

# GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE



***Our School Motto: Today's Learning for Tomorrow's World...***

***Our School Vision Statement...***

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***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.***

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Dear parent/carer,

I hope you have had a good week.

***In this week's update:***

- Arrangements for the last day of half term (Friday 24th Oct)
- Poppy Appeal
- Swim Ulster gala entry for P5-7
- Reminder of Parent Teacher interview arrangements

and more...

**LAST DAY OF HALF TERM ARRANGEMENTS...**



It's hard to believe that the first half term of the school year is almost done. Please see below for some important information regarding the last day of the half term (Friday 24th October).

**'COLOURS FOR COLOMBIA' - NON-UNIFORM APPEAL IN AID OF CHILDREN'S VISION INTERNATIONAL...**



Last week, Richard from Children's Vision International visited both Assemblies to speak about the brilliant work they do amongst some of the most impoverished children and young people in the Bogota area.

As a gesture of support for this vital work, children can come to school in **non uniform on Friday 24th October** with a suggested donation of £2 per child towards Children's Vision. Children should wear one of the colours of the Colombian flag (blue, red or yellow) - 'Colours for Colombia'!

You can find out more about the work of Children's Vision International at this link:  
<https://www.childrevisionsion.org/>

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION CANDY FAIR...**



The Parents' association will run their now traditional Candy Fair to mark the last day of half term. Price of goods will range from 50p to £2.

**Suggested amount to send with your child is maximum of £2.**

## OTHER REMINDERS ABOUT THE LAST DAY OF HALF TERM...

- School will close early (12.00pm for P1-P4 and 12.05pm for P5-7 - the five minute buffer is just a small way to try and alleviate some of the congestion)
- There will be no packed lunches or school dinners but you should send a mid morning snack as usual.

## POPPY APPEAL FROM NEXT WEEK...



We will commence our annual Poppy Appeal from **Monday 20th October**. Please see below for the products available with prices:

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- *Snap Bands - £1.50 (free sticker)*
  - *Fabric Wrist Bands - £1 (free sticker)*
  - *Elastic Wrist Bands - £1 (free sticker)*
    - *Sharpener - £1*
  - *Material Wrist Band - 75p*
    - *Keyrings - 50p*
    - *Zip pulls - 50p*
  - *Reflector Poppy - 50p*

- *Badges - 50p*
  - *Poppies - 30p*
- 

## SWIM ULSTER SCHOOLS GALA...



If your child is in P5-7 and is a member of a swimming club who wishes to represent Gilnahirk PS at the Swim Ulster Schools Gala (Saturday 29th November), please email Mrs KJ at [kjohnston773@c2kni.net](mailto:kjohnston773@c2kni.net) by Monday 20th October.

## 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. ***Please see below for a reminder of the practical details.***

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*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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AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE DAYS WHEN ALL OF THE CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED AROUND THE SAME TIME CAN BE VERY BUSY. IF YOU ARE A BLUE BADGE HOLDER WHO USES THE CAR PARK, PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK THAT DO NOT REQUIRE YOU TO DRIVE IN TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.

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## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (AFTER HALF TERM BREAK)...

Some of the clubs that are currently running will run on after half term - no need for new sign ups.

Those clubs that do require a new sign up will be included in this week and next week's updates.

**Just the one to let you know about this week - Clayful Minds on a Monday:**

The poster features a blue sky background with a sun and a cloud. At the top left is the Clayful Minds logo, a blue character with a sun-like head. The text 'CLAYFUL MINDS CREATIVE LEARNING' is in small letters. Below this, 'CLAYFUL MINDS' is written in large, pink, bubbly letters, and 'AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB' is in large, blue, bubbly letters. Three circular images show clay models: a monkey in a basket, a piggy bank, and a rainbow. Below the images, a green box contains 'Gilnahirk Primary School'. A blue box contains 'Monday's 3rd November - 8th December £39 for 6 weeks'. A white box contains 'Clay modelling | Non-toxic colourful | Air-drying clay | Mindfulness | Group games | BRAND NEW models!'. To the right, it says 'Scan QR code below to book Or contact rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk'. At the bottom, there is a 'BOOK NOW' button with a right arrow, a QR code, and contact information: 'rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk' and '07919371505'.

CLAYFUL MINDS  
CREATIVE LEARNING

# CLAYFUL MINDS AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB

**Gilnahirk  
Primary School**

**Monday's  
3rd November - 8<sup>th</sup> December  
£39 for 6 weeks**

Clay modelling | Non-toxic  
colourful | Air-drying clay |  
Mindfulness | Group games |  
BRAND NEW models!

Scan QR code below to book  
Or contact  
rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk

**BOOK NOW** >>

rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk 07919371505

## GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



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*Last 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.*

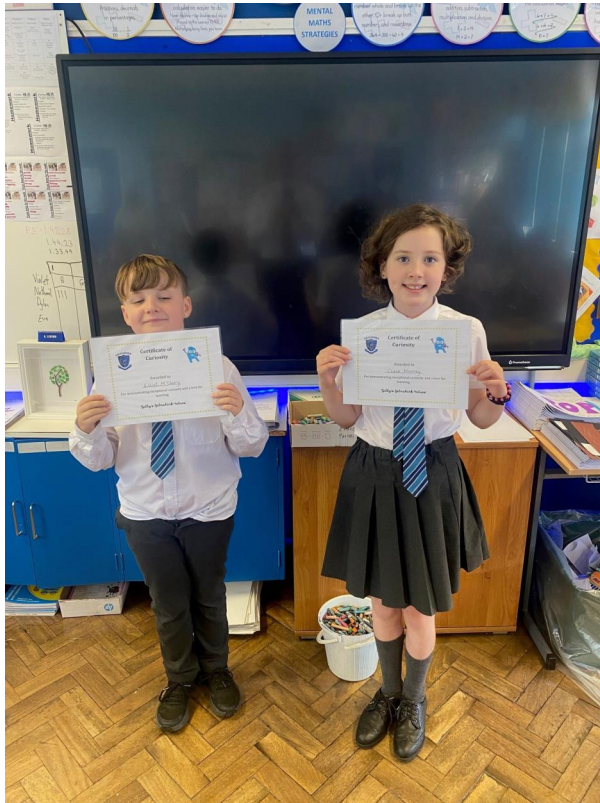
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**1 - P1-3 Curiosity certificate winners**



**2 - P4-6 Curiosity certificate winners**

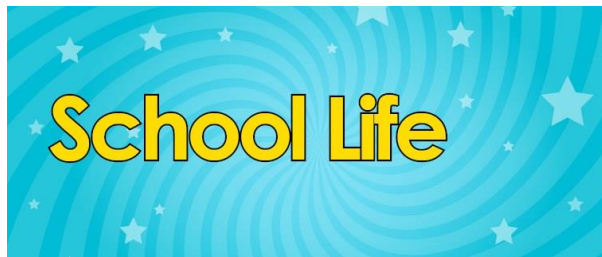


**3 - P7K Curiosity winners**



*4 - P7H Curiosity winners*

## LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



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*Another busy week in school...*

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**P1 IN THE ICT SUITE (WITH HELP FROM OUR DIGITAL LEADERS)...**







**P1 TAKE THEIR SOUNDS OUTDOORS...**







**P2 WAU - COMPARING AND CONTRASTING GARDEN BIRDS...**







P3 P.E.







**P4 RAINFOREST BOX PROJECTS...**









## P6 CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY TALK FROM IRWIN'S













### WALKIE TALKIES LUNCHTIME CLUB...

This week, the Walkie Talkies walked to Mrs Boyd's house for juice and a biscuit...



### HARVEST ASSEMBLIES...

We held our annual Harvest Assemblies on Wednesday morning, where some children from P5-7 took part by reading Harvest poems, prayers and Bible Readings.

***Thank you also for your kind donations in support of the Dundonald foodbank - as usual, the Foodbank were so impressed by the level of generosity shown by our school community.***







THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



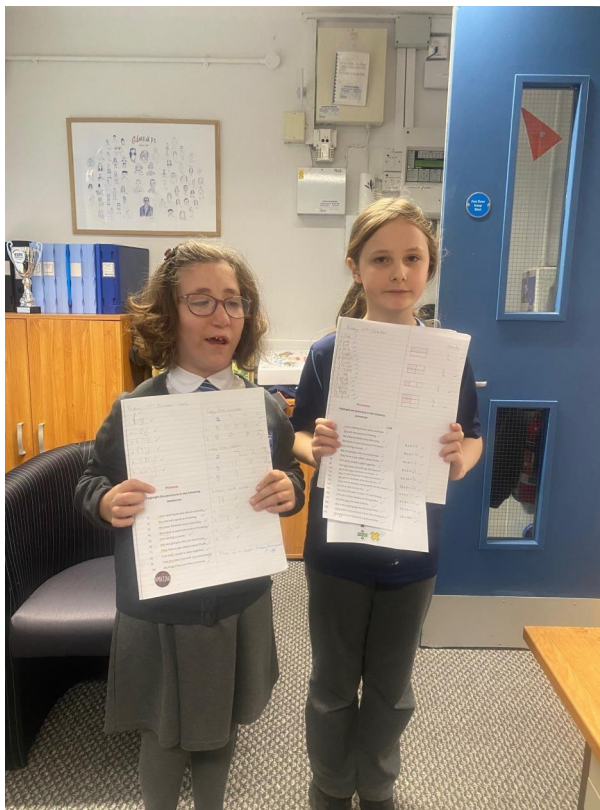


*5 - Kia from P7 recently toured Concorde at Manchester Airport - a fantastic experience.*





*8 - Excellent reading activities in P3 from Callum, Rosie-May, Dalelyn, Nina, Georgia and Isla. Super work, P3!*



*9 - Nadia and Lola in P7 produced their best Friday Progress this year. Super work!*

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

Community  
Connections

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*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](mailto:dcorbett546@c2kni.net)*

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**EAST BELFAST MISSION**  
In the community since 1950

# AUTUMN FAIR

239 NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BELFAST BT4 1AF  
SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025  
1PM-4PM  
FREE ENTRY

VINTAGE CLOTHES,  
BAKED GOODS,  
COFFEE, CRAFTS  
AND MUCH MORE!

ALL FUNDS RAISED  
GO TOWARDS  
SUPPORTING THE  
VITAL WORK OF  
OUR COMMUNITY  
GROUPS

PLEASE CONTACT  
KLARA.MOYNES@EBM.ORG.UK  
WITH ANY QUERIES



[www.kidscoderclub.ie](http://www.kidscoderclub.ie)  
Coding, Computer Science, ICT & Digital  
Health Lessons  
Free Parent Digital Health and Coding Talk

Have your  
child in the  
top 5%

Join Our  
Community!

Kids Coder Club  
The Future Starts Here!

New Members Welcome! Sign Up Today!



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](http://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?"*

**Parent Line NI**  
 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 20th October - Thursday 23rd October** - P1-6 parent teacher interviews
- **Friday 24th October** - last day of half term - early finish - details above
- **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) - 11am - 12.30pm
- **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.

