

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 trust you are well.

Not a lot of new information in the first half of this week's update, but it's always good to have a read through previously sent information to make sure you're up to date.

The second half contains the usual photos of another very busy week - hopefully each week, these galleries give you a taste of what happens every day in GPS!

At the start of the update, can I draw your particular attention to the upcoming P1-6 parent teacher interviews from Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd October. You will find a reminder of the information below but if you have not yet booked a slot for your interview through the parents' portal, your child's class teacher will provide you with a date and time - you are asked to make every effort to make this date/time work as the vast majority of the slots have now been booked.

A REMINDER OF THE DUNDONALD FOODBANK APPEAL



If you haven't yet contributed to the Dundonald Foodbank Appeal for our Harvest assemblies, you can still send in an item (or items) from the list below up until Wednesday morning.

- 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.

ONGOING CAR PARK SAFETY CONCERNS...

At the first meeting of the Board of Governors last week, 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 received a couple of complaints last week 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.

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 closed today - your child's class teacher will provide you with a date and time.***

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 last 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.*

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...





This week, in our monthly values Assembly, we awarded CURIOSITY certificates to a boy and girl from each class for showing exceptional curiosity and a love for learning.

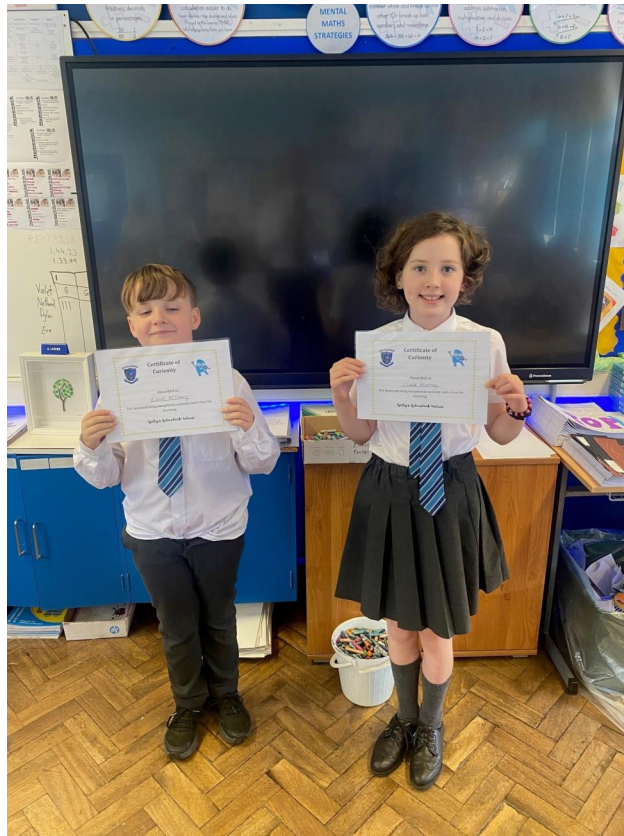
We also explored a little bit more about this month's value of EMPATHY.



1 - P1-3 Curiosity certificate winners



2 - P4-6 Curiosity certificate winners



3 - P7K Curiosity winners



4 - P7H Curiosity winners

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



Another busy week in school...

P2 MEET MONTY FOR THE FIRST TIME!

P2 loved meeting Monty for the first time this year and reading to him...







P4 MATHS/WAU - MEASURING RAINFOREST ANIMALS...









P4 LITERACY/WAU - PARROT POETRY...









P5 'MIGHTY ME' TOPIC...

As part of their 'Mighty Me' topic, P5 investigated the effect of exercise on their heart rate in PE and in Art, they printed using a range of fruit and vegetables...











P5 WAU/ART - VITAL ORGANS POSTERS...

Also as part of their 'Mighty Me' topic, P5 worked collaboratively to produce some super posters on the vital organs of the human body.







P6 ART/WAU - VIKING POSTERS...









P7 PDMU - NSPCC 'SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE' WORKSHOPS...











P7 'FIVE THINGS'...

Over the last few weeks, P7 have been doing 'Five Things' presentations, where they present to their class using five items that sum up who they are, what their hobbies are etc.









IMPRESSIVE VICTORY FOR GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM!

Gilnahirk's first win of the football season came through a convincing victory for our girls' team against Harding Memorial PS. A very dominant performance from all of the girls involved resulted in a whopping 8-0 victory, with 6 goals from Robyn and 2 goals from Emily. Fantastic performances from all of the girls!



5 - Back row: Ailsa, Zoe, Penny, Mr Knight

Front row: Charley, Robyn, Emily, Ellie, Ruby

THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...

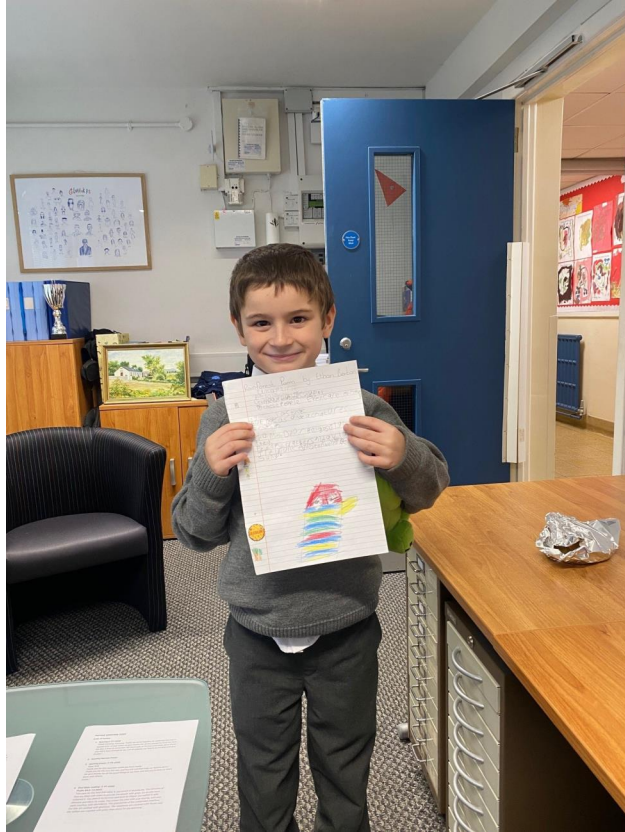




6 - Super number bonds from Jack, Drew and Eden in P3!



7 - Fantastic handwriting in P2 from Susannah, Freya, Isla, Zachary and Ezra!



8 - Ethan in P4 was very proud of his Parrot poetry!



9 - Great writing on migratory birds in P2 from Ruby, Charlotte, Eden, Max, Anita and Grayson

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

STOP

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Monday 13th October 10:30 - 1:30pm
Tullycarnet Community Centre



- GLOW NI
- Victim Support NI
- Action Mental Health
- Greenway Women's Group
- The Rowan
- Family Support NI
- Womens Aid
- Relate NI
- Tullycarnet Boxing Club
- TAGIT



Belfast City Council



Northern Ireland Executive



CLAYFUL MINDS
CREATIVE LEARNING

You are invited to

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Clay modelling | Costume Competition | Party Food | Bubble Disco

£27 a ticket

31ST OCTOBER
9:30AM-12:30PM
Holywood Old School House
92 Church Rd, Holywood BT18 9BX

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK




Walk-in's Belfast HQ!
Join us at our Belfast HQ this week.
No Appointments needed!

GIVE BLOOD
Save Lives

Walk-in's Belfast HQ!
www.NIBTS.org

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**

"Can I get
a phone?"



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



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.



For your FREE PACK
Call us now 0808 8020 400

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

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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.

