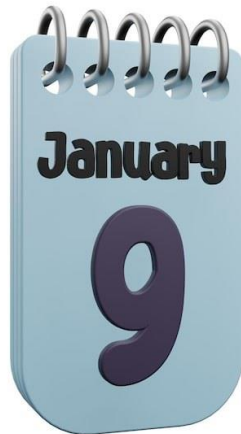




GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE





'Today's Learning for Tomorrow's World'...

Dear parent,

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas and New Year season with family and friends.

That's the first week of term 2 done - the children have settled back in to routines very quickly after the Christmas break.

This week's update contains some practical matters at the top of the Sway, followed by a few other bits and pieces, so do take a bit of time to read through the information that follows...

P1 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN...

The portal for P1 applications for September 2026 is now open and will remain open until **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 12noon.**

If you have a child due to start P1 in September 2026, please make sure you have your application in on time.

This link will take you to the admissions section of the Education Authority website:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide>

If you have any queries about the application process, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



P7 TRANSFER INTERVIEWS...



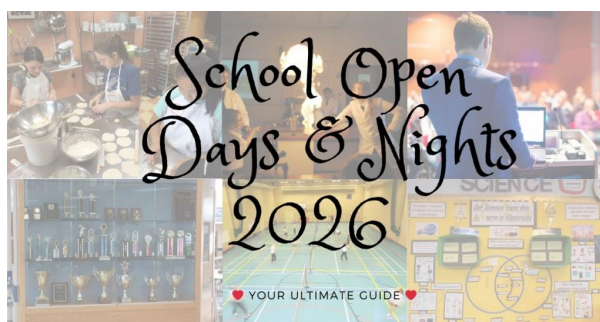
On Wednesday of this week, parents of P7 children should have received a letter asking you to indicate whether you would like a transfer consultation with Mr. Knight and/or myself to discuss Post Primary placement options, during the week commencing Monday 26th January. Hopefully you have returned your reply. If you have not, please try to send it in on Monday.

If you have requested a consultation, you will receive a date and time by the end of next week.

Further information about the transfer process to post primary can be found at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

This is a slightly different approach to our Post primary interviews for this year, but as I stressed on the original letter on Wednesday, we are *more than happy* to meet any parents who need further advice and guidance regarding the choices for your child's post primary placement.

POST PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS...



P6/7 parents, you will find a comprehensive overview of the various Post Primary Open Nights at this link: <https://thetransfertutor.co.uk/open-nights-2026>

ADVICE TO P6 PARENTS ON THE TRANSFER PROCEDURE...

As has been the practice over the last number of years the Department of Education has produced a document providing advice to parents of children in P6 on the post-primary transfer process. The purpose of this document is to ensure that parents receive timely information about the range of issues they need to take into account when making important decisions about the next stage in their child's education.

The document is available to download from the Department's website at the following link: [Advice for P6 Parents - January 2026.pdf](#)

REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP)



Parents of children with Individual Education Plans, please take note of the following:

On **Monday (12th)** your child will receive a letter from Mrs. McCaffrey outlining the details of our upcoming review of IEPs. This letter will invite you to make your contribution to the review phase of the IEP and return it to your child's class teacher by **Friday 16th January**.

Please ensure you check your child's school bag for the letter with further information from Mrs McCaffrey.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR...



During the **week commencing Monday 16th February** (first day back after half term break) we will have our annual Book fair. During that week, all of the children will be given the opportunity to browse the Book Fair and then from Monday to Thursday of the week, it will be open from 2-4pm for children to come back in with parents to buy a book (or books) if they wish.

Normal dismissal arrangements will apply.

If you are planning to come back in to the Book Fair, please do not arrange to meet your child at the fair - please pick up as normal and make your way back in.

The fair will be held in the School Library.

EXTERNAL AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 2

Clayful Minds (P1-3) - Monday

CLAYFUL MINDS
AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB

Gilnahirk
Primary School

Monday's
5th January - 18th May
£8.50 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 | 07915771182

Laser Tag (P4-7) - Tuesday - no spaces left

Dramarama (P1-7) - Wednesday

OPEN TO ALL GILNAHIRK PS PUPILS

Dramarama
Performing Arts Academy

WEEKLY IN-SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR
SPEECH & DRAMA CLASSES

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL
CLASSES HELD IN THE CANTEEN
AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY
£8.75 PER CLASS
PAYABLE ON A TERM BY TERM BASIS

CONFIDENCE BUILDING
IMPROVISATION
POEMS
STORYTELLING
ACTING
GAMES
FESTIVALS
LAMDA EXAMS
CONCERTS

TO BOOK A SPACE OR FIND OUT MORE CONTACT US!

☎ Sarah Steen-Calderwood: 07885243386
💻 dramaramaclasses@gmail.com
📘 facebook.com/dramaramaperformingarts

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**

HealthyKidz - P1-7 - Thursday

A vertical poster for Gilnahirk Primary School's afterschool clubs. At the top left is the school's crest. The text reads: 'GILNAHIRK PS', 'AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS', '£20 FOR 5 WEEKS', 'COMMENCING 8th JANUARY 2026'. Below this, two club options are listed: 'THURSDAY 5 WEEKS P1-P3 MULTI-SPORTS ACADEMY @ 2PM-3PM' and 'THURSDAY 5 WEEKS P4-P7 HOCKEY @ 3PM-4PM'. At the bottom, it says 'BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM' and features a QR code and the HealthyKidz logo.

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



Coding - Friday



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

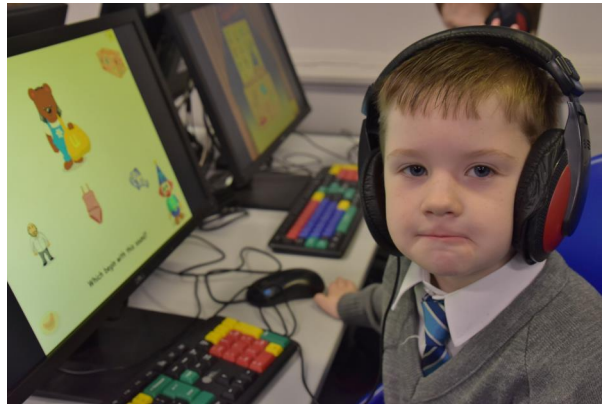
TEACHER LED AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS IN TERM 2...

Over the course of the term, a number of teachers will also be offering some after school activities. Teachers involved will send all necessary information to the relevant year groups.

SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...

It's been a great first week back after the Christmas break...

P1 TIZZY'S TOYBOX...





P1 WINTER TOPIC...





P2 PRACTISING THEIR NUMBER BONDS USING NUMICON...







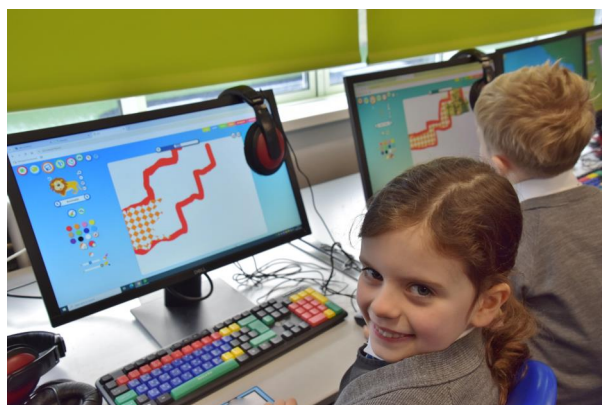
P3 HANDWRITING...







P4 CREATING MAPS IN THE ICT SUITE USING 'JUST2EASY'...





P7 RSE - WHAT'S INSIDE?









P7 ENJOYING THE SNOW EARLIER IN THE WEEK...



AIR AMBULANCE LANDS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS!

As I'm sure you will have heard, there was much excitement on Wednesday at lunchtime when the Air Ambulance landed on our back pitch to get close to the unfortunate accident on the Lower Braniel Road.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the two workmen injured in the accident and hope for a speedy recovery.





GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

This week, we presented honesty certificates to a boy and girl from each class and introduced our two values for January - **Responsibility** and **Kindness!**



Kindness

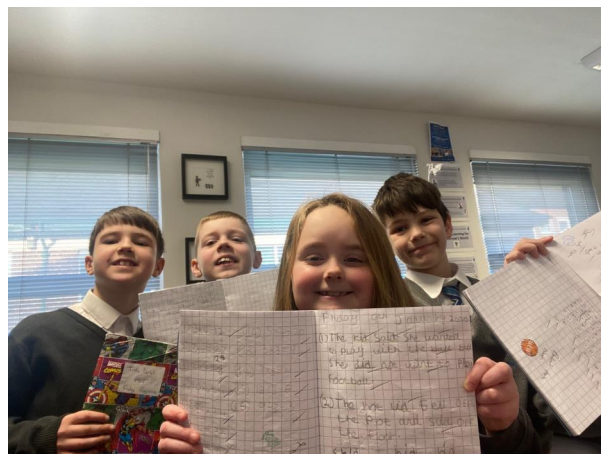


3 - P1-3 Honesty certificates winners



4 - P4-6 honesty certificates winners

THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



5 - Troy, Jamie, Evie and Noah in P5 all produced outstanding Friday progress tests today. Keep up the hard work, all of you!



6 - Lily, Elliot, Logan, Olivia, Faye and Mason in P1 all produced some fantastic sounds work! 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

RISING STAR SOCCER CAMP

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mon 9th – Wed 11th February

ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY, LISBURN
Thurs 12th – Fri 13th February

EARLY BIRD OFFER!
Book before 31st January & SAVE £5!

3 DAY CAMP £40 (£45 after 31st Jan)

2 DAY CAMP £25 (£30 after 31st Jan)

Ages 4-12 • 9AM - 2PM

TO BOOK CONTACT MATTHEW
☎ **07702 646828**

f i d

GALAXY
Half Term Sports Camps

Rugby Camp
Ages 8-15 yrs
CIYMS, Circular Rd, Belfast, BT4 2GD
In association with ML GALBY RUGBY

Hockey Camp Sports Camp
Ages 4-11 yrs / 8-15 yrs
Strathearn School, Belfast, BT4 2AU

Sports Camp
Ages 4-11 yrs
Hillsborough Village Centre, BT26 6AR

Wednesday 11th February - Friday 13th February 2026
Time: 9AM-2PM

3-days £100 / £35 per day
*Child discounts apply

Half Term Camp Details

Rugby camp sessions will include:

- ballwork
- contact skills
- handling skills
- kicking
- matchplay
- rugby IQ

Hockey camp sessions will include:

- Control and dribbling
- shooting
- passing
- 3D skills
- tactical awareness
- match-play

Sports sessions will include games and skills in the following:

- football
- netball
- basketball
- uni-hoc
- tennis
- many more

Camp Daily Programme

- 9.00am-9.30am - warm up
- 9.30am-10.30am - session 1
- 10.30am-11.00am - morning break
- 11.00am-12.00pm - session 2
- 12.00pm-1.00pm - lunch
- 1.00pm-2.00pm - session 3

www.galaxycoaching.com f i s d

GIVE BLOOD
Save Lives

Book now for your local community
blood donation session!

VENUE
Orangefield Presbyterian Church
Belfast

DATE & TIME
Wednesday 21 January
12:30 - 19:30

Scan to book your
appointment.

Northern Ireland needs 1200
blood donations per week.
That's 1 every 8 minutes.

www.NIBTS.org Northern Ireland
Blood Transfusion Service

KEY DATES IN TERM 2...



- **W/C Monday 19 January** - IEPs reviewed/new IEP targets written
- **Saturday 24 January** - SEAG results issued to parents of children who sat SEAG tests
- **W/C Monday 26th January** - P7 transfer interviews
- **Thursday 29th January** - Reading Buddies session 3
- **Monday 2 February** - IEPs out to parents
- **Wednesday 4 February** - Board of Governors' meeting
- **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 2/Tuesday 3 March** - P1-6 SEN annual reviews
- **Thursday 5th March** - World Book Day/Reading Buddies session 4
- **Monday 9th March - Thursday 12th March** - P1-P6 parent teacher interviews
- **Wednesday 18th March** - Board of Governors' meeting
- **Friday 27th March** - last day of term 2
- **Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April** - Easter Holidays
- **Monday 13th April** - school resumes for term 3

There will be other dates and events added as the term progresses but these are the main ones for now.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

