of tomorrow, to those who
want to build a bit of confidence and have a lot
of fun - everyone is welcome at Dramarama!

PLACES ARE LIMITED!
BOOK AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE TO ENSURE YOU
ARE NOT DISAPPOINTED!

TO BOOK, SIMPLY GET IN TOUCH VIA
PHONE, TEXT, WHATSAPP, EMAIL OR
FACEBOOK!

PRICE:
£135 PER CHILD PER WEEK
£125 PER SIBLING PER WEEK



13 - Dramarama Summer School

DID YOU KNOW?

2,206 posties were injured by dogs in the past year.

That's 42 attacks each week, with some suffering life changing injuries.



PLEASE HELP US PROTECT YOUR POSTIE

- Never open the door to a postie when your dog is not secured away
- Invest in a letter cage or external delivery point to stop bites through the letterbox
- If your dog is running loose outdoors on your premises your mail can be suspended



Following changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in May 2014, an owner or/and a person in charge of a dog, can be prosecuted if that dog attacks anyone, in any place in England, Wales or Scotland.

For more information, please visit royalmail.com/dogawareness




Classified: RMG 74/10/1

TERM 3 DATES...





Mon 5 May - School closed for early May bank holiday

Tues 6 May - school closed for staff development day

Wed 7 May - Board of Governors' meeting

Thurs 8 May - SEAG information meeting for P6 parents - 9.00am in the Morrow Hall

w/c Mon 12 May - P3-7 standardised testing week

Tues 13 May - P4 WW2 theme day

Wed 14 May - Presentation from our new wraparound care providers (4.00pm in the Morrow Hall)

w/c Mon 19 May - P7 residential to Edinburgh

Mon 26 May - school closed for late May bank holiday

Fri 30 May - Parents' Association Table Quiz night

Tues 3 June - Sports Day

Thurs 5 June - contingency day for Sports Day if weather is poor on Tues 3 June

Fri 6 June - School Fair - details to follow

Fri 13 June - Colour Run - details to follow

Wed 18 June - Board of Governors' meeting

Wed 25 June - end of year reports issued to parents

Wed 25 June - P7 leavers' party (pm)

Thurs 26 June - P7 leavers' service - 7pm at Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church

Mon 30 June - last day of school year - early finish

AND FINALLY...

When you walk through the storm...

We couldn't possibly let the momentous footballing events of last weekend go by unmentioned!

Some fellow Liverpool fans from P7 called down to Mr. Corbett's office to celebrate the record equalling 20th league title for Liverpool FC. #YNWA #Champions

Oh, and for all of you Man Utd fans out there (here's looking at you, Mr. Campbell), remember 20+6 is more than 20+3!!





With kind regards,

D Corbett

Principal.

