

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,

That's another week done in school - hard to believe that the month of September is almost over. It's been a very busy month as we have all settled back in to school routines...

IMPORTANT REMINDERS...

Here are a few reminders at the start of this week's update...

- *If your child is not already in full uniform (still wearing summer uniform), you should ensure that they are by Monday 29th September*
 - *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.*
 - *Please check your child's school bag for an important letter sent home this week about P1-6 parent teacher interviews (further information below)*
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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

P1-6 parents should have received a letter with important action points for the parent teacher interviews, so if you have not seen it, please check your child's school bag for this. Alternatively, the letter has been attached to the email with this week's Sway link.

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

- *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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NSPCC SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE...



As per the letter sent home earlier this week, the NSPCC will deliver their 'Speak Out Stay Safe' programme on **Monday 6th October and Tuesday 7th October**. The details are as follows:

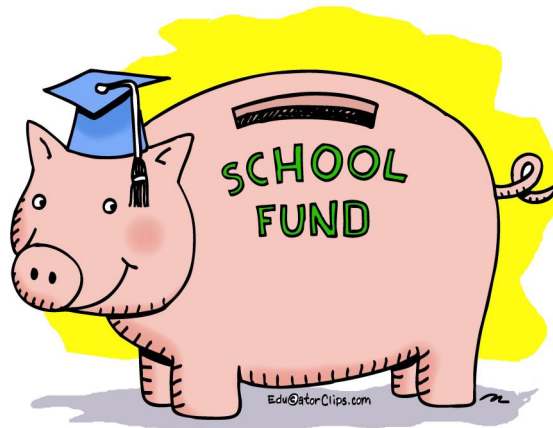
- All year groups will watch an age appropriate video on staying safe during the **week commencing Monday 29th September**
- P3, 6 and 7 will then have an age appropriate follow up workshop in their classrooms on **Monday 6 October or Tuesday 7 October**.

You can find further information about the programme at this link:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe> or if you have any further queries, please contact the school office.

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



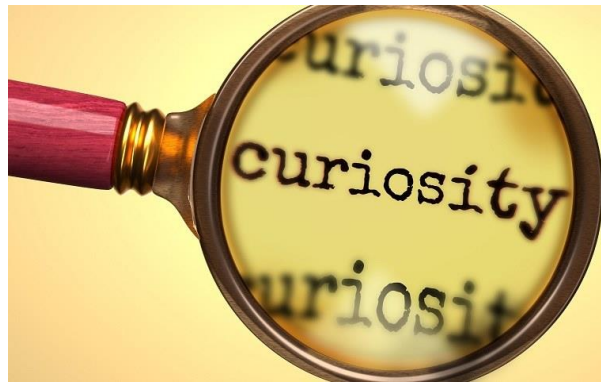
**FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVED!**

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



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

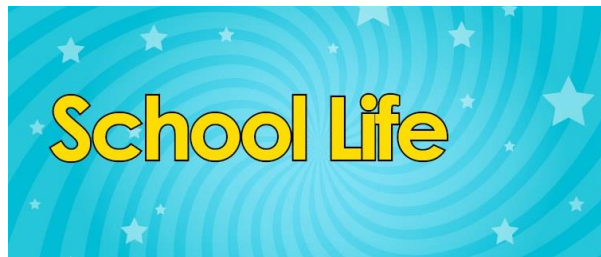
GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



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...

P3 VISIT FROM SONIC THE DWARF HAMSTER!

There was much excitement this week as Sonic the dwarf hamster paid a visit!





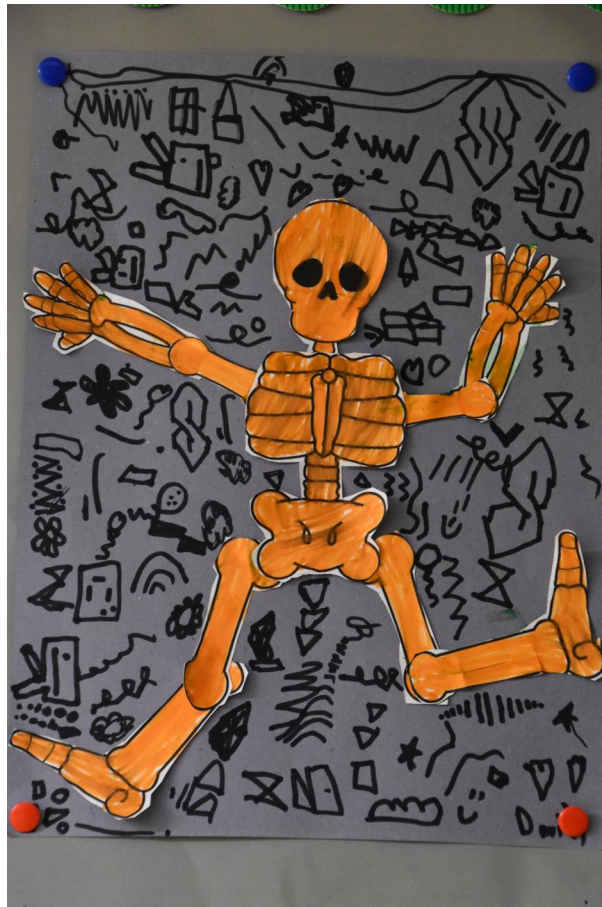


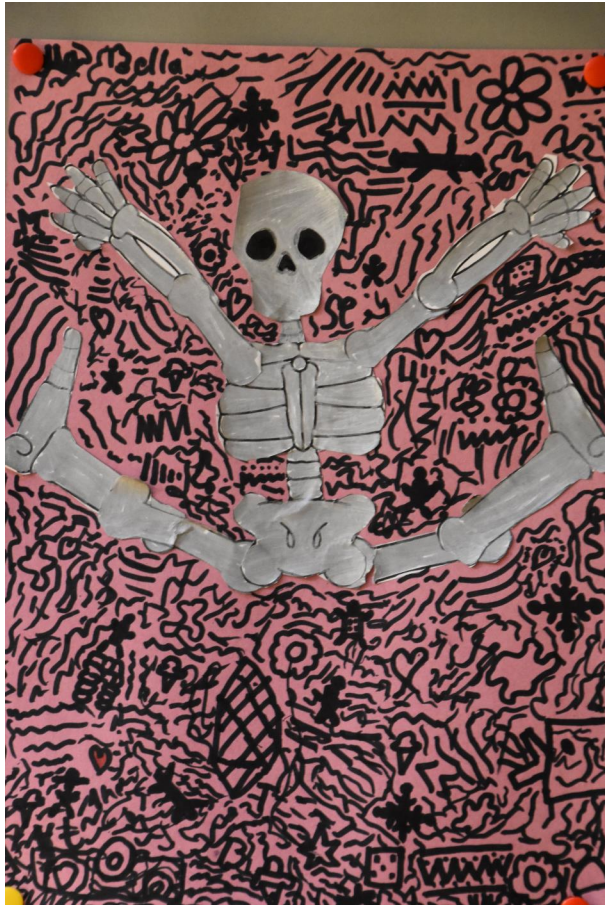
P4 WORKING HARD AT THEIR SPELLINGS...





P5 FUNNY BONES...





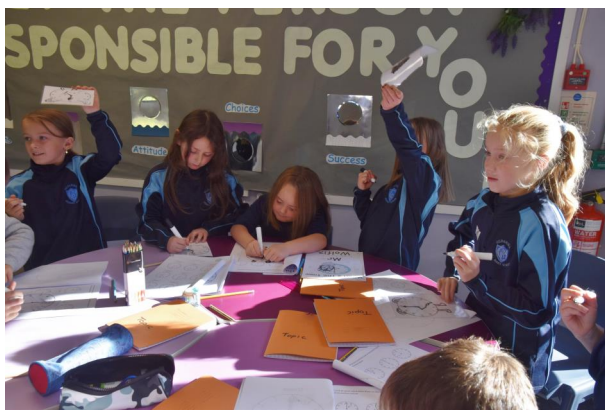






P5 WHAT TIME IS IT MATHS GAME...





P6 CHILLING AT BREAK TIME...









FOOTBALL UPDATE...



Gilnahirk's football season kicked off last week with a friendly against local rivals, Braniel PS. After going down 2-0, Gilnahirk fought back to 2-2 and looked like they might go on to win it. Unfortunately a couple of late goals for Braniel meant a 4-2 defeat, but lots of positives to take away from the first game of the season.

This week, we played our first competitive fixture against Springfield Primary. Gilnahirk thought they had taken the lead early on only for the goal to be chalked off for offside. Springfield proved to be tough opposition and going in to the final moments, the score was 2-2. A shot from the Springfield striker was deflected but Jake in goals pulled off a miraculous save, only for the ball to roll in the path of another Springfield attacker who slotted the ball home from close range. Final score 3-2 to Springfield. A hard defeat to take!



1 - Back row - Jake, Bobby, Alfie, Jack, Robyn, Dylan, Archer, Ellie (injured)

Front row - Hudson, Carter, Harry, Flynn, Mateo







2 - Second week of after school training sessions...





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



HALLOWEEN SPORTS CAMP

MON 27TH – TUE 28TH
 GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL

THUR 30TH – FRI 31ST
 ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

9:00AM – 2:00PM
 COST: £30

WHAT'S ON?

- FOOTBALL
- DODGEBALL
- LASER TAG

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
 CONTACT MATTHEW
 (COACH) ON 07702 646828



SCAN QR CODE
 TO BOOK



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Parent LineNI
 0808 8020 400

PARENT WORKSHOP

Worry to Wonder

TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 10AM-11.30AM
 ONLINE VIA ZOOM

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

CALL NOW TO BOOK
 YOUR PLACE
 0808 8020 400






"Can I get a phone?"

My friend has a phone, please can I get one?

ParentLineNI
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

The image shows a 'Parent Pack' titled 'Can I get a phone?' which includes sections for 'Can I get a phone?', 'Parent and child Q&A', 'Screen time alternatives', and 'Mobile phone agreements'. It also features a cartoon character and the ParentLineNI logo.

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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.

