



GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE





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

Our School Vision 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,

We've come to the end of our very busy first full week back at school and everyone seems to have settled back in to good routines, ready for the term ahead.

There is quite a bit of information in our update this week, so hopefully you can find some time over the weekend to have a read through to stay up to date with everything.

COOL FOR SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

On **Wednesday 17th September**, Cool for School photography will be in school to take individual and family photos of all children from P1-P7 (they will return at the end of the school year for P7 class/group photos).

Prior to the photography day, you are asked to register (even if you have registered in the past for previous photos). Details on how to register can be found on the image below.

For your convenience, here is the link to register:

<https://orders.coolforschoolphotography.com/register/?code=GHIRK25>

 **Cool for School Photography**

To have your child's photo taken you **must** register!

Register Now!
Complete online registration to ensure your child's photo is taken this year. Just follow these **three** simple steps.
Please register by **7pm** the day before Photoday

Get ready for **PHOTODAY!**
Wednesday 17th September

STEP 1
Grab your phone or PC and go to orders.coolforschoolphotography.com

STEP 2
Enter this unique school code.
GHIRK25

STEP 3
Fill in **Pupil's** name, choose **their** class from drop down menu. Click Add Child.
If a sibling photo is required, complete additional section.
Click **Confirm and Continue** then enter your contact details.
Scroll down and **Click Submit Registration**

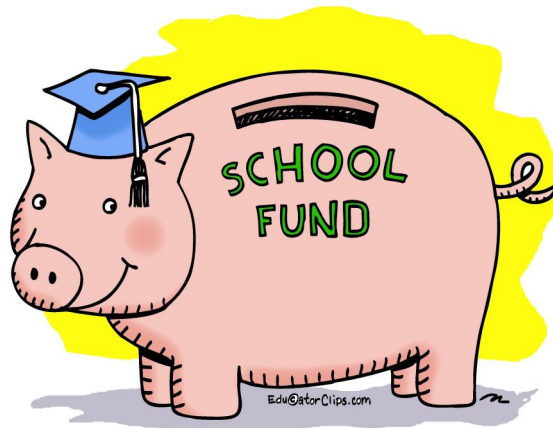
That's it! After you have hit submit you should receive a confirmation email that your child or children have been registered successfully.

Your contact details will be securely stored and kept private, due to strict GDPR compliance. Feel free to visit our website for further information. If you have any queries, please contact our us on ...02892683966



SCHOOL FUND





At the start of each school year, we invite you as parents to contribute to our school fund. This fund is used to supplement many areas of school life that directly affect the children. In your child's school bag is a letter with further information and you should have received a SchoolMoney notification.

The contribution is voluntary but any contribution will be very gratefully received and appropriately used in these increasingly challenging financial times for schools.

Thank you.

THANK YOU...



A huge thank you to all who contributed to the Leavers' Service charity collection back in June, in aid of Aabaana ministries. The £450 raised was used to purchase playground equipment for children in Uganda.



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.

TEACHER LED CLUBS IN TERM 1...

A number of teachers will offer after school clubs/extra curricular activities in the first half term/term. The table below provides further information. Teachers involved will liaise directly with the relevant classes/year groups.

Day	Activity	Teacher in charge	Year groups	Dates
Monday	Scripture Union	Mrs Gordon	P4-7	22/09 – 01/12 (inclusive)
Monday	Hockey	Mr Halliday	P6-7	Commencing 15/09
Tuesday	Wellness Walk – 'Walkie Talkies' (LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY)	Mrs Boyd/Mrs Collins/Mrs KJ	P5-7	Commencing 16/09
Tuesday	Lego Club (LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY)	Mrs Bennett/Mrs McCaffrey	P4-5	16/09 – 21/10 (inclusive)
Wednesday	Football	Mr Knight	P6-7	Commencing 17/09
Wednesday	Art Club	Mrs Hodgen	P7	Commencing 17/09
Wednesday	Film Club (LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY)	Mrs King	P4-5	Commencing 17/09

EXTERNAL FEE PAYING CLUBS...

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

MONDAY



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

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

TUESDAY

Laser Tag - P4-7 - booking link:
<https://risingstarsoccer.bookwhen.com/schedules/b20vn81bulik>

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





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)



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>

SEW  READY

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-175529975>

P4 -7 <https://galactico-soccer-ltd.live.baluu.co.uk/event/gilnahirk-ps-3pm-175529930>

BOOKINGS FOR GALACTICO SOCCER WILL CLOSE ON MONDAY AT 2PM

Friday



Max Coding P2-P7

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

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

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.

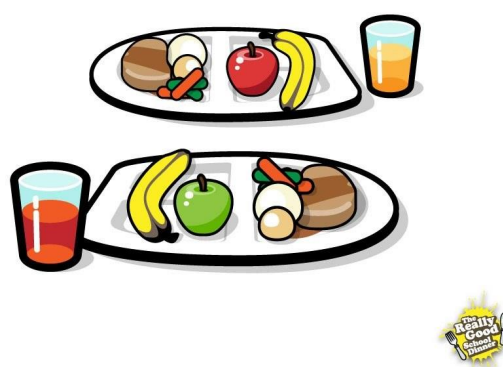
If you do not receive your child's PE kit by the end of next week, please contact the school office.

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.



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.**

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...

SOME OF OUR NEW P1 CHILDREN...









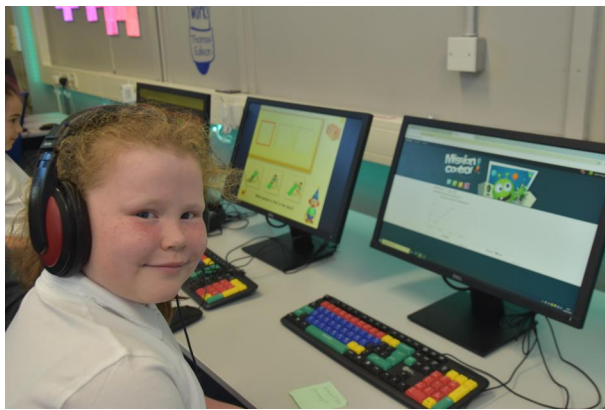
P2 LOVING THE OUTDOORS...







P3 GETTING USED TO THE ICT SUITE AGAIN...











P4 WORKING HARD AT THEIR LITERACY...





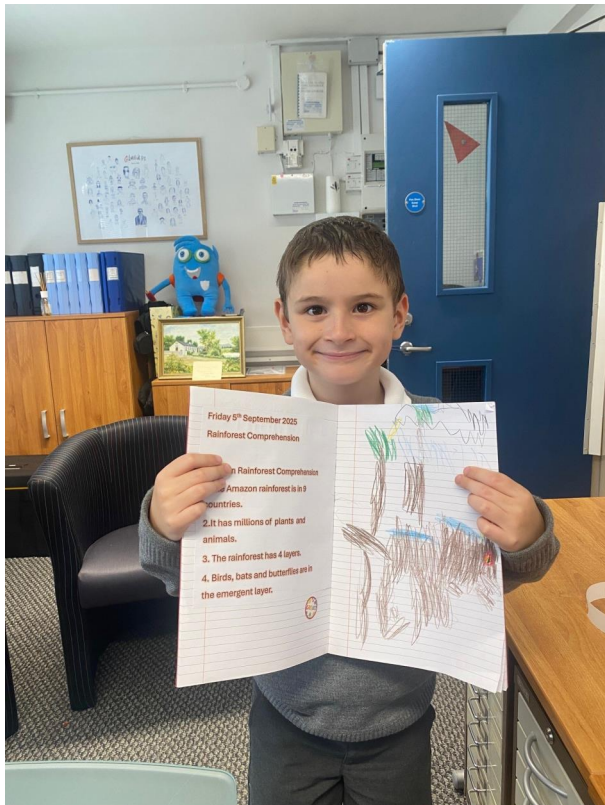


THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





1 - Joshua in P6 produced this brilliant piece of art work related to PDMU. Great work, Joshua!



2 - Ethan in P4 completed a fantastic comprehension activity on the Rainforest. Well done, Ethan

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



Band Together

Templemore Baths Heritage Centre
Saturday, September 13th
2pm to 4pm

Learn about the rich musical traditions of Belfast with local band musicians, featuring live demonstrations

TEMPLEMORE BATHS HERITAGE CENTRE

EAST SIDE INSPIRING BELFAST

The poster features a light blue background with musical notes and illustrations of various instruments: a harp, a flute, a keyboard, a drum, a trumpet, and a tambourine.



CULTURE NIGHT AT TEMPLEMORE BATHS
Friday, 19th September 2025

IRISH AND SCOTTISH STEP DANCING CÉILÍ
4PM TO 5:30PM

CRAIC DEFENSE TEAM
6PM TO 8PM

FREE Entry
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Scan QR Code for more info

The poster has a black background with a colorful geometric logo in the top left corner and a QR code in the bottom right corner. It also features a small image of a crowd of people at the bottom left.

Free ADHD Awareness Event for parents/carers

Are you a parent/carer of a child with ADHD or do you wonder if your child may have ADHD?

Come along to this free talk by Consultant Paediatrician Dr Matthew McConkey



Find out more about:

- What are the symptoms of ADHD?
- What is the assessment process?
- Strategies that can support your child
- What support is available?



Complimentary tea/coffee on arrival



Information stands will include health and wellbeing support



Booking required



Friday 26 September 2025
10.00am - 12.00pm



Robert Andrews Church Hall
(Opposite Shore Street Presbyterian Church,
1 Warren Road, Donaghadee, BT21 0DS)

For more information and to book your space, please contact: collette.watt@setrust.hscni.net

The event has been organised by the MDT Social Work Team in Donaghadee Health Centre

East Belfast mini soccer

Boys and girls age 4-11

Friday 12th September

13 weeks football £80

Kickabout KIDZ

3 - To book a space contact Dee by phone or text on 07729905947 or contact the page directly.

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **Week commencing Monday 7th September** - P2-P6 parent curriculum talks (see information above)
- **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 (see information above)
- **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

Enjoy your weekend.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

