

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE



Our School Motto: *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 the first half term of the school year done. Don't forget school is closed all of next week for half term break - resuming Monday 3rd November, then it will be the busy run up to Christmas!!

Here is our latest update...

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-2028...



Earlier this week, you should have received a summary of our 3 year school development plan (SDP) for 2025-2028. The plan takes due cognisance of the information gleaned from parent, pupil and staff surveys and outlines the direction of travel for the next three years. **For your reference, I have also attached the summary to the email containing this week's Sway link.**

The SDP is a living document and is subject to change based on our own internal evaluation of progress and/or directives from the Department of Education or Education Authority.

A full version of the SDP is available upon request.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS FAIR...



Please see a message below from Elaine Reid (Parents' Association chairperson) regarding toy and uniform donations for the Christmas fair (Saturday 6th December)...

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is your motivation to do that toy clear out which you've been planning but putting off, get it done over half term!

*As in previous years the PA plans to run our successful pre-loved toy stall and our pre-loved uniforms stall at the Christmas Fair early in December. We will be welcoming donations of pre-loved toys and uniforms **from the week beginning Monday 10th November for three weeks.** Please place any donations in the boxes which will be left at the main entrance to school.*

We are looking forward to another successful Christmas Fair and would welcome any new parents keen to get involved even if just for the fair.

Thank you,

GPS PA

POPPY APPEAL TO CONTINUE AFTER HALF TERM...



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

-
- *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*
-

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 are listed below...

Clayful Minds P1-3 (Monday)

CLAYFUL MINDS
CREATIVE LEARNING

CLAYFUL MINDS AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB

**Gilnahirk
Primary School**

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

Clay modelling | Non-toxic
colourful | Airdrying 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

Healthy Kidz P1-7 (Thursday)



The poster features the Gilnahirk Primary School crest at the top left. The main title 'GILNAHIRK PS' is in a dark blue rounded rectangle, followed by 'AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS' in a white rounded rectangle. A dark blue box contains the price '£24 FOR 6 WEEKS' and the start date 'COMMENCING 6TH NOVEMBER 2025'. Two club options are listed: 'THURSDAY 6 WEEKS P1-P3 MULTI-SPORTS ACADEMY @ 2PM-3PM' and 'THURSDAY 6 WEEKS P4-P7 HOCKEY @ 3PM-4PM'. A QR code is in a white arch at the bottom right, with the 'healthy kidz' logo below it. The website 'BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM' is at the bottom left.

GILNAHIRK PS

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

£24 FOR 6 WEEKS
COMMENCING 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

THURSDAY 6 WEEKS
P1-P3 MULTI-SPORTS ACADEMY
@ 2PM-3PM

THURSDAY 6 WEEKS
P4-P7 HOCKEY @ 3PM-4PM

BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM

healthy kidz

Booking link: <https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/healthy-kidz-gilnahirk-ps-term-1-block-2-2025-belfast-ec5da87b-0c98-4734-8dd9-c755898c9804>

Sew Ready (P4-7) Thursday



Booking link: <https://shorturl.at/k1pDi>

Coding P2-7 (Friday)



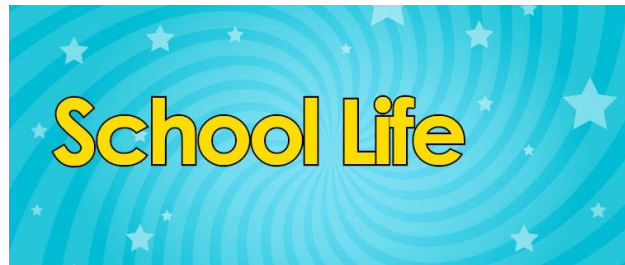
Booking link: www.bookwhen.com/maxcoding

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



Don't forget, our values focus for the month of October is EMPATHY. On our return from half term, we will award Empathy certificates and introduce our next value.

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



Another busy week in school with lots of cross curricular work going on...

P2 WORLD AROUND US (WAU) - 'WEE CRITTERS' DAY...

Creepy Crawlies galore in the P2 visit from 'Wee Critters'!







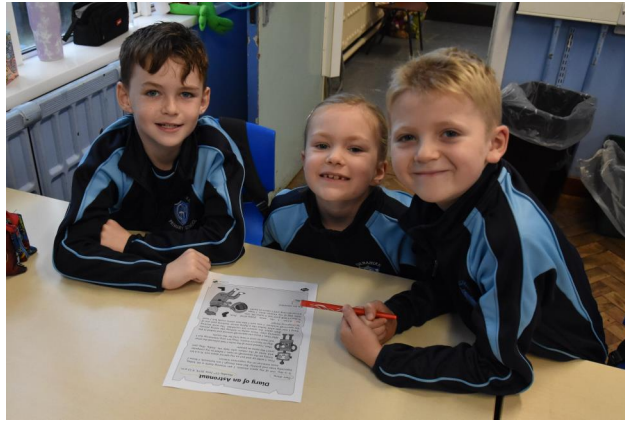


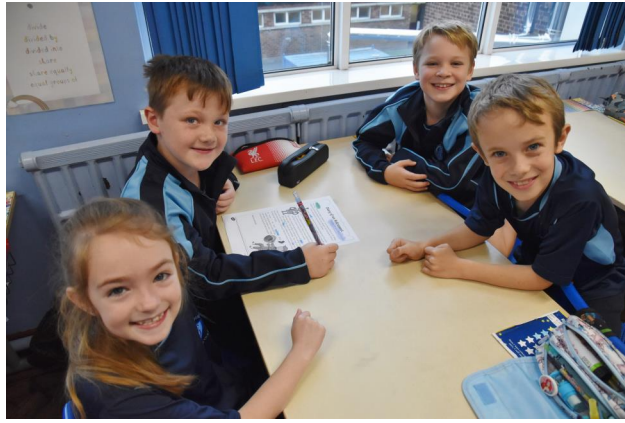


P4 LITERACY - DIARY WRITING...

P4 wrote diary entries, imagining they were explorers in the Amazon Rainforest...







P4 WAU - ANIMALS OF THE RAINFOREST...

As part of their 'Rainforests' topic, P4 had a visit from some exotic rainforest animals...



























P5 WAU - HEALTHY BREAKFASTS...

P5 came in to school in their PJs on Tuesday and enjoyed a healthy breakfast...

















P5 LITERACY - INSTRUCTIONAL WRITING - HOW TO MAKE A FRUIT SKEWER...

P5 followed up their healthy breakfast with a piece of procedural writing...

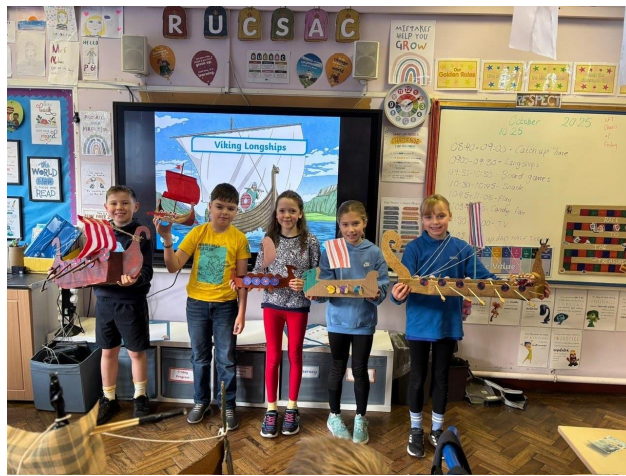






P6 VIKING LONGSHIPS PROJECT HOMEWORK...

P6 produced these amazing Viking Longships as their project homework this week - some outstanding work!







READING BUDDIES...

We had our first Reading Buddy session of the school year yesterday. Here are some of the children in P5P and P2C during their session...





P7 PLAYGROUND BUDDIES...

P7 playground buddies received their buddy hats recently...



GIRLS' FOOTBALL UPDATE...

Our girls' football team travelled to North Belfast for their second game of the season against Springfield PS. After some tense opening exchanges, the game opened up, allowing Gilnahirk to play their trademark flowing football, leading to a resounding 5-1 victory. 2 goals from Charley, 2 goals from Robyn and 1 from Ellie. Congratulations to all of the girls!



1 - Back row - Ailsa, Zoe, Ruby, Penny

Front row - Charley, Emily, Ellie, Robyn

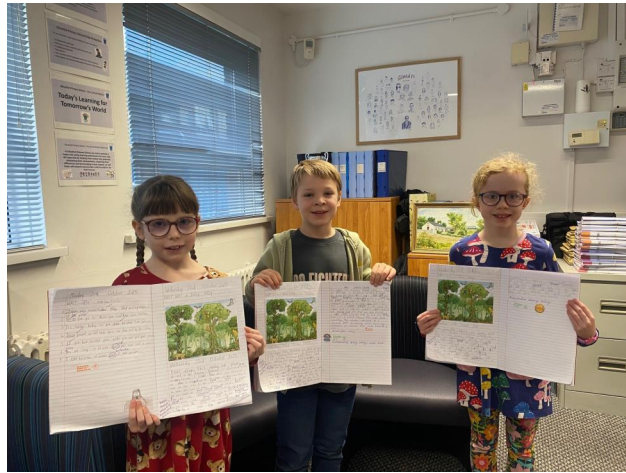
GUESS THE NUMBER OF SWEETIES WINNER...

Congratulations to Lucy in P7 who was the winner of the sweet guessing competition. Lucy guessed 317 (actual number was 308). Make sure you give your granda a few, Lucy!



THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





2 - Super diary writing from Ama, Oscar and Anna in P4.

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



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

A Halloween-themed poster for a party. It features a skull wearing a green witch hat, a blue alien-like creature, a witch, a ghost, and a pumpkin. The background is dark purple with white spider webs and stars. The text is in white and orange.

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

A QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster, used for booking the event.



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 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
- **Friday 5th December** - Christmas wreath making evening (details to follow)
- **Saturday 6th December** - Christmas Tree sale and fair (details to follow)
- **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.

