



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.

We've reached the month of October already!

IN THIS WEEK'S UPDATE:

- Car park concerns - message on behalf of the Governors (also a reminder to park considerately around the Gilnahirk area)
- Dundonald Foodbank appeal
- Reminder of P1-6 parent teacher interview arrangements
- Parents' Association update (including information about Christmas cards)
- Individual Education Plans information

- Reminder of NSPCC workshops

And much more...

ONGOING CAR PARK SAFETY CONCERNS...

At the first meeting of the Board of Governors, the ongoing issue of car park safety was raised and discussed. As secretary to the Board, I expressed my ongoing concerns that pick up times are especially busy.

In spite of our efforts as a school to reduce unnecessary use of the car park by asking drivers to self regulate, this has quite possibly been the busiest we have ever seen it. This is simply not sustainable and increases the potential for an accident.

Please be aware if you are a car park user, the Governors are keeping the situation under close review and if necessary, will take further steps to safeguard and protect our children, which must be our primary focus in relation to car park access.

PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY...



I have received a couple of complaints today about parking outside the school and in the immediate area around the school. It seems some cars are taking up the whole footpath, thus restricting pedestrian access, forcing pedestrians to walk around the car on the road. Added to that, access to some local residents' driveways etc. has also been blocked.

Therefore, you are asked once again to please remember to park considerately outside the school.

DUNDONALD FOODBANK APPEAL



As we have done for the last number of years, we will support the Dundonald Foodbank with our annual harvest appeal. All of next week, your child can bring in one or more items from the list below:

- Breakfast cereals
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned beans
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tea or coffee
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Snacks
- Tins of Tuna
- Tinned Custard / Rice
- Cordial
- Sweets
- Small box of Washing Powder
- Washing up liquid

- Bleach
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Bars of Soap

As always, thank you for all of your help and support for the work of the Dundonald Foodbank.

P1-6 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS...



Hopefully by now you have been able to secure a slot for your parent teacher interview during the week commencing Monday 21st October. ***If you have not yet managed to do this, please note that the parents' portal will close at midday on Friday 10th October.***

If you are having issues with getting on to the parents portal. please contact the school office on 028 90 401697, or email dcorbett546@c2kni.net

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*
-

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE...

The Parents' Association had its first meeting of the year this week and it was good to see a healthy attendance. The Parents' Association meetings are open to all parents of children at

Gilnahirk PS and you would be most welcome to attend. The office bearers for this academic year are:

Chair: **Elaine Reid**

Secretary: **Katie McGrath**

Treasurer: **Rita McCullagh**

At the first meeting, some dates were agreed for the first term as follows:

- **Friday 24th October** - Candy Fair
- **Friday 7th November** - Cash for Clobber day
- **Friday 5th December** - Christmas wreath making evening
- **Saturday 6th December** - Christmas Tree sale and Christmas fair (10am - 1pm)
- **Friday 12th December** - Santa visit to school

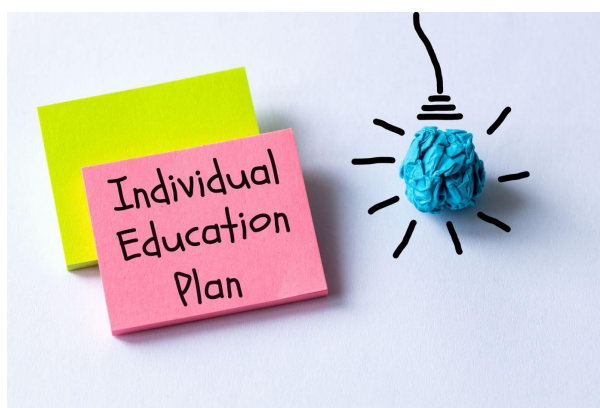
Further information about all of the events will be provided in due course.

*If you would like to get involved in the Parents' Association, you can contact Elaine Reid on **07748040971**.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS...

You should hopefully have received some information on our annual design a Christmas card fundraiser. If you wish for your child to take part, please return the completed card design to your child's class teacher by Friday 10th October. Please note your child does not necessarily need to use the template provided - they can be as creative as they like!

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS.



For those of you who have children on Individual Education Plans (IEPs), please note, these will be sent home on Monday 6th October. This copy is for you to keep - it does not need to be returned. If you wish to discuss any of the IEP content, this can be done at your parent-teacher interview later in the month (details above)

NSPCC SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE...



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

- All year groups have watched an age appropriate video on staying safe this week.
- 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.

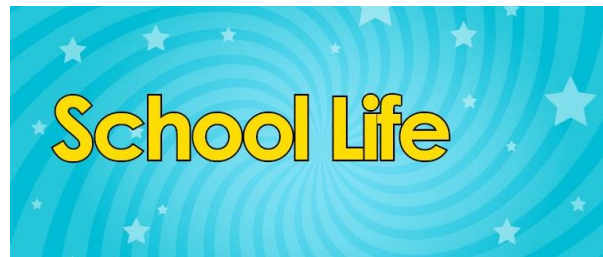
GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



Our school value for the month of October is ***empathy***.

We will introduce this to the children next week, but in the meantime, you could have a conversation with your child(ren) about what empathy means and how we can show it towards others.

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



Another busy week in school...

P1 USING THE IPADS...







P1 PARACHUTE PE!









P2 CLAY HEDGEHOGS...







P2 OUTDOOR PLAY BASED LEARNING...







P3 PRACTISING THEIR HANDWRITING...







P3 SPELLING...









P4 ACROSTIC POEMS IN ICT...







P4 NUMERACY - SHOPPING FOR SWEETS...









P4 MONEY ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING...









THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





1 - Lola in P7 baked & decorated this beautiful cake for a giant 'cake picnic' which took place on Saturday in St Comgall's to raise money for those caught up in the conflict in the Middle East. The total raised was over £13,000 and Lola was so proud to play her part in the amazing effort. Great work, Lola!



2 - The finished product. Next stop, the Great British Bake Off!



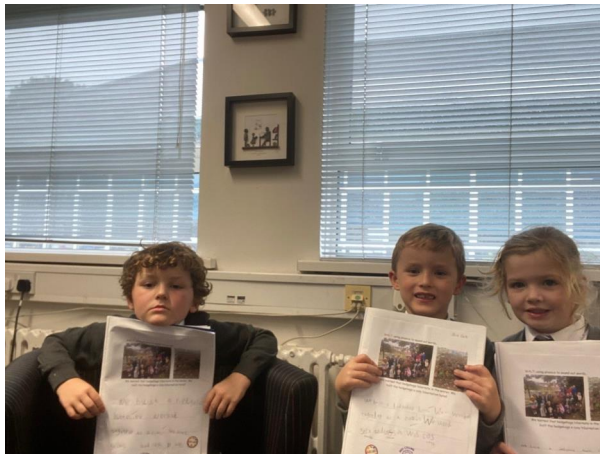
3 - Super reading activities in P3 from Drew, Ellie, Lily, Ema, Lena and Ella. Great work, all of you!



4 - Tomasso, Daniel, Alfie and Elias in P3 also produced excellent reading activities this week. Super effort, boys!



5 - Super posters on deforestation in P4 from Sorcha, Owais, Abigail, Jessica and Caitlin. Excellent effort, P4!



6 - Albie, Zach and Lucy in P2 produced some excellent recount writing on building a hedgehog hotel. Well done, P2!



7 - Susannah, Evie, Sienna and Barney also wrote some super recounts on building their hedgehog hotel. Great work!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

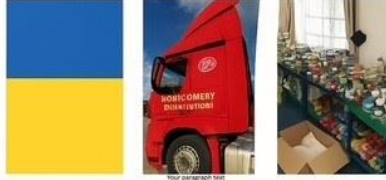


If you are involved in any community linked activities and would like to promote them through our weekly update, please feel free to send to me via email

dcorbett546@c2kni.net

An estimated 13 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian aid, including nearly 2 million children.

HELP US DELIVER AID TO UKRAINE



Please Donate by 10th October

Montgomery Transport Group, together with our parent company Ballyvesey Holdings, are sending a truck of vital aid to support those affected by the war in Ukraine

Key Items Required

- Dried foods
- Tinned foods
- Rice/Pasta/Noodles
- Biscuits & Crisps
- Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate
- Powdered milk & Juice
- Toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant)
- Household cleaning
- (Dettol, washing powder, fabric softener)
- Baby essentials (nappies)
- Clothing & Bedding

chris.deighan@montgomerytransportgroup.com
07901 009 415

(For donations to be delivered to Ballyearl depot)

*For donations needing collected in the Greater Belfast area,
please email sarah.ferguson09@yahoo.co.uk*



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?"

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

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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.

