

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE



Dear parent,

Welcome to our first update of the year. I hope you enjoyed a restful and refreshing summer break and you're starting to get back in to some routine.

As usual, this first update of the year contains some important reminders about school life and other important information for early in the year.

Please take some time to read through so that you are up to speed with everything.

Let's kick off our first update of the year with some back to school photos!

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Breaktime fun...









P1...







P2...







P3...







P4...







P5...







P6...







P7...







AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

This year again, we will have a mixture of external (paid) after school clubs and teacher led (free) after school clubs.

Please note, free teacher led clubs cannot be offered from 2-3 pm as staff are not available to lead them but there is a range of external clubs available for the younger children, as detailed below.

EXTERNAL FEE PAYING CLUBS...

Please note, places for external clubs must be booked and paid for directly with the club providers.

MONDAY

*Clayful Kids - P1-P7. Places can be booked using the information below or at this link:
<https://clayful-minds.classforkids.io/info/146>*



CLAYFUL MINDS
CREATIVE LEARNING

CLAYFUL MINDS AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB



Gilnahirk

Monday
8th September – 13th October
£39 for 6 weeks

Clay modelling | Non-toxic colourful | Airdrying
clay | Mindfulness | Group games | BRAND NEW
models!

BOOK NOW >>



rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk 07919371505

TUESDAY

Laser Tag - P4-7 - booking link:

<https://risingstarsoccer.bookwhen.com/schedules/b20vn81buljk>

WEDNESDAY

Dramarama P1-P7 - contact Sarah Steen-Calderwood on 07885243386, email dramaramaclasses@gmail.com or Facebook: [facebook.com/dramaramaperformingarts](https://www.facebook.com/dramaramaperformingarts)

Further information included in the PDF attached to the email



THURSDAY

HealthyKidz P1-7 Booking link: <https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/healthy-kidz-gilnahirk-ps-term-1-block-1-2025-26-belfast-fa41c4d8-5870-409f-8fd9-8c24498fb967>





GILNAHIRK PS

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

£24 FOR 6 WEEKS
COMMENCING 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

THURSDAY 6 WEEKS
P1-P2 MULTI-SPORTS ACADEMY
@ 2PM-3PM

THURSDAY 6 WEEKS
P4-P7 HOCKEY @ 3PM-4PM



BOOK VIA [HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM](https://www.healthy-kidz.com)



Sew Ready - P4-7 - booking details can be found in PDF attached to the email with the link to this Sway or at this link: <https://app.classmanager.com/portal/sew-ready/login>



Galactico Soccer.

Booking links:

P2-3 <https://galactico-soccer-ltd.live.baluu.co.uk/event/gilnahirk-ps-2pm-1755529975>

P4 -7 <https://galactico-soccer-ltd.live.baluu.co.uk/event/gilnahirk-ps-3pm-1755529930>



Friday

Max Coding P2-P7

Booking link: <https://bookwhen.com/MaxCoding#focus=ev-simi-20240902140000>



TEACHER LED CLUBS IN TERM 1...

A number of teachers will also offer after school clubs/extra curricular activities in the first half term/term. Further information about these will be sent out in next week's update.

OTHER 'BACK TO SCHOOL' KEY INFORMATION...



START OF TERM YEAR GROUP/CLASS TALKS.



After a number of years of sending the start of year talks via email, we feel that now is a good time to re-introduce in -person meetings. Please see the details below for each year group's presentation:

P1 - No presentation needed at this stage - start of term info covered in the parents meeting back in May. P1 staff will be in touch regarding a mid year update (around January time)

P2 - Tuesday 9th September, 1.00pm - 1.30pm

P3 - Monday 8th September, 1.15pm - 2.00pm

P4 - Tuesday 9th September, 1.30pm - 2.00pm

P5 - Wednesday 10th September, 1.30pm - 2.00pm

P6 - Thursday 11th September, 1.30pm - 2.00pm

P7 - Tuesday 16th September - 7pm in the Morrow Hall

We appreciate that most of these are during the school day but if one (or both) parents could plan to attend, that would be great. It's a good opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher and hear a bit more about the year ahead.

READING PARTNERSHIP.



If you would like to return as a reading partner volunteer this year, or sign up for the first time, Mrs KJ, our reading partner organiser, would love to hear from you on kjohnston773@c2kni.net

MORNING DROP OFF.



Please remember that the drop off window is from 8.40am to 8.50am.

Doors at the various entry points will not open before 8.40am, **so please try to avoid bringing/sending your child in to the school grounds before that time - we have seen large groups of children gathering at various entrance points this week as early as 8.25am. There is no supervision of children at that time of the morning.**

All children should be in their classrooms by **8.50am**

PICK UP TIMES.

School Pick-Up

A reminder of Monday – Thursday pick up times:

- P1 – 12.00pm until Friday 26th September. 2.00pm from Monday 29th September
- P2 – 2.00pm
- P3 – 2.00pm until Christmas. 3.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from after the Christmas break.
- P4 – P7 – 3.00pm

Friday pick up times.

P1-P4 - 2.00pm (P1 12.00pm until Friday 26th September)

P5-P7 - 2.05pm

The first few pick up times always feel quite chaotic, due to all children being dismissed at virtually the same time. This will ease next week with the return to normal finishing times.

CAR PARK AND OTHER SAFETY ISSUES



Your cooperation with the following safety issues is very much appreciated...

- Please remember that any checks on blue badge holders, either by myself or Mr Campbell, are simply to ensure that the school car park is as safe as can be - the checks are not designed to be obstructive and your understanding with this is appreciated.
- Please **do not** attempt to access the school grounds by car if you do not hold a blue badge.
- **Please leave the school grounds via the pedestrian exit**, not under or around the vehicle barrier.
- **Please avoid crossing the car park when you pick your child up**, remembering that there will be cars and delivery trucks moving in and out of the area.
- **Please do not allow your children to walk along the wall alongside the path from the main staff car park.** In the past a number of children have taken nasty falls off the wall.
- **Children on scooters and bikes should dismount well before the school gates** and should be mindful of pedestrians when making their way to school. This message will be reinforced in assembly but it will be helpful if you could remind your child also.

P.E. KIT (P4-7)

Most of our P4-P7 pupils have purchased the new PE kit of a quarter zip top and T shirt in the school colours. If you have not received your kit, it should be with you very soon.

This should be worn to school as directed by P4-7 teachers, along with dark/navy track bottoms or leggings.

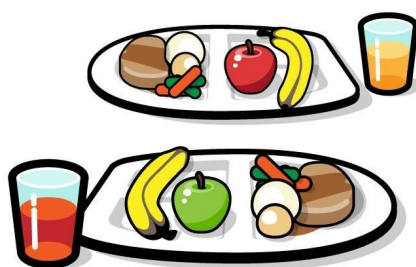
If you do not receive your child's PE kit by the end of next week, please contact the school office.

If you have not yet purchased a PE kit for your child and price is a barrier to purchasing, please speak to me in confidence - financial assistance can be provided.

P3 children should continue to wear a simple PE kit of plain white T shirt/Polo shirt (you can use the school polo if you have one), navy bottoms (shorts, leggings or track bottoms) and trainers/plimsolls. The school jumper/cardigan can be worn over the top. **P3 teachers will direct children as to which day(s) they can wear PE kit to school**

Children in P1-P2 will simply remove ties and change their footwear to plimsolls on their PE days.

SCHOOL DINNERS.



Don't forget that you should pay for school dinners for the week ahead via SchoolMoney by midnight on Sunday of each week. Dinner payments for each week will close at midnight on Sunday so you will be unable to pay after this time - **please make every effort to have dinners paid for by that time**. Don't forget that any paid dinners your child does not take (due to absence/illness etc.) will automatically be credited to your account. Thank you for your cooperation.

The menu for dinners in term 1 can be found at this link:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/parents/letters>

Also, if your child has any medical/cultural/religious dietary requirements, please see a note from Mrs Richardson in the canteen [here](#)

If you have any issues with the SchoolMoney system, please contact the school office and we can try to resolve it for you.

Please remember that even if your child is entitled to free school meals, you should go on to the SchoolMoney system to book a dinner (you will not be charged) - this allows the canteen to plan how much food they need to order and prepare.

ALLERGY REMINDERS.



We will continue to keep Gilnahirk PS as nut free as possible, so you are asked not to send nuts or nut based products (like peanut butter) in to school with your child.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.



REMINDER:
No Dogs on
School Property

Dogs should not be brought on to the school grounds, with the exception of guide dogs. For safety reasons, there can be no exceptions to this rule. Thank you.

MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS.



As always, you are encouraged to arrange dental and medical appointments out of school hours or out of term time. However, I accept that this is not always possible, so please follow the routine below if you need to collect your child early.

- Inform your child's class teacher and/or the school office about the time your child needs to leave and for what reason.
- Class teacher will send your child round to reception at the designated time, where they will sit on the seat at the front entrance.
- Collect your child from the front entrance but ensure that you inform the office that you have collected your child.
- **Your child will not be sent out of the school grounds to meet you.**

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

SOME KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **Monday 1st September** - first full day of school. Packed lunches or school dinners required
- **Thursday 8th and Friday 9th September** - P6/7 visits to 'Life Exhibition'
- **Tuesday 16th September** - P7 parents' talk (7pm)
- **Wednesday 17th September** - whole school photos with 'Cool for School' photography
- **Friday 19th September** - Flu vaccination day
- **Friday 26th September** - school closed for staff development
- **Monday 29th September - Thursday 2nd October** - P7 parent teacher interviews
- **Monday 29th September** - visit from M+M productions (Robin Hood)
- **Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th October** - 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme delivered by NSPCC
- **Monday 20th October - Thursday 23rd October** - P1-6 parent teacher interviews
- **Friday 24th October** - last day of half term - early finish
- **Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October** - school closed for half term break
- **Monday 3rd November** - school resumes for new half term
- **Saturday 15th November** - SEAG test 1
- **Saturday 22nd November** - SEAG test 2
- **Friday 5th December** - Open Morning for prospective parents of P1 children (starting September 2026)
- **Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December** - P1-3 nativities

- **Wednesday 17th December** - Carol Service at Our Lady and St Pat's College, 7pm
- **Friday 19th December** - school closes for Christmas break - early finish
- **Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January** - school closed for Christmas break
- **Monday 5th January 2026** - school resumes for term 2

Further details will be sent to you about these dates but it might be a good idea to get them in the diary now.

Enjoy your weekend.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

