



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,

We have arrived at the end of term 1. It's been a great term to start the school year and it's hard to believe we're already at Christmas.

The highlight of this week must surely be our Carol Service on Wednesday night - what a beautiful evening (more details below).

There are just a few bits and pieces in this week's update, including arrangements for tomorrow (last day of term)

LAST DAY OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS...



Today, Friday 19th December, is the last day of term 1, so please remember the following:

- School will close today at 12.00pm for P1-4 and 12.05pm for P5-7
- School will resume on **Monday 5th January** at the usual time.

HOSFORD HOUSE APPEAL - THANK YOU!



At last night's Carol Service and last week's nativities, we provided the opportunity for you to donate to the work of Hosford House, the homeless project of the East Belfast Mission.

I am delighted to report that we have raised the fantastic amount of **£1056.49**. Thank you so much for your generosity, once again.

TEMPORARY CLEANING VACANCY



A temporary cleaning vacancy has arisen in our cleaning team. The hours are Monday to Thursday 2.00pm - 4.30pm and Friday 2.00pm - 4.15pm.

If you would be interested in the role, please feel free to get in touch on 02890401697 or dcorbett546@c2kni.net

CAR PARK LETTER FROM GOVERNORS...



In your child's bag last week, you should have seen a letter from Mr. Graeme Allen, chair of the Board of Governors, on behalf of the Board. **If you have not seen this letter, please check your child's school bag.**

Essentially, the letter detailed the governors' ongoing concerns about car park safety at drop off and pick up time and outlined that, **if no improvement is made in a final period of monitoring, we will be compelled to close the car park to all vehicles with the exception of staff, deliveries and wheelchair users.**

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

2025 CHRISTMAS VIDEOSTAR!



Here is the link to our Christmas videostar 2025:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DOdf43CfWmJc-u2R8HcH_2oU-ghaMvxN/view?usp=drivesdk

Enjoy!

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



If so, you can contact the school office on 028 90401697 or email dcorbett546@c2kni.net to arrange a visit and tour of the school.



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.

EXTERNAL AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TERM 2...

Please see below for some information and booking links for some of the external after school activities in term 2...

Clayful Minds (P1-3) - Monday



CLAYFUL MINDS
CREATIVE LEARNING

CLAYFUL MINDS AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB



**Gilnahirk
Primary School**

Monday's
5th January - 16th March
£58.50 for 9 weeks
2:00pm - 3:00pm
No club 9th Feb / 9th Mar

Clay modelling | Non-toxic
colourful | Air-drying 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

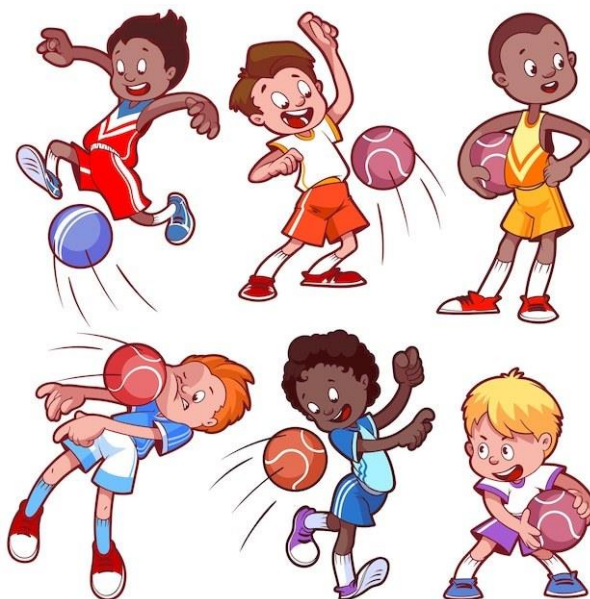
Laser Tag (P4-7) - Tuesday - No spaces left.

Dramarama (P1-7) - Wednesday.



To book a place in term 2 contact Sarah at dramaramaclasses@gmail.com

Dodgeball (P4-7)- Wednesday (new)



Gilnahirk Primary school have allowed us kindly to run a 10 week dodgeball club in the school, after successful lunchtime clubs and laser tag after schools. The session will start on **Wednesday 7th January**. This will run for P4-7 from 3-4pm. We have a maximum of 30 spaces. The cost of the session will be **£45 for ten weeks** and must be paid in advance.

Dodgeball is excellent for learning lifelong skills including, footwork, movement, identifying space, throwing, catching, teamwork and communication skills.

This is a great way to meet new people in a pressure free fun based environment. We need a minimum of 10 people to start the club. **If you'd like to pre book a space please message Matthew on 07702646828**

Healthy Kidz (P1-7) - Thursday



GILNAHIRK PS

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

£20 FOR 5 WEEKS
COMMENCING 8TH JANUARY 2026

THURSDAY 5 WEEKS
P1-P3 MULTI-SPORTS ACADEMY
@ 2PM-3PM

THURSDAY 5 WEEKS
P4-P7 HOCKEY @ 3PM-4PM



healthy kidz

BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM

1 - Booking link: <https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/healthy-kidz-gilnahirk-ps-term-2-2026-belfast-f71c724f-5910-47c9-ba9c-8f47a9487435>

Sew Ready (P4-7) - Thursday



SEW READY

AFTER SCHOOL SEWING CLUB

p4-p7

Thursdays
3-4pm

CLUB DETAILS: 10 WEEKS @ £75

TO SIGN UP, PLEASE REGISTER
<https://shorturl.at/yGbvZ>

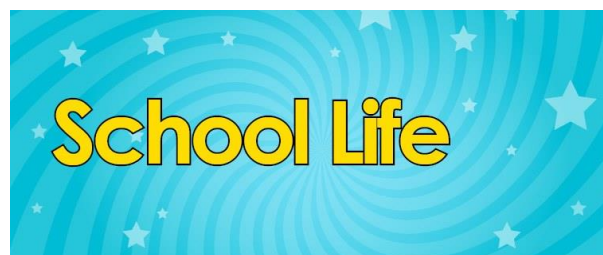
Max Coding (P1-7) - Friday



2 - Booking link: www.bookwhen.com/maxcoding

Please note, children will be informed about teacher led clubs in term 2 by the respective teachers.

LIFE IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...



A jam packed week to finish off our first term of the school year!

P1 CHRISTMAS ALPHABET MATS (WITH P4 HELPERS)...







P2 IPAD CHRISTMAS GAMES...



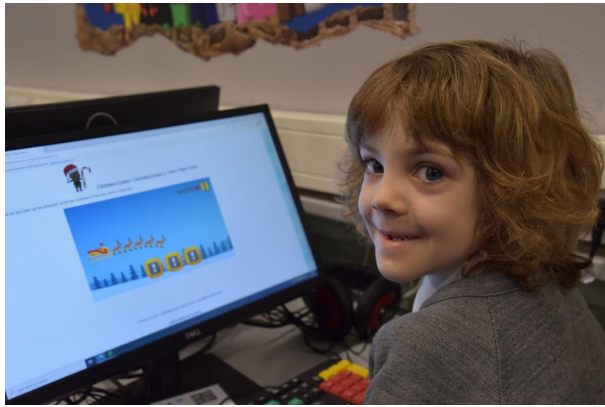




P3 CHRISTMAS IN THE ICT SUITE...









P4 REINDEER FACT FINDERS...





P5 CHRISTMAS CLASS PARTY..!







P6 CLAY SANTAS...







P6 VIKING LONGHOUSES...









P7 WINTER ART...







CAROL SERVICE...

Our Carol Service on Wednesday evening was another beautiful evening of song, readings and musical showcasing, all telling again the story of that first Christmas. The range of talent on show from the children was amazing and it was so encouraging to see the College Hall at St Pat's absolutely packed full again this year.



CHOIR IN THE COMMUNITY...

For their final appearance in the local community, some of our choir members attended the senior men's group at Gilnahirk Presbyterian, getting their annual Christmas gathering off to a lively start with some Christmas songs.



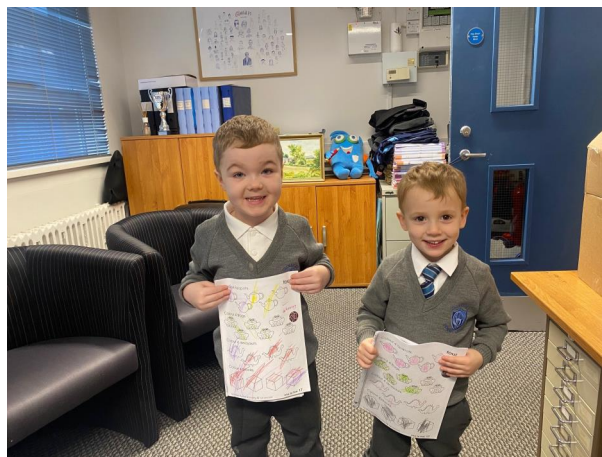


CHRISTMAS SING - A - LONGS...

Mr Knight and Mr Corbett, looking like a very bad Everley Brothers tribute act, led all the children in a festive sing - a - long this week.



THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS!



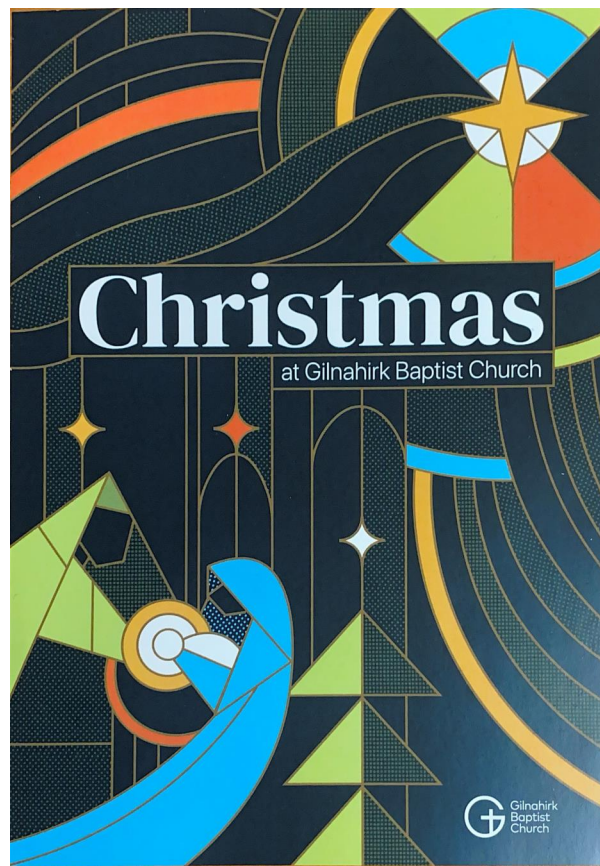
3 - Joel and Jack in P1 with their brilliant counting. Well done, boys!

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



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



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
CHURCH BELFAST

37 NORTH RO
BELFAST BT5
CORNER OF N
ORANGEFIELD



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
Alternatively, there will be held on Thursday 29th January from 4:00pm – 5:00pm.

RBAI.ORG.UK

Primary 7 Parents & Students

How to get more information about Blackwater IC

Visit us for a 1-1 tour during December 2025 and January 2026

Call 02844612115 to make an appointment or email via our contact us page on our website
www.blackwateric.org

Come along to our Open Night on Tuesday 13th January 2026
from 7pm - 9pm

All ability
Integrated Education

BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **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

A LOOK AHEAD TO MAIN TERM 2 DATES...



- **Monday 5th January 2026** - school resumes for term 2
- **Saturday 24 January** - SEAG results issued to parents of children who sat SEAG tests
- **W/C Monday 26th January** - P7 transfer interviews
- **Friday 6th February** - school closes for half term break
- **Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February** - half term break
- **Monday 16th February** - school resumes after half term
- **W/C Monday 16th February** - Scholastic Book Fair
- **Monday 9th March - Thursday 12th March** - P1-P6 parent teacher interviews
- **Friday 27th March** - last day of term 2
- **Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April** - Easter Holidays
- **Monday 13th April** - school resumes for term 3

As always, there will be other dates and events added to the list above, but these are the main ones for now.

On behalf of all of the staff at Gilnahirk Primary, I wish you and yours a happy and blessed Christmas season.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

