

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/carers,

I hope you have had a good week. Here is our latest whole school update.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS...

Here are a few important reminders to kick off this week's update:

- *School is closed to pupils next Friday (26th) for a Staff Development Day. Staff will do some work that day on Literacy and ICT developments and on anaphylaxis awareness training.*
 - *If your child is not already in full uniform (still wearing summer uniform), you should ensure that they are by Monday 3rd October*
 - *P1 children will stay until 2pm from Monday 29th September. Please send a packed lunch or sign your child up for school dinners for each week ahead by midnight on the Sunday before each week.*
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P1-6 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW PLANS...



P1-6 parent teacher interviews are scheduled for **Monday 20th October - Thursday 23rd October**. You may remember for the interviews in March, we used an online booking system for the first time. There were a number of technical issues but in the end everyone managed to get a slot (eventually!)

Rather than abandoning the use of the booking system after one attempt, we plan to give it another go, but with a few tweaks which will hopefully alleviate some of the issues we faced. Therefore, booking slots will be allocated on a staggered basis, as noted below:

P1 - Monday 29th September at 12.00pm

P2 - Tuesday 30th September at 12.00pm

P3 - Wednesday 1st October at 12.00pm

P4 - Thursday 2nd October at 12.00pm

P5 and P6 - Friday 3rd October at 12.00pm

Further details will be sent next week about how to ensure you are registered to log on to the parents' booking portal. Please look out for that important information in your child's school bag on Wednesday.

The practical arrangements for the parent teacher interview days will be:

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- *School will close at **1.15pm for P1-6 children** to accommodate the interviews.*
 - *School will operate as normal for P7 children.*
 - *School dinners will still be available as normal or you should send a packed lunch.*
 - *There are no after school activities the week of parent teacher interviews*
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E-SCOOTER REMINDER...



Earlier in the week, you will hopefully have received a letter from school that lays out the legal position on use of e-scooters on public pathways and in school grounds. Essentially, use of e-scooters is illegal and therefore, **children should use another mode of transport to school.**

We have an abundance of bike racks in school, so cycling to school is a viable alternative. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

For your reference, here is a link to the PSNI web page with information on this subject:
<https://www.psni.police.uk/safety-and-support/roads-and-driving/e-scooter-scrambler-and-quad-safety>

ANOTHER 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.**

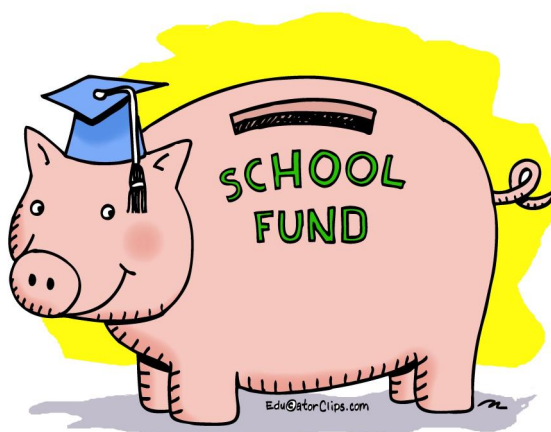
Chair of Governors - **Mr Graeme Allen.**

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>

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 Gilnahirk!

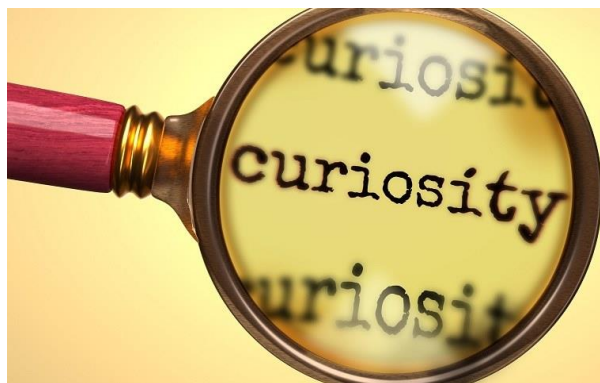
 **5 weeks Football** |  **5 weeks Dodgeball**

 **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**

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



Our school value for the month is ***CURIOSITY***.

Perhaps in the time remaining in September, you could encourage your child to find out something new, take up a new hobby, or set a new goal!

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



Another busy week in school...

FUN IN P1...











P1 WORKING ON THE NUMBER 1...











P2 NUMERACY...







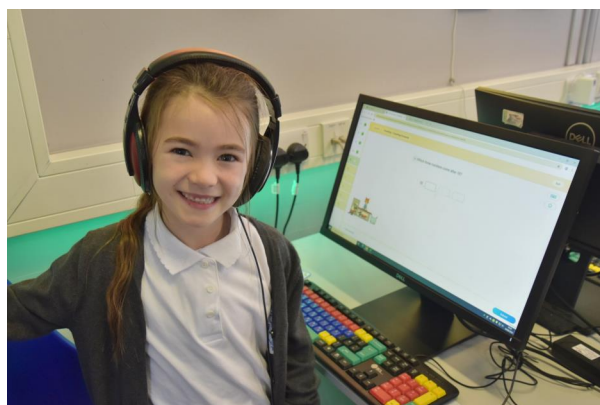
P3 TRY A NEW GAME IN PE...

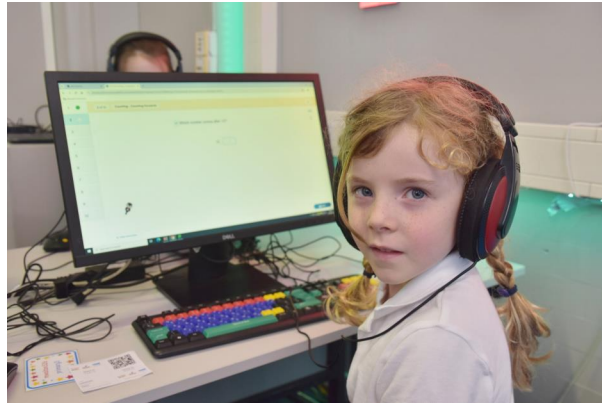






P3 MATHLETICS...







P4 RAINFOREST ANIMATORS...









P4 LEARNING ABOUT CAMOUFLAGE...



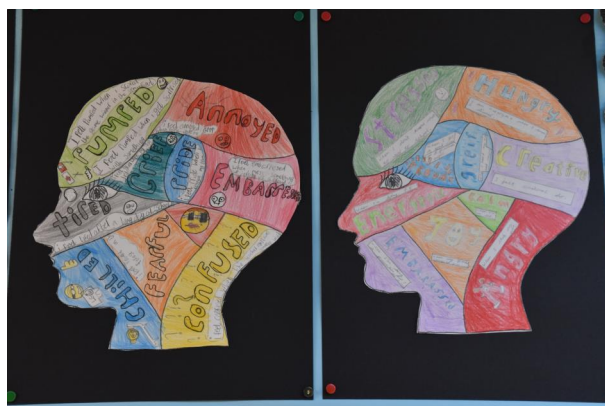
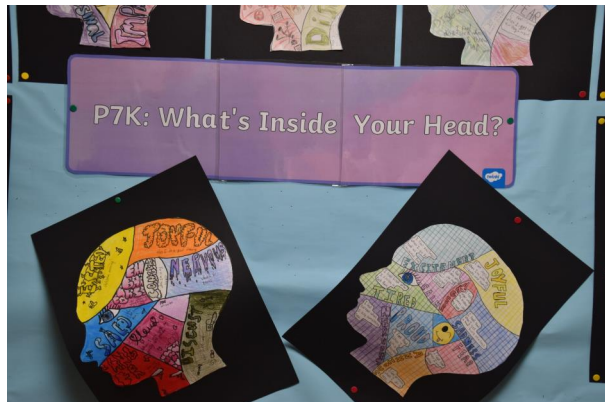


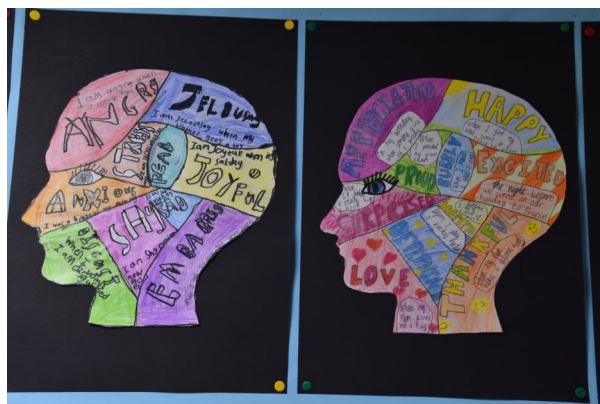
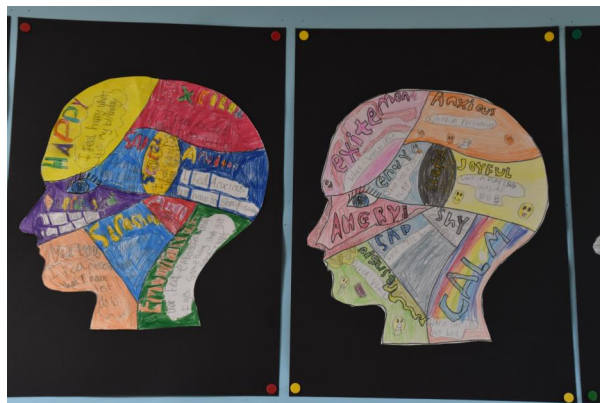
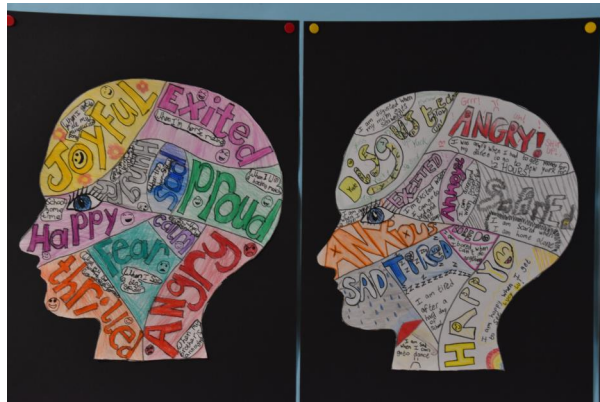
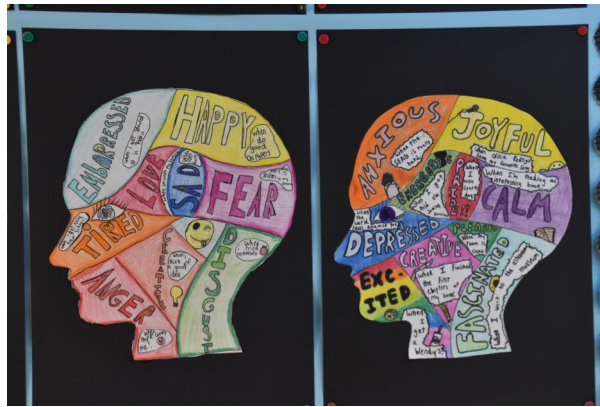


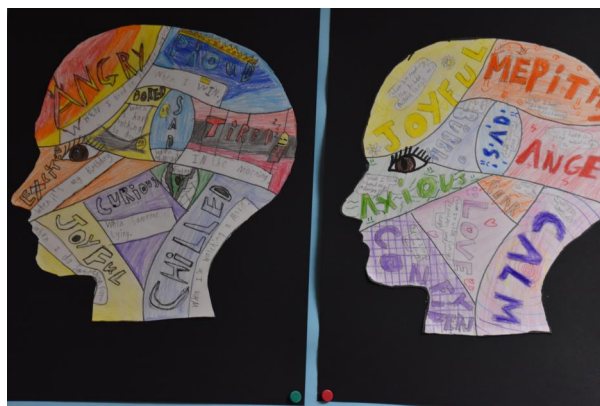
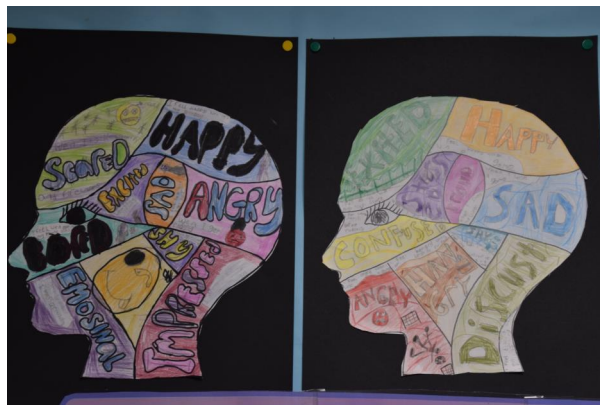
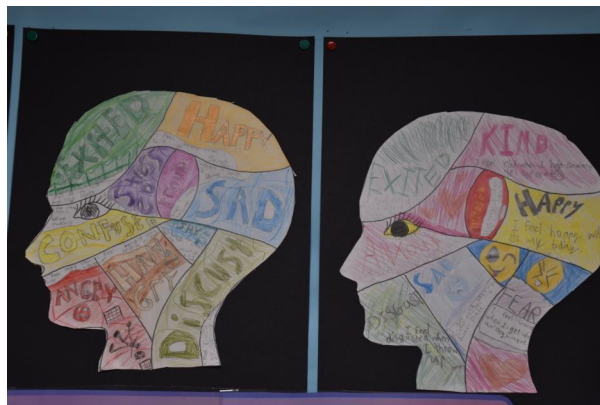
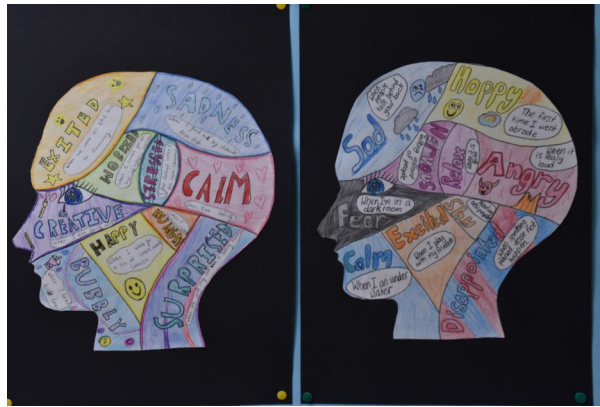


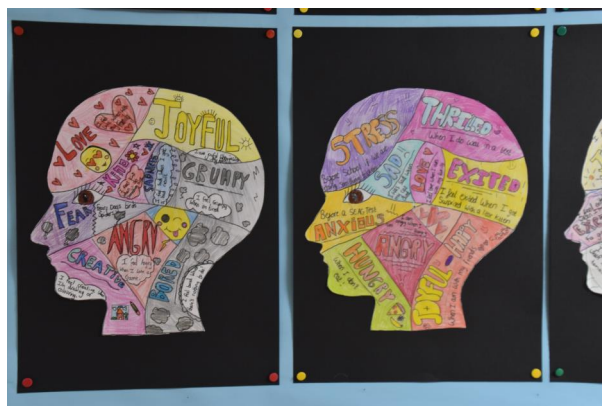
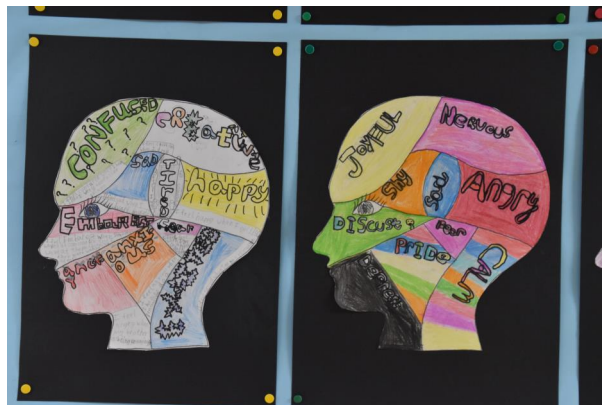
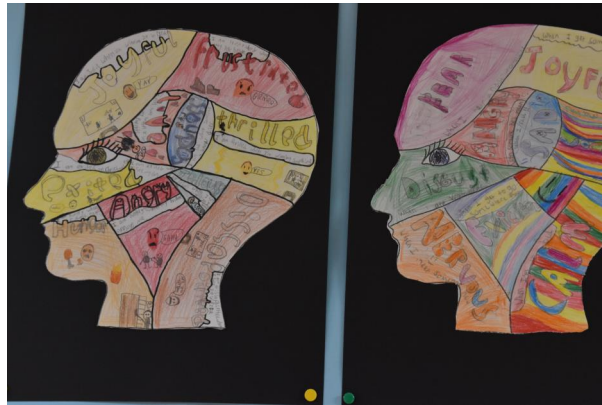
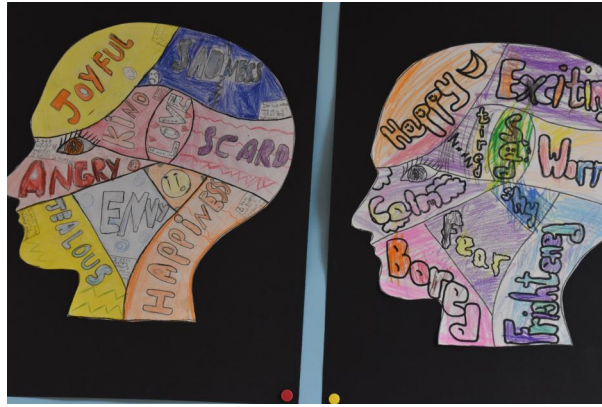


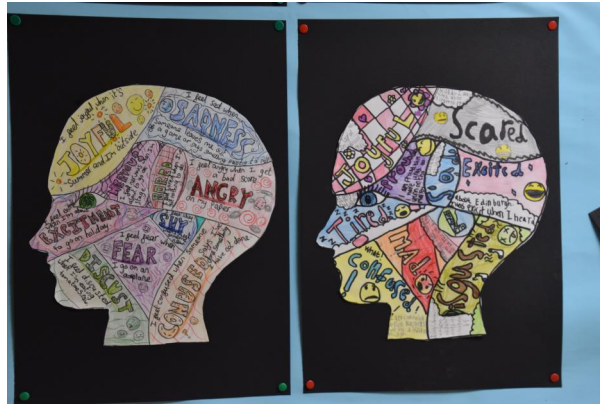
P7 WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR HEAD..?











P7 'FIVE THINGS' PRESENTATIONS...





1 - Luke in P7 took great delight in showing Mr Knight up on the badges awarded!

LUNCHTIME LEGO CLUB...







THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



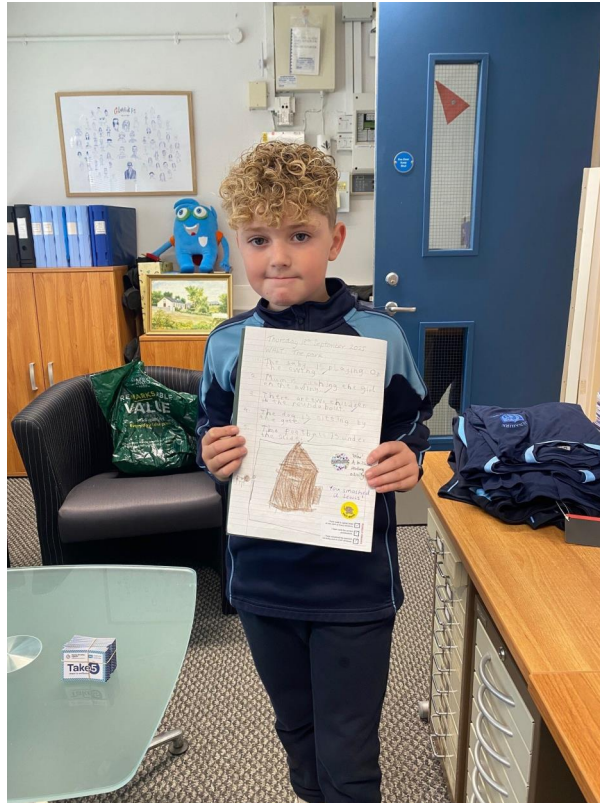


Harry in P6 competed in the recent Comber Horticultural Show and came away with an array of awards, thanks to some of the amazing fruit and veg he grew in raised beds in his garden. Impressive stuff, Harry!









2 - Lewis in P4 produced a super reading activity this week. Great work, Lewis!



3 - More brilliant literacy work in P3 from Mimi, Ada, Corey, Rory, Corin, Elijah, Benny, Jack, Faye and Farrah. Super work, everyone!



4 - Mollie, Evie and Reuben called in with Mr Corbett to show him their super Friday progress work. Even Gilly made an appearance!



5 - Super independent writing in P2 from Letty, Harry, Oscar, Brigid and Isla. 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

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

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

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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.

