



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,

I hope you have had a good week.

In this week's busy update...

- ***Open Morning details***
- ***Anti bullying week***
- ***School dinners price increase from January***
- ***Thank you to our Reading Partnership volunteers***
- ***Lots of Christmas info!***
- ***Gilly's Gilnahirk Values***
- ***Photos from life in school this week...***

OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE P1 PARENTS - FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER...



Do you or does someone you know have a child due to start P1 in September 2026?

If so, you are invited to attend our Open Morning on **Friday 5th December from 11am to 12.30pm.**

The format for the morning is very relaxed, with a short address by myself as Principal at 11am followed by guided tours of the school with our P7 tour guides.

There is no need to sign up - you can simply turn up and see for yourself what Gilnahirk Primary has to offer. School will be operating as normal so you will get to see life at GPS as it really is.

Feel free to share the link to our Open Day video:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/children/gilnahirk-tv/gilnahirk-open-day>

The graphic below is a helpful summary of the key dates in the admissions process:

Key dates for SEPTEMBER 2026

- 10 December 2025
Admissions Criteria published
- 7 January 2026
Applications open at 12 noon
- 21 January 2026
Applications close at 12 noon

www.eani.org.uk

ANTI BULLYING WEEK...

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025

POWER FOR GOOD

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Monday 10th to Friday 14th November

ODD SOCKS DAY 2025
Monday 10th November

#OddSocksDay #PowerForGood

Odd Socks Day

We'll be wearing our odd socks this Odd Socks Day, will you?

Monday 10th November 2025

Anti and the Odd Socks

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#AntiBullyingWeek

Next week is anti-bullying week, when we will be exploring the theme of 'Power for Good' through Assemblies and class activities

As part of that, we will be taking part in odd socks day on **Monday 10th November** so children can wear odd socks to school that day - it's a great way for us to celebrate how we are all unique.

INCREASE IN SCHOOL DINNERS PRICE FROM JANUARY...



As you may have seen in local news reports this week, as part of their efforts to make savings, the Education Authority has announced that the price of a school meal will go from the current price of £2.60 to the new price of £3.10 from January.

Where School Money (our online payment platform) is concerned, school meals up until Christmas will be open to book, but meals after Christmas will not be available to book until we have made the necessary amendments to the payments.

OUR READING PARTNERSHIP VOLUNTEERS...

Introducing our fabulous reading partnership volunteers who give up their time to read with individual P3 children.

The children really enjoy this experience and the progress they make in their reading as a result of this vital partnership is wonderful.

A big thank you to all of you!







THANK YOU FROM OUR TWO CHARITIES FROM BEFORE HALF TERM...

Thank
you



Representatives from Children's Vision International (Colours for Colombia) and the Dundonald foodbank have been in touch to express their deep gratitude for our recent support.

Our non uniform day at the end of the last half term raised the fantastic sum of **£708.71** and our food appeal in support of Dundonald foodbank contributed the amazing weight of **278.5kg** of food.

Thank you to all for your amazing generosity!

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

OTHER CHRISTMAS INFORMATION...



Whilst we are only in early November, the Christmas information included below will give you plenty of notice of what's coming up...

CHRISTMAS VIDEO STAR DAY - TUES 2 DEC

It's time for another whole school Video Star!

This will be filmed on **Tuesday 2nd December**, so on that day, **children should come in to school with a Christmas jumper over their normal uniform**

You can watch a couple of previous Christmas video stars at the following links:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/page/?title=Gilnahirk+Primary+Videostar+December+2022&pid=159>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCvviP08Ink>

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE/CHRISTMAS FAIR - SAT 6 DEC



As noted above, **Saturday 6th December** will be our annual Christmas Tree sale and Christmas fair **(10am - 1pm)**.

Over the last couple of years, the Christmas fair aspect of the morning has grown to include lots of stalls/crafters etc, so I strongly encourage you to keep that morning clear in the diary and make every effort to attend.

Trees can be ordered using the web address or QR code on the image below...

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
& CRAFT FAIR

STALLS, CRAFTS, REFRESHMENTS, MUSIC

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025
10AM - 1PM

PRE ORDER YOUR FRESHLY CUT TREE:
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/GILNAHIRKPRIMARY/
OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR HASSLE FREE
COLLECTION ON THE DAY!

P1-3 NATIVITIES - TUES 9 AND WED 10 DEC



In order to help you book a bit of time off work, or make other arrangements, please see below for the intended dates for our P1-P3 nativities. We will run these in the same way as the last few years, with each year group putting on 2 performances, one for each set of parents/grandparents etc.

Tuesday 9th December:

9.15am - P1 nativity for **P1Hodgen parents and grandparents**

10.20am - P2 nativity for **P2Boyd/Fish parents and grandparents**

11.15am - P3 nativity for **P3McCaffrey/Pitts parents and grandparents**

Wednesday 10th December:

9.15am - P1 nativity for **P1Gordon parents and grandparents**

10.20am - P2 nativity for **P2Collins/Pitts parents and grandparents**

11.15am - P3 nativity for **P3Johnston/Wallace parents and grandparents**

P5-7 CINEMA TRIP - THURS 11 DEC



Our KS2 pupils (P5-7) will have their annual Christmas cinema trip on **Thursday 11th December**. Look out for further information and payment details in the upcoming weeks.

SANTA VISIT - FRI 12 DEC



On **Friday 12th December**, the big man himself will visit GPS, with a small gift for every child. Children can once again come in to school that day in a Christmas jumper (over normal uniform).

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE - WED 17 DEC



As you may have seen in the dates for the diary section, we will hold our annual Carol Service in the College Hall at Our Lady and St Pat's College on the evening of **Wednesday 17th December at 7pm**. This is always a very well received service, with many parents in the past remarking positively about the respectful re-telling of the Christmas story through readings, songs and musical performance. It would be great to see a large turnout for one of the highlights of our school year.

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



HONESTY

Examstext.com

This week, we held our monthly values assemblies, where we awarded some children with EMPATHY certificates and introduced our value for the month of November, which is HONESTY.







LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



A busy week at the start of the new half term...

P1 PLAY...







P2 NUMERACY...



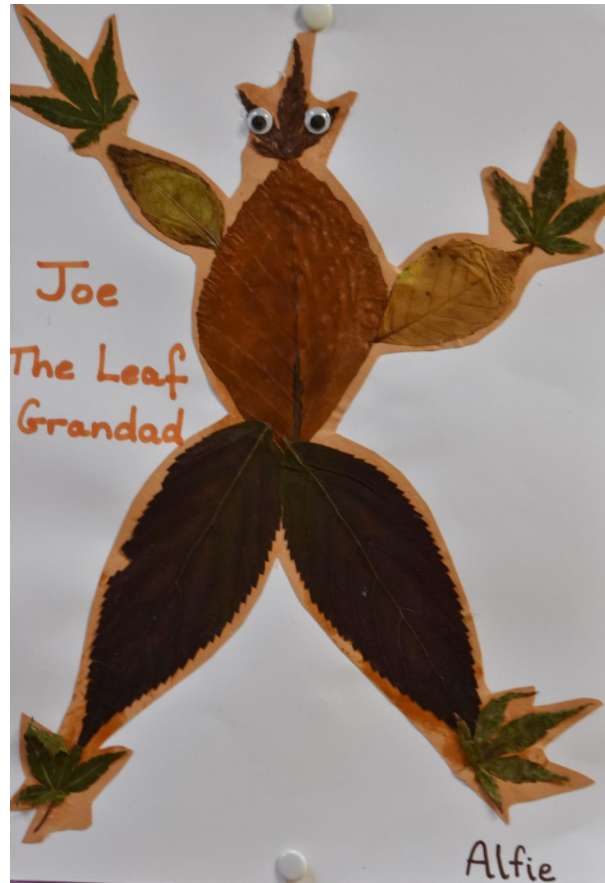




P3 ART - THE LEAF FAMILY...









Ghost
The leaf man

Corin



Bella
The Leaf
Girl

ELLA



P3 PAPER SQUARE PHONICS...







MR HALLIDAY PAYS A VISIT TO P3!

Mr Halliday called in with P3 to see their fabulous reading activities. Everyone has got the hang of writing full sentence answers!



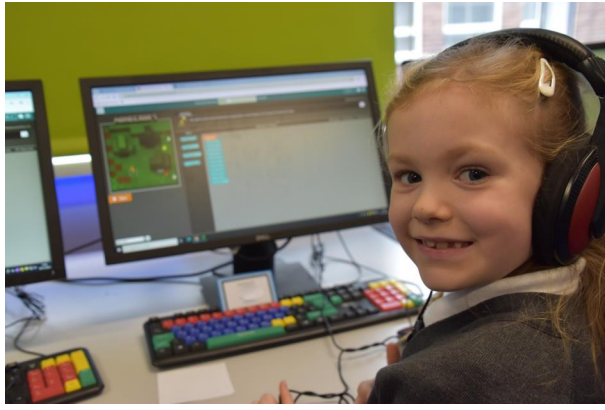




P4 ICT - MINECRAFT CODING...







P5 EARLY MAN DAY...















P5 NUMERACY - PRACTISING SUBTRACTION USING DECOMPOSITION...







P6 VIKING LONGBOAT HOMEWORK PROJECTS...









P7 CASH FOR CLOBBER VOLUNTEERS...

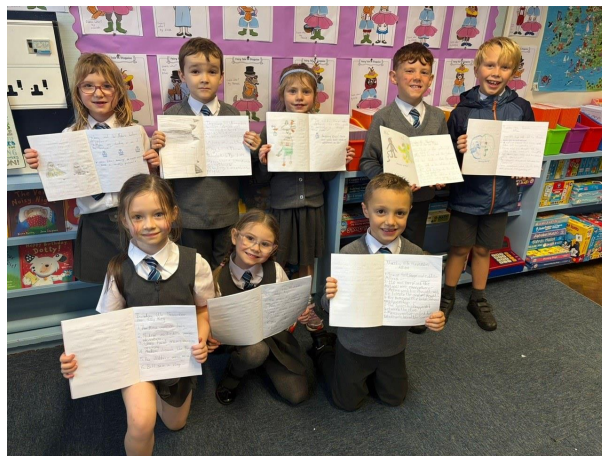


THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





1 - Darcey in P4 produced some super antonyms work in literacy. Well done, Darcey!



2 - Perfect reading activities in P3 from Ellie, Vinnie, Rosie, Isaiah, Oliver, Sophia, Chloe and Jack. Great work, everyone!

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

SANTA'S WINTER-WOODLAND!
(FEATURING 1 HOUR "SANTA-PAWS!")

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 6PM-9PM
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 10AM-4PM

**SANTA'S GROTTO, HOT FOOD, TEA & COFFEE,
BUNS, MARKETPLACE & MORE!!!**

BOOK YOUR SANTA SLOT BY FOLLOWING
THE LINK OR QR CODE TO 'TICKET TAILOR'
1 SLOT PER CHILD / DOG - £7.50



CHILD SLOTS ARE AVAILABLE ON
FRIDAY NIGHT 6PM-9PM & SATURDAY 10AM-3PM
DOG SLOTS ARE AVAILABLE SATURDAY 3PM-4PM


GLENMACHAN CHURCH OF GOD, 13 GLENMACHAN ROAD, BT4 2NL

TINY KICKS



Availability

11:00-11:45am



2-5 Year olds

SATURDAY MORNINGS

JOIN NOW → Instagram- Tiny Kicks
Email - Tinykicks135@yahoo.com



Parent Well

A source of inspiration



Staying Safer & Smarter Online

*Content *Contact *Conduct *Consequences
Supporting children 11yrs & over to stay safer online



Small group information session for parents

Thursday 20th November
10-11.30am on Zoom



To book your place call
0808 8020 400



"Can I get a phone?"



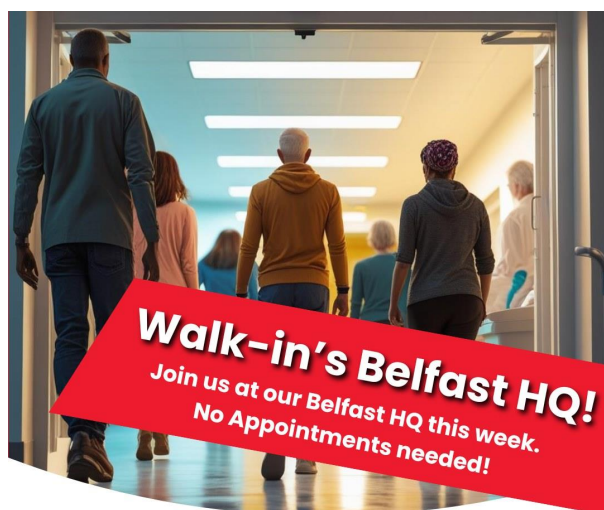
Simple question, but what is your answer?

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



GIVE BLOOD
Save Lives

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

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **Saturday 15th November** - SEAG test 1
- **Saturday 22nd November** - SEAG test 2
- **Tues 2nd December** - Christmas VideoStar day (details above)
- **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 (details above)
- **Thurs 11 December** - KS2 cinema trip (details above)
- **Wednesday 17th December** - Carol Service at Our Lady and St Pat's College, 7pm
- **Friday 19th December** - school closes for Christmas break - early finish (12.00 for P1-4, 12.05 for P5-7)
- **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.



designed by  freepik