

# 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.

As I prepare this week's update, I can hear the sound of P1 practising their nativity songs in the Morrow Hall - Christmas is definitely full speed ahead now!

Here is our latest update...

### ***FOR YOUR ATTENTION...***

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At the start of this week's update, can I draw your particular attention to a change of date for our planned Videostar day.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we need to change the date to ***Friday 28th November*** - further details below.

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### **MEET THIS YEAR'S HOUSE CAPTAINS...**

This week, our P7 House Captains received their badges. After Christmas, term 2 will be House Competition term, so look out for more information about this after the Christmas break.



*1 - DONARD - Maisie, Noah, Lilah, Elliot*







*2 - SCRABO - Amelia, Luke, Isabella, Joshua*







3 - LAGAN - Zoe, Joseph, Bethany, Kia







*4 - STORMONT - Seb, June, Leo, Eva Rose*







## REMINDER ABOUT TUMMY BUG ABSENCE...



The last couple of weeks have seen quite an uptick in the number of cases of tummy bugs in school.

In order to minimise spread, you are reminded that any child displaying symptoms of a tummy bug (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) **must be kept off school until 48 hours after their last symptom**. The following link provides helpful information from NI Direct:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting>

## 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](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## REMINDER - INCREASE IN SCHOOL DINNERS PRICE FROM JANUARY...



Another reminder that 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.

## 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)...

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*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*

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## **OTHER CHRISTMAS INFORMATION...**



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*The Christmas information included below will give you plenty of notice of what's coming up...*

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## CHRISTMAS VIDEO STAR DAY - FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER (CHANGE OF DATE!)

It's time for another whole school Video Star!

This will be filmed on **Friday 28th November**, 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...***

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*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*

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## **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.

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

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### 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**

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*PLEASE NOTE, ON THE MORNING OF THE NATIVITIES, A FEE OF £2 PER PERSON WILL BE PAYABLE AT THE DOOR, TO COVER COSTS OF COSTUMES AND LICENSES ETC. THANK YOU.*

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**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

Examstaxi.com

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

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## LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



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*Another busy week in school...*

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## READING BUDDIES...

This week, we had our second Reading Buddies session of the school year.























**P2 HAVING FUN AT BREAK TIME...**









**P4 PRACTISING TELLING THE TIME...**







**P5 LITERACY - COMPREHENSION SKILLS...**

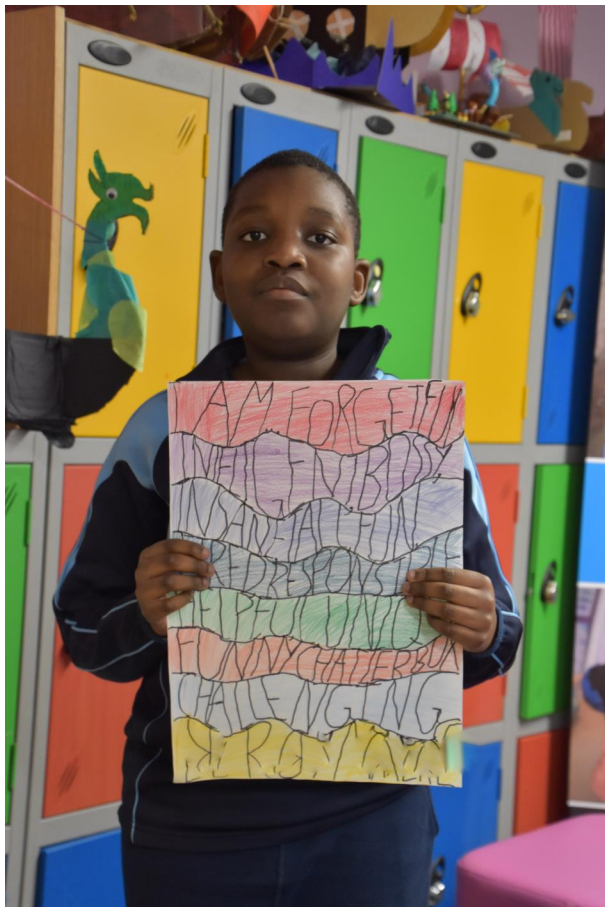






P6 ADJECTIVE ART...

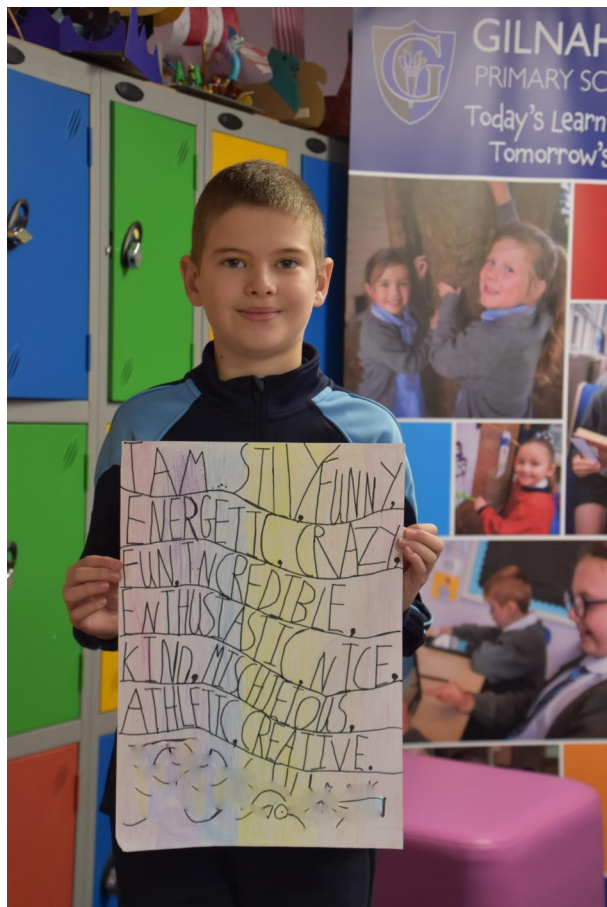












## P6 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS...

P6 made Christmas decorations this week for the 'Step into Narnia: Christmas at the Square' event at CS Lewis Square which takes place this evening. Thanks to Eastside Partnership for providing the colourful resources.









### **P6 TRIP TO HEAR ULSTER ORCHESTRA...**

P6 travelled to the Waterfront Hall this week for the Ulster Orchestra's Primary Schools concert, focusing on health and well being.



### **P7 VICTORIAN CHIMNEY SWEEP ART...**







THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



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*Just the one entry for the Gallery of Greatness this week, but what a lovely one it is!*

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Holly in P6 recently ran the Belfast 5k fun run in support of her friend, Oscar, who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. She raised over £1000! What a beautiful thing for you to do, Holly! Empathy in action!!



5 - Holly with her medal

## 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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**GET  
READY FOR  
CHRISTMAS**

**SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER  
2-4 PM**

**COMMUNITY FUN AT  
GILNAHIRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STALLS, AFTERNOON TEA,  
KIDS' "MAKE AND TAKE" CRAFTS,  
MUSIC, BBO**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

*gpc*  
GILNAHIRK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

**SANTA'S GROTTTO, 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

6 - Link to book: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/glenmachanchurchofgod/1848802>

# TINY KICKS



*Availability*  
11:00-11:45am



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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>TH</sup> 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 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 10<sup>TH</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Time: 7-8.30pm, on Zoom

To book a place call  
free 0808 8020 400



## 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 25<sup>th</sup> November

Time: 7-8.30pm, on Zoom

To book a place call free  
0808 8020 400



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> December

Time: 7-8.30pm, on Zoom

To book a place call free

0808 8020 400



# Avian Influenza ADVICE

Avian influenza has been detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland



**The public should avoid contact with wild birds including their feathers and waste.**

- Do not pick up or touch sick, dying or dead wild birds.
- Avoid contact with surfaces contaminated with bird faeces.

**Please keep to the footpath and keep your dogs on a lead.**

If you find a dead bird, do not touch or move it.  
If you find dead waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or gulls or birds of prey, report it to the DAERA helpline:

**0300 200 7840**



This advice has been provided by the Public Health Agency



## Spotted a dead wild bird?



- ✓ Use the 'DAERA Dead Wild Bird Online Reporting Tool' service if you find dead gulls, waders, ducks, geese or swans

Visit  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk/report-dead-wild-bird](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/report-dead-wild-bird)  
or  
scan the QR code



\* Do not pick up or touch sick, dying or dead wild birds, Avoid contact with bird faeces.



## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **Saturday 22nd November** - SEAG test 2
- **Friday 28 November** - 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 above)
- **Saturday 6th December** - Christmas Tree sale and fair (details above)
- **Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December** - P1-3 nativities (details above)
- **Thursday 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.

HAPPY  
WEEKEND

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