



# 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,

We've reached the start of December and everyone is looking forward to the last couple of weeks of the term, with nativities, Carol Service, Santa visit, Christmas fair, and more.

**DID YOU (OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW) MISS OUR OPEN MORNING?**



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*If so, you can contact the school office on 028 90401697 or email [dcorbett546@c2kni.net](mailto:dcorbett546@c2kni.net) to arrange a visit and tour of the school.*

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A graphic featuring a smartphone screen on the left. The screen displays the "eacconnect" logo, a bell icon, and the text "Applying for a Primary School place". Below the screen is the "ea Education Authority" logo. To the right of the phone is a starburst graphic with the text "Key dates for SEPTEMBER 2026". Three teal callout boxes are stacked vertically, each containing a date and an event: "10 December 2025 Admissions Criteria published", "7 January 2026 Applications open at 12 noon", and "21 January 2026 Applications close at 12 noon". At the bottom right, a yellow search bar contains the URL "www.eani.org.uk" with a hand cursor pointing to it.

**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.

## CHRISTMAS AT GILNAHIRK!



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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 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.

## CHRISTMAS CHARITIES...

# tearfund



This year we will support two charities over the festive season. We will have a non-uniform day on the last day of term (see below) and then there will be an opportunity to donate to Hosford House (homeless appeal of the East Belfast Mission) at the P1-3 nativities and the Carol Service. Your support is, as always, deeply appreciated.

## LAST DAY OF TERM...



Friday 19th December will be the last day of term 1. **This will be a non-uniform day in support of the Tearfund Christmas appeal – suggested voluntary donation of £1 per pupil.**

School will close early (12.00pm for P1-4 and 12.05pm for P5-7) and the Christmas holidays will be from Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026. School will resume after the Christmas break on Monday 5th January 2026.

## LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



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*Another busy week in school...*

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## ALL CONQUERING GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM!

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*A fantastic performance from the girls' football team in the quarter final of the Liz Bryson 7 a-side cup against last year's winners, Lisnasharragh Primary! After going down to a very early goal, the girls regrouped and dominated the game, played in very wet conditions. A hat-trick from Robyn, 2 goals from Charley and 1 from Emily with fantastic performances in midfield and defence from Ruby, Ellie, Zoe, Penny and Ailsa. A superb team performance! Roll on the semi final!*

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1 - Emily, Ruby, Ellie, Charley, Robyn, Ailsa, Zoe, Penny.

## FANTASTIC EFFORT FROM OUR SWIMMING TEAM!

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*Our fabulous swimming team competed at the recent Swim Ulster gala held in Bangor Aurora. The girls all swam brilliantly in their heats, with Chloe and Sophie qualifying for the all-Ireland gala in March. Congratulations to all of the swimmers - we are so proud of how well you represented our school!*

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*2 - Emily, Chloe, Ruby, Scarlett and Sophie*





**P3 WORKING HARD AT THEIR NATIVITY REHEARSALS...**

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***WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THE SHOW NEXT WEEK..!***

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**P4 HOOP GAMES IN P.E.**







**P5 CONSOLIDATING TIMES TABLES ON THE IPAD...**







## P5 DESIGNING EARLY MAN LANDSCAPES...







## P6 VIKING LONGHOUSES...

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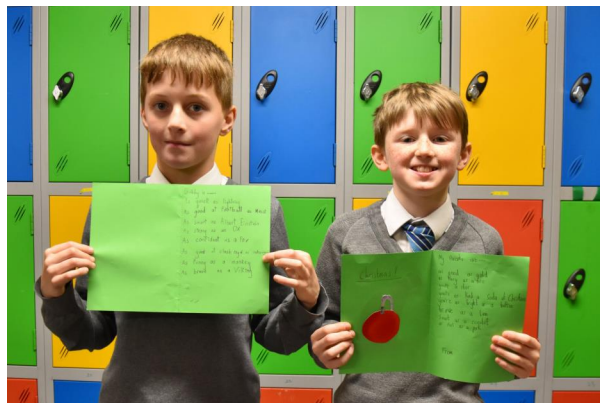
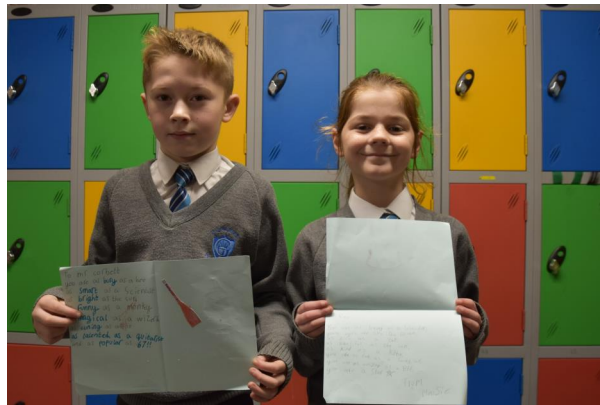
*P6 went outside to find natural materials to use on their Viking Longhouses in art*

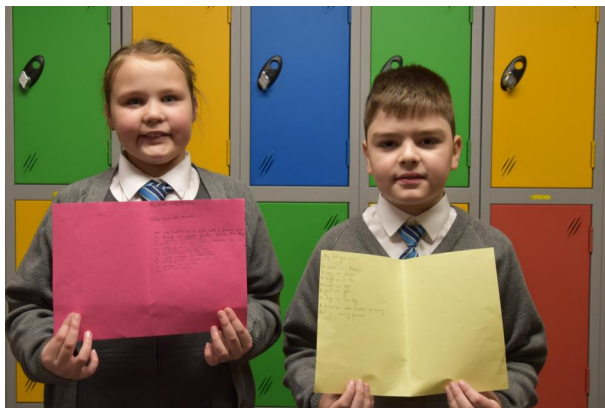
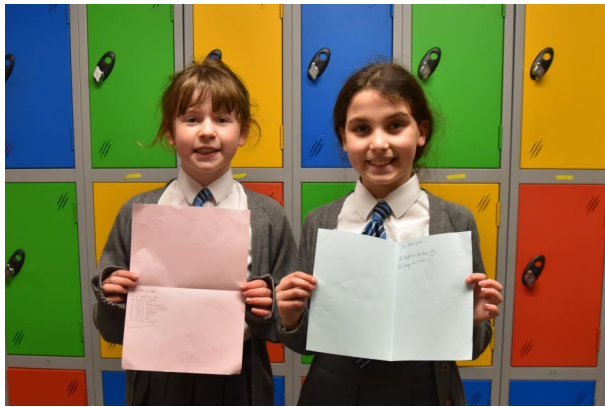
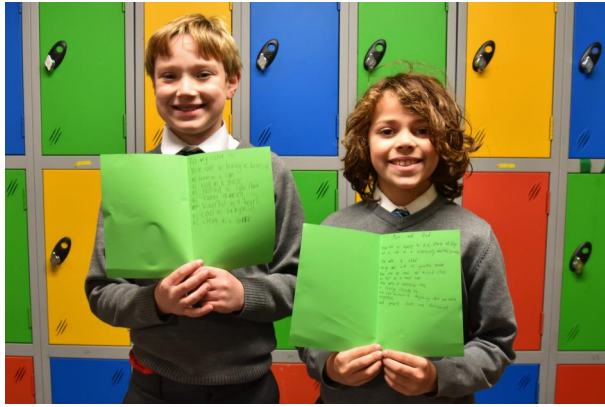
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## P6 METAPHOR AND SIMILE POETRY...





**P7 CHRISTMAS ART...**







## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

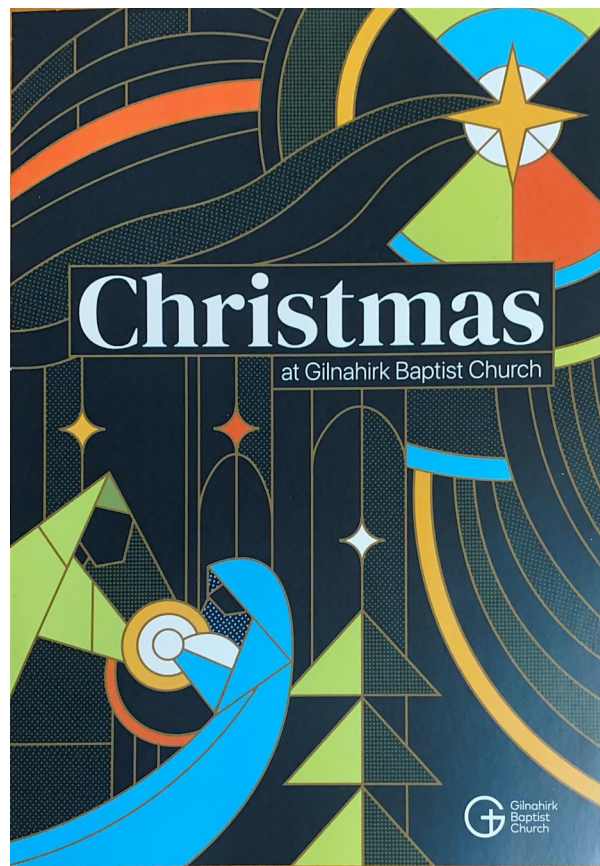
# Community Connections

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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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# Join us this Christmas!

## Every Sunday: 11am

Teaching, worship & children's programme

## Saturday 6th Dec: 5.30-7pm

Christmas party for the whole family

## Sunday 21st Dec: 11am

Family Christmas service with Nativity

## Sunday 21st Dec: 5pm

Carol service

## Thursday 25th Dec: 10.30am

Christmas morning celebration

[www.gilnahirkbaptist.org.uk](http://www.gilnahirkbaptist.org.uk)

## CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

DIR. MARK FORSTER

U.S | ENGLISH | 104 MINS | 2018



TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER | 4PM  
TEMPLEMORE BATHS | PWYC



**Enduring Excellence**  
The Royal Belfast Academical Institution

**Open Day**  
Saturday 10th January  
9:30am – 12:30pm

**ON THE DAY**  
The school will welcome guests in the Common Hall at 10:30am and 11:30am.  
A full range of school facilities and activities will be on display.  
Students who are considering A-Level courses are very welcome.

**OPEN AFTERNOON**  
Afternoon tea will be held on Thursday 29th January from 4:00pm – 5:00pm.

RBAI.ORG.UK



**libraries NI**

Tullycarnet Library presents

**Free**

**Christmas Carols**

Come and enjoy some Christmas songs in Tullycarnet Library sung by the school children of Gilnahirk Primary School

**Monday 8th December 11:00am**

Everyone Welcome  
Ask staff for details  
t: 028 9048 5079  
e: tullycarnet.library@librariesni.org.uk

Connect with us  
www.librariesni.org.uk

 **FREE EVENTS**   
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

● **SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER**  
2PM - 4PM  
**FAMILY MOVIE TIME**  
JOIN US TO WATCH  
"THE STAR"  
PLUS VISIT SANTA AND  
RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT.

REGISTER HERE TO  
BOOK YOUR MOVIE  
SEATS

OR VISIT  
WWW.EXCHANGECHURCHBELFAST.COM/STAR

● **SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER**  
AT 11AM  
CAROLS AND NATIVITY  
CELEBRATION  
FOR ALL AGES

● **SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER**  
AT 2PM  
OUTDOOR CAROL  
SINGING  
JOIN US FOR LIVE  
MUSIC, CAROLS, AND  
HOT CHOCOLATE &  
CHRISTMAS TREATS

 **EXCHANGE** 37 NORTH RO  
CHURCH BELFAST BT5  
CORNER OF W  
ORANGEFIELD  
WWW.EXCHANGECHURCHBELFAST.COM

**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

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



**CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
BELMONT TOWER 2-5PM  
&  
SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
HOLLYWOOD OLD SCHOOL HOUSE  
1-4PM

FESTIVE CLAY MODELLING |  
GROUP GAMES | PARTY SNACKS  
AND TREATS | DANCE PARTY

£27 PER  
TICKET

2 PARTIES | 2 DATES | 2 THEMES!  
SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK




**Handmade  
Holiday Magic  
Workshop**



**North Down Museum**  
Saturday 6 December | 1pm, 2.30pm  
£7.50, Suitable for ages 7+

Give the gift of creativity! This joyful event invites children to create hand-crafted treasures to give to someone special this Christmas with the help of local maker, Paula Cardiff, of Ballyholme Bay Creations. Wrapped in warmth and wonder, this is a magical way for kids to express love this holiday season!

This is a drop-off event. Please note, the room where this event takes place can only be accessed via a stairwell.



Book at [ANDCulture.org.uk](http://ANDCulture.org.uk)





**Made in AND**

# Handmade Holiday Magic Workshop

North Down Museum  
Sat 6 Dec | 1pm, 2.30pm

**NORTH DOWN MUSEUM**

Ards and North Down Borough Council

**FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

**Parent LineNI**  
0808 8020 400

**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**



**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**

**NUTRITION 4KIDS** **Parent LineNI**

## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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.

