

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/carer,

I hope you have had a good week.

This week's update is a mixture of some previous information and some new items...

A REMINDER OF CHILD PROTECTION PERSONNEL AND POLICY...



At Gilnahirk Primary we have robust policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in our care each day. Whilst a healthy safeguarding and child protection approach involves all members of staff, the key personnel are as follows:

Designated Teacher for Child Protection - **Mrs Thelma Johnston.**

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection - **Mr David Corbett.**

Designated Governor for Child Protection - **Mr Alan Morrow.**

There are a number of other people who by virtue of the roles that they play in school, are directly or indirectly involved in our safeguarding procedures:

Vice Principal - **Mr Gary Halliday.**

SENCo - **Mrs Louise McCaffrey.**

Chair of Governors - Mr Graeme Allen.

Earlier this week, you should have received a brief parents' summary of our Child Protection Policy. If you have not yet received this, please check your child's school bag.

If you ever have any concern about a child's welfare, you should make contact in the first instance with Mrs Johnston as the Designated Teacher for CP. Your concern will then be evaluated and, if necessary, action taken as per the procedures laid out in our Child Protection policy which can be found at this link:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=191&type=pdf>

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS - PARENTS' VIEWS.



If your child is on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), you will receive information about this on Monday. As part of the IEP writing process, we seek your views as parents. Please complete the relevant sections of the sheet you receive and return to your child's class teacher no later than Friday 19th September. **Please note, the information you provide should not exceed the space given, as there would not be enough space to include it on the IEP format.**

Thank you.

REMINDER OF 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**



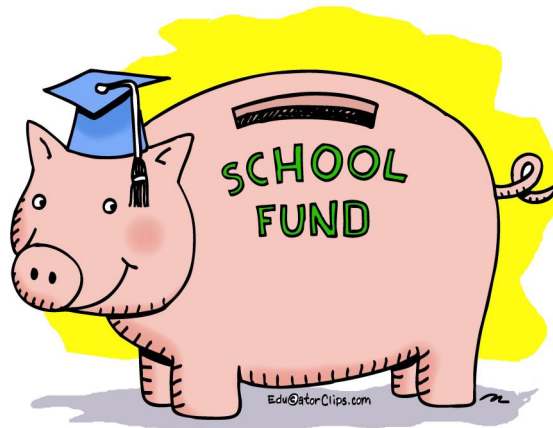
That's it! After you have hit submit you should receive a confirmation email that your child or children have been registered successfully.

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 last week was 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.

NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLUB FOR FRIDAYS...

Please see details below for a new after school club on a Friday. Please note the accompanying flyer sent out today has a digit short, so please use the number on the image below if you wish to register interest.



★ NEW AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB AT GILNAHIRK PRIMARY!

FRIDAYS | 2-3 PM | P4-P7

We're launching an exciting 10-week
Hybrid Programme – the first of its kind at Glnahirk!



**5 weeks
Football**



**5 weeks
Dodgeball**



**COST: £45 FOR
10 WEEKS**



**FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVED!**

This new programme offers fun, variety, and
fresh activities every week.



**TO BOOK, CONTACT COACH MATTHEW
07702 846828 ON WHATSAPP OR TEXT**

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...

As always, plenty going on in school this week as the selection of photos will show...

P1 HAVING FUN IN THE MAZE...









P1 PLAY BASED LEARNING...







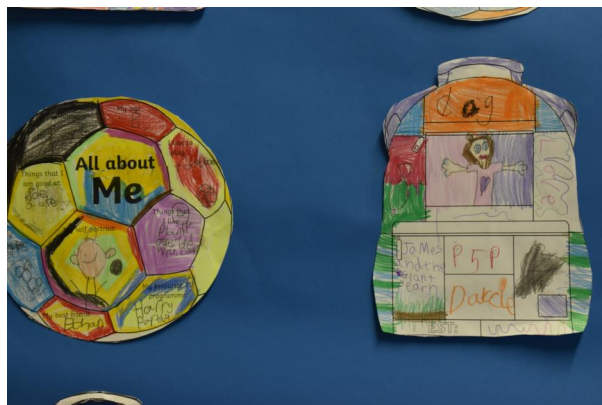
P4 RUGBY COACHING...



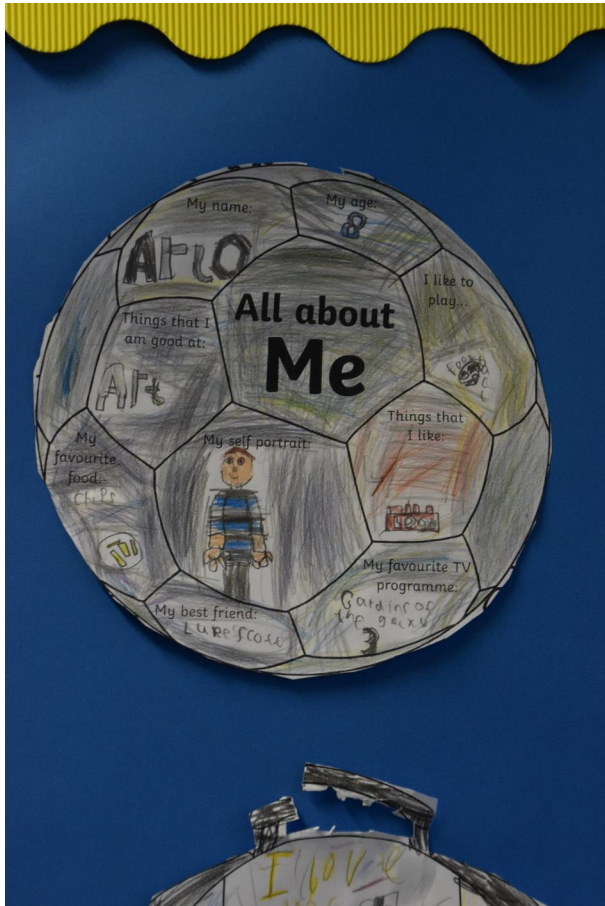




P5 ALL ABOUT ME...









P5 LITERACY - NOUNS WORK...







P6 SELF PORTRAITS...







P7 ENJOYING BREAK TIME...









FITNESS FREDDY 'TAKE 5' SESSIONS...

Freddy was back in school to offer his 'Take 5' wellbeing sessions to P4-7...





P6 FOOTBALL...

Mr Knight held a P6 football session for boys and girls - some real talent on show!





1 - Mr. Knight delighted to see Hudson and Charley in their Newcastle United gear! Charley, your dad must be very proud that you're a member of the Toon Army! Hang on Hudson, I thought you were an Arsenal fan??

LIFE EXHIBITION...

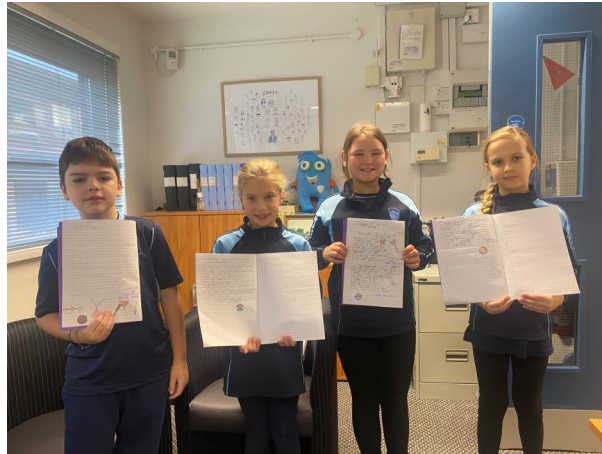
Our P6 and P7 classes attended the Life Exhibition held at Castlereagh Community Church...





THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





2 - David, Ellie, Emilia and Ivy brought their super Viking poems down for Mr Corbett to read. Great work, everyone!



3 - Corin, Mabel, Faye, Mimi and Tess wrote some super Jack and the Beanstalk stories. Super work, P3!



4 - Anita, Pippa, Theo, Adlene, Alba, Holly and Nancy in P2 called in with Mr Corbett to show their super independent writing - well done, everyone!



5 - EVERYONE in Mrs McCaffrey's P3 class knocked their first Friday round up of the year out of the park! Great work, P3!



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

"Can I get a phone?"

Parent LineNI
0808 8020 400

Simple question, but what is your answer?

Are you debating this question?
Do you feel smartphones are to be avoided?
Has your child just got their first phone?

We understand your responsibilities & concerns.

Parentline has gathered information to help you to make this decision and help keep everyone informed, connected and safe.

Packed full of useful links, support & guidance. Helpful Q&A's to use with your child.

For your FREE PACK
Call us now 0808 8020 400

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

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
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FREE Entry
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Scan QR Code for more info

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

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

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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.

