

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. Not a lot of new information in this week's update, but it does include some important reminders about the upcoming Christmas season and a few other bits and pieces.

Can I also draw your particular attention to the information on the Christmas Wreath Making workshop, scheduled for Friday 5th December, from 7pm - 9pm (further details below).

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.**

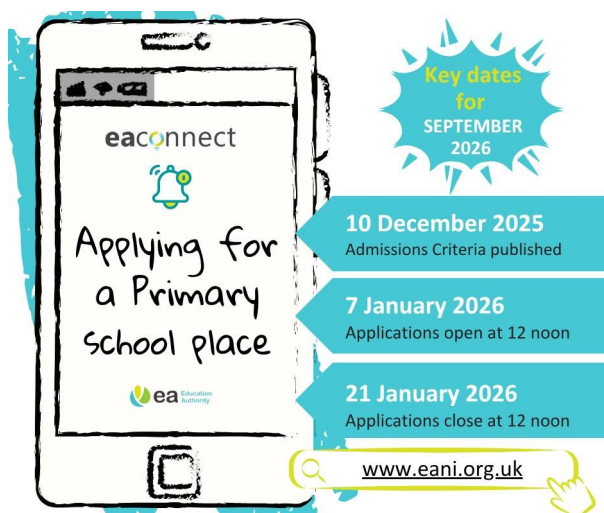
The format for the morning is very relaxed, with a short address by myself as Principal at 11am followed by guided tours of the school with our P7 tour guides.

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:



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**.

Bookings for after Christmas are now open on School Money with the new price of £3.10.

STAGE NOW UP IN HALL...

In preparation for our upcoming P1-3 nativities, we have built the stage this morning, ready for the P1-3 rehearsals in the hall over the next few weeks. This will have an impact on our

delivery of PE, but class teachers will keep children right about days they need to wear PE kit (if applicable to your child's year group).

ANOTHER READING PARTNERSHIP THANK YOU!



Our huge thanks to Maggie (pictured below) for all of her efforts with reading partnership. Thank you, Maggie - your help and support are greatly valued!



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...



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 WREATH MAKING EVENING - FRI 5 DEC



Please see below for a message from the Parents' Association regarding this year's Christmas Wreath Making evening...

The Parents' Association warmly invite you, your friends and family to join us in welcoming the festive season with a Christmas Wreath making evening on Friday 5th December. The evening will be facilitated by Sow Grateful. They will provide everything you need and will coach you throughout the workshop to create a front door wreath to be proud of. The Parents' Association will provide nibbles and you can BYO. It will run from 7pm to 9pm.

Places will be limited so please buy your ticket for £50 from the Teachers2Parents app (SchoolMoney) early to avoid disappointment. You will find the payment in the Shop section (Christmas wreath workshop).

Any questions can be directed to Elaine 07748040971 or Clare 07903806478

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...



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

Examinteknik.com

Don't forget, this month's Gilly's Gilnahirk Value is HONESTY.



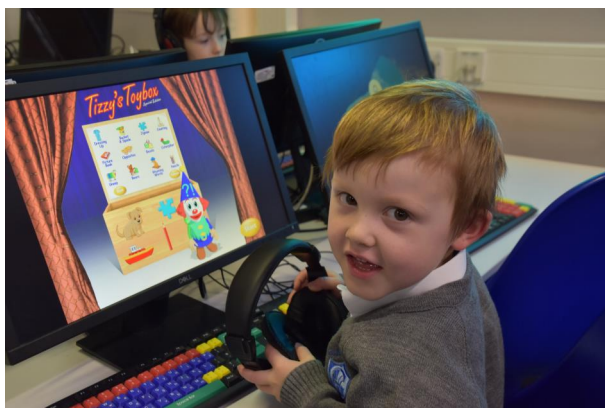
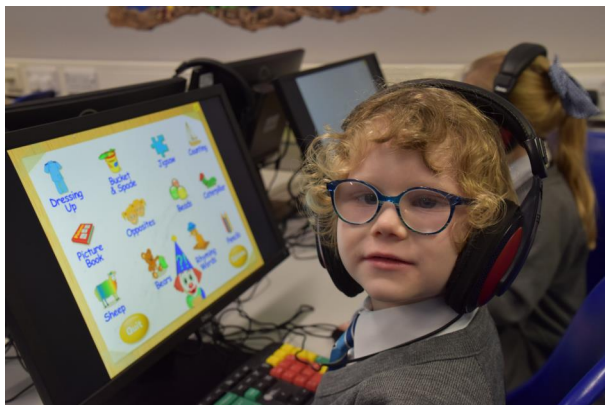
LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



Another busy week in school...

P1 ENJOYING TIZZY'S TOYBOX...







P2 LITERACY/ART - RAINBOW FISH...





P3 NATIVITY REHEARSALS...(IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY!)









P6 VIKING DAY...

P6 enjoyed a day of immersion in their Vikings topic...

















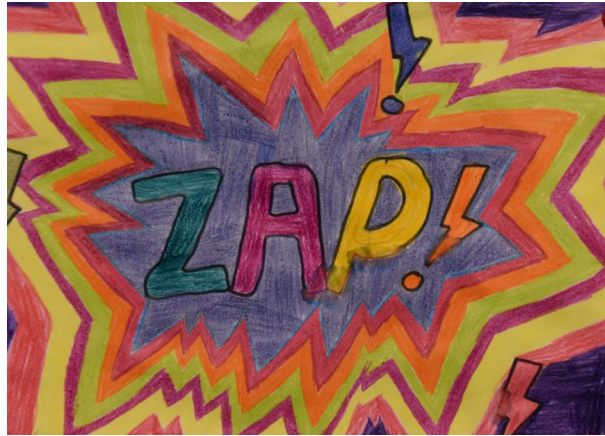






P7 ONOMATOPAEIA ART...







P7 AERODYNAMICS EXPERIMENT...

P7 conducted an aerodynamics experiment this week, designing and testing paper aeroplanes. Top 5 aeroplanes for distance travelled belonged to Luke , David R, Dylan, Amelia and Clara, with the overall winner being Luke. Our canteen staff then picked their three favourite designs, with the winners being Clara, Bethany and Maisie.







ANTI - BULLYING WEEK - 'POWER FOR GOOD'



1 - Anti bullying assembly



2 - Penny and Elisa with their odd socks!



3 - P2 designed 'odd socks' in their ICT time...





THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



Vayda in P7 was chosen on Remembrance Sunday to be part of laying a Wreath at the Cenotaph in Newtownards by her St John's Ambulance badgers leader. She represented

her Badgers group with two Members of St John's cadets. Well done, Vayda - a very honourable thing to do!



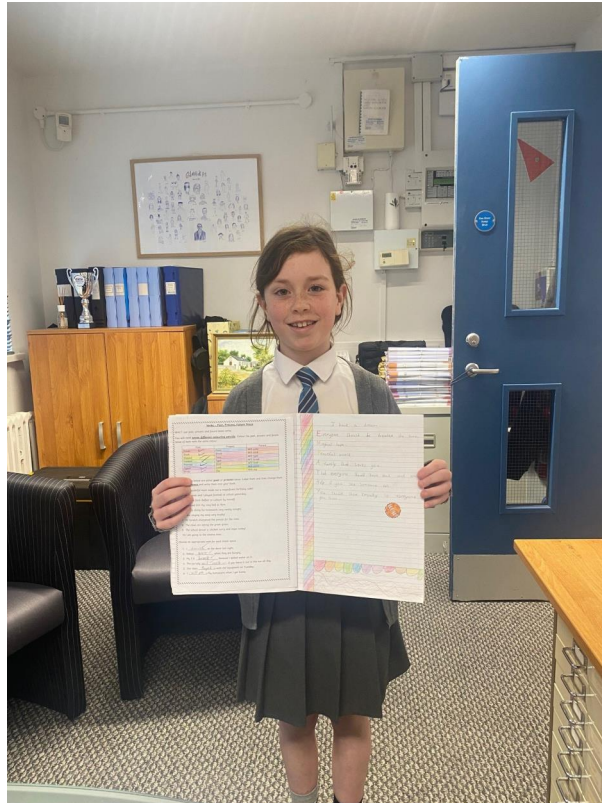
4 - Vayda with her poppy wreath.



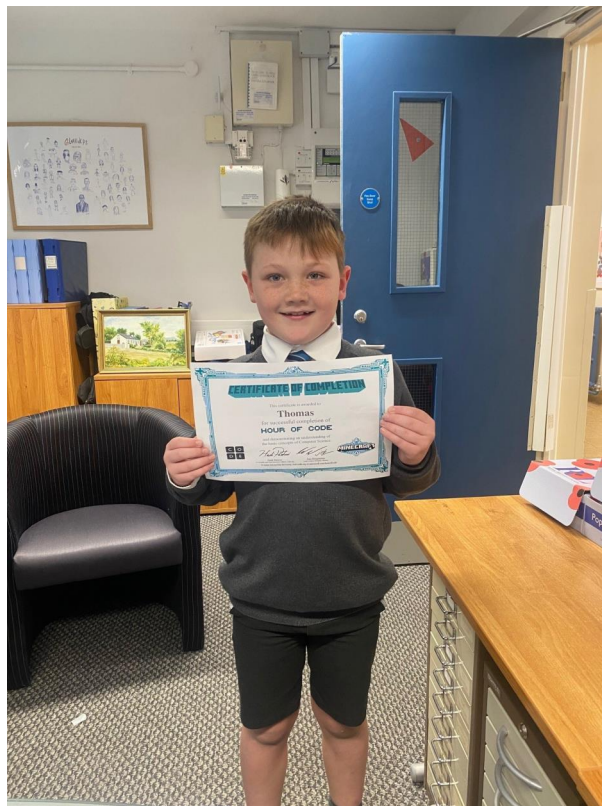
5 - Vayda hard at work with the St John's ambulance



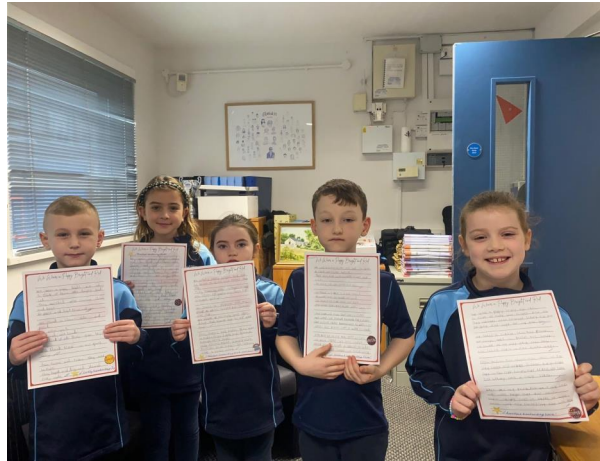
6 - Super writing in P2 from Evi, Grace, Izzy, Mabel, Saoirse, Anthony and Jack. Great work, everyone!



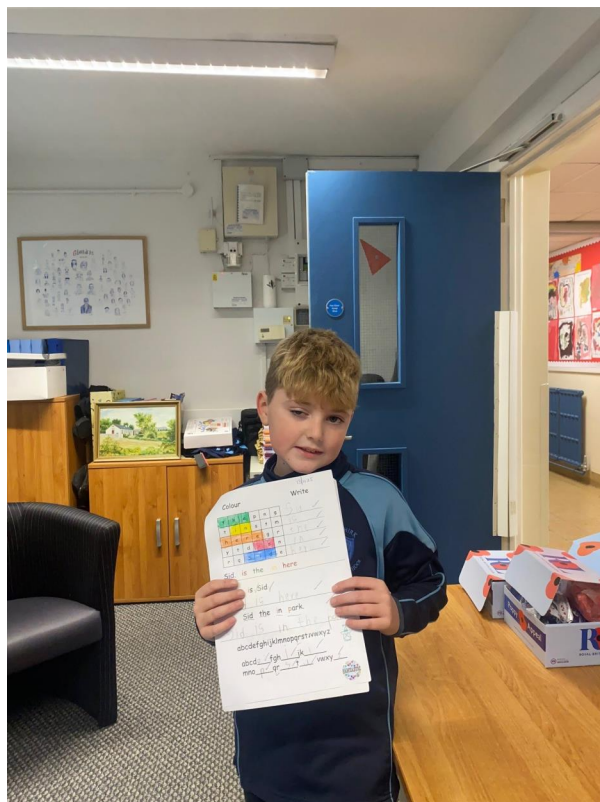
7 - A lovely empathy poem written by Isla in P6 - well done, Isla!



8 - Thomas in P4 has successfully achieved his 'hour of code' certificate. Great work, Thomas!



9 - Super remembrance day handwriting in P4 from Jax, Winter, Perrie, Ezra and Lara. Well done, everyone!



10 - Lewis in P4 has been working very hard at his spellings - keep up the great work, Lewis!



11 - Some great work on owl babies in P1 from Nathan, reed, Reuben, Lucy, Faye, Olivia and Nellie. Brilliant work, P1!



12 - Kobi and Olivia in P4 produced these fantastic reading activities this week. Super work!



13 - Brilliant literacy work in P1 from Elsie, Jack, Isla, Esmee, Katie, Zachary, Laurel and Daisy. Great work, everyone!



14 - Super reading activities in P3 from Sienna, Alexander, Isla, Thomas, Rosie-May and Isaac.



15 - Brilliant recount writing in P2 from Susannah, Ivy, Holly, Brodie and Jude. Well done, everyone!

BEST WISHES...



Many of our P7 children will sit their first SEAG paper tomorrow morning so we extend our best wishes to all of them.

They have worked incredibly hard since April and we know that each of them will go in tomorrow and give it their very best shot. That's all we can ask of them and after that, what will be, will be!

Best wishes, everyone!

CONGRATULATIONS...



Congratulations to Erin O'Neill, a former Gilnahirk pupil, who achieved the top GCSE results in Our Lady and St Patrick's College this year, achieving 11 A* and 1 A. What a fantastic achievement Erin - we're all very proud of you!

Erin is currently studying for her A-levels and we wish her every success with these.



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

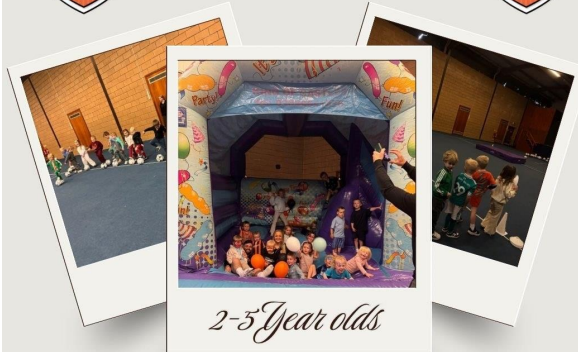
GLENMACHAN CHURCH OF GOD, 13 GLENMACHAN ROAD, BT4 2NL

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



A JOURNEY THROUGH NARNIA

Step through the wardrobe and into Narnia at our Christmas Tree Festival, from Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 November!

Journey through the snowy kingdom where it's always winter and never Christmas, pop by Mr Tumnus' cosy cave, and see what happens as the snow melts and Aslan returns! Then, join us in the Micah Centre for tea, coffee and Christmas treats, Santa will also be in residence throughout the festival!

Wednesday 26 November

4pm - 8pm
7pm | Cregagh Presbyterian Handbell Choir

Thursday 27 November

4pm - 8pm
4pm | Nettlefield Primary School

Friday 28 November

4pm - 8pm
7pm | Renaissance Choir

Saturday 29 November

1pm - 4pm
2pm | Stephen Davidson

Invite your friends, family and neighbours, it's the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season. See you in Narnia!

Individual trees will be available to buy during the festival for £20 and can be collected the following week.

WILLOWFIELDCHURCH.CO.UK

FIND US 149a My Lady's Road, Woodstock Road, BT6 8FE

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CARERS



Let's Talk- simple tools for building early language

TUESDAY 25TH NOV 7-8.30PM, ON ZOOM

Join Leigh, one of the Clinical Directors, and Speech and Language Therapists, at Insight Clinic for a session exploring how children learn to communicate, from first sounds to fluent conversations.

Hear Me, See Me, Know Me

WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 7-8.30PM, ON ZOOM

A workshop for parents of children who are being assessed or are diagnosed as autistic, delivered by Elaine McGreevy- Speech & Language Therapist.

Surviving the Season: Fussy Eating & Autism Made Easier

WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER, 7-8.30PM, ON ZOOM

A session on fussy eating and autism with Dr Kirsty Porter, Children's Dietitian at Nutrition4kidsNI.

CALL 0808 8020 400 NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK YOUR PLACE



Hear me, See me, Know me

A workshop for parents of children who are being assessed or are diagnosed as autistic- delivered by Elaine McGreevy- Speech & Language Therapist

- Support communication preferences
- Understand sensory experiences & attention
- Communicate with a child/young person in distress

When: Wednesday 3rd December

Time: 7-8.30pm, on Zoom

To book a place call
free 0808 8020 400



Access
Communication
Embracing Neurodiversity



Let's Talk- simple tools for building early language

Join Leigh, one of the Clinical Directors, and Speech and Language Therapists, at Insight Clinic for a session exploring how children learn to communicate, from first sounds to fluent conversations.

We'll cover what's typical at different stages, when to seek support, and simple, practical ways to build language through everyday play and routines. You'll leave with realistic milestones, tips, and confidence to nurture your child's communication journey.

When: Tuesday 25th November

Time: 7-8.30pm, on Zoom

To book a place call free
0808 8020 400

Insight
Clinic
ASSESSMENT AND THERAPY





Surviving the Season: Fussy Eating & Autism Made Easier

Join our session on fussy eating and autism, led by
Dr Kirsty Porter a Children's Dietitian from
Nutrition4kidsNI.

Discover practical strategies to help master fussy
eating including mealtime challenges, sensory
eating and food acceptance tips.

When: Wednesday 10th December
Time: 7-8.30pm, on Zoom

To book a place call free
0808 8020 400



NUTRITION 4KIDS  **Parent Line NI**

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.

