

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,

I hope you have had a good week.

The second week of term seems to have flown by - here is our latest update...

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...

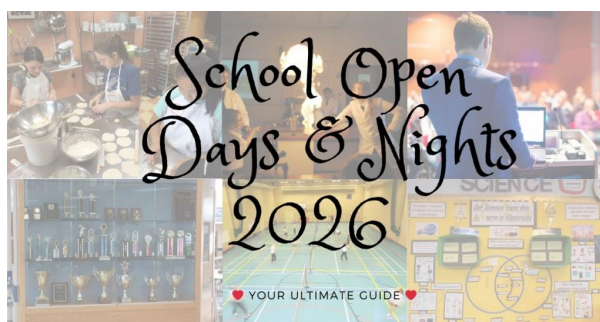


If you requested a consultation with Mr. Knight and/or myself to discuss your child's post primary options, you should by now have received your date and time. Each slot is limited to 15 minutes and, with a very tight schedule, we will need to stick as closely as possible to the 15 minutes.

In order to make this happen, please do some preparation by having your list of preferred options ready to discuss at the meeting. The advice we give is a minimum of 4 schools, one of which should be a non-selective (non-grammar) option.

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

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:

This week you received a letter from Mrs. McCaffrey outlining the details of our upcoming review of IEPs, inviting you to make your contribution to the review phase of the IEP and return it to your child's class teacher by **today**

If you have not yet returned this, please do so as a matter of urgency. Thank you

GILNAHIRK PARENTS MANAGING TECHNOLOGY...



GPS Parents Managing Technology

There is a growing number of parents who have concerns about managing technology safely with their children

GPS parents met twice last year to talk about this together and share ideas

We'd like to continue to grow this community to:

- Support parents who wish to delay any aspect of technology including smart phones or social media
- Share ideas of different phone options and ideas of managing the safety of technology

The SFC movement provides lots of helpful information

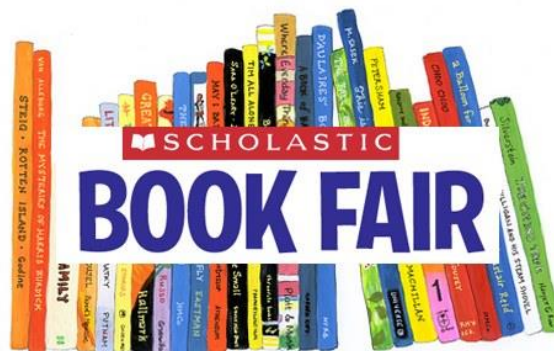
Join the Northern Ireland Smart Phone Free Childhood community on WhatsApp. There is a GPS managing Tech within it:



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

GPS Parents Managing Technology
WhatsApp group

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.

SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...

FOOTBALL NEWS...



Our **boys football** squad notched up a 1-0 win against St Vincent de Paul PS in a tightly fought contest. Congratulations to all the boys involved and a special mention of goal scorer of the only goal of the match, Hugo McGregor.

They also took part today in the annual Ashfield Boys' tournament. They drew 4 and won 1 of their group games in 5 tight matches, qualifying for a quarter final crunch tie against Strandtown PS. With the teams in deadlock after normal time, it went to sudden death penalties, which unfortunately, Gilnahirk lost. A great run, though. Well done boys!



1 - Back row: Jack, Hugo, Jake, Harry, Archer, Dylan, Alfie

Front row: Bobby, Carter, Flynn, Mateo, Hudson



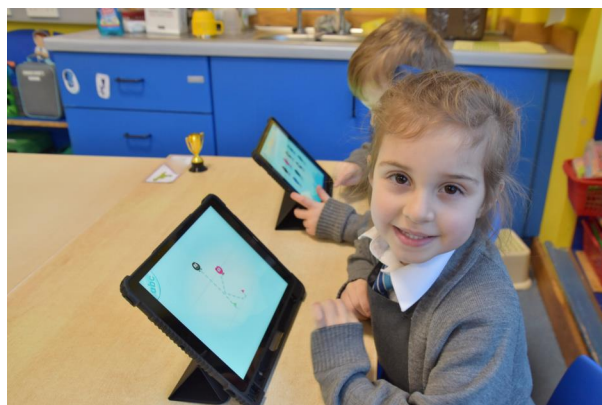
2 - Back row: Alfie, Archer, Dylan, Max, Leo

Front Row: Mateo, Bobby, Flynn, Hugo



Our **girls football** squad have a big week coming up next week with a crunch semi final clash with Strandtown Primary at Avoniel Leisure Centre on Tuesday 20th January, 2.00pm kick off. We wish the girls every success as they play their most important match of the season!

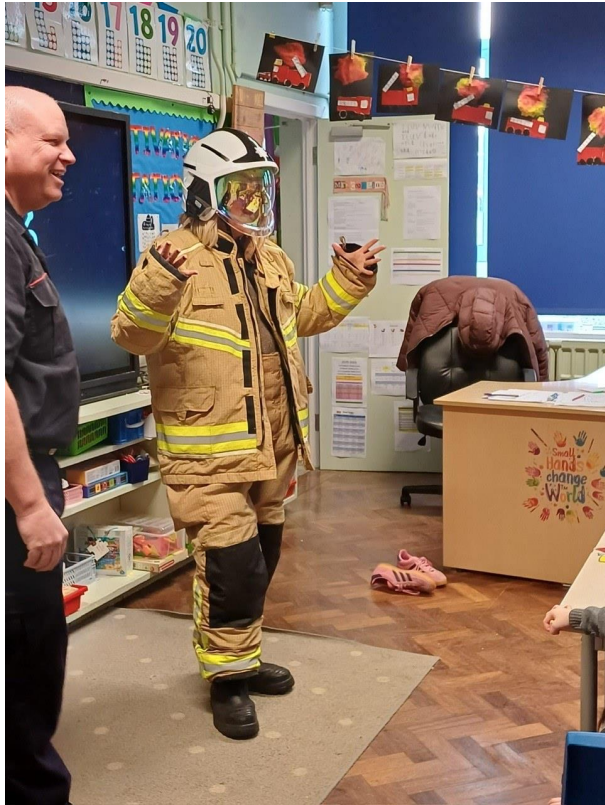
IPAD FUN IN P1...

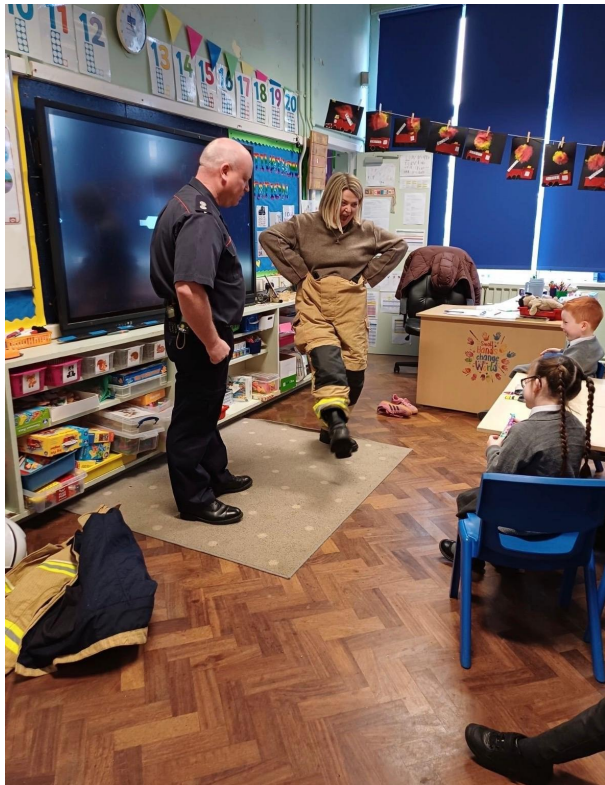




P2 PEOPLE WHO HELP US - VISIT FROM MR OSBORNE...

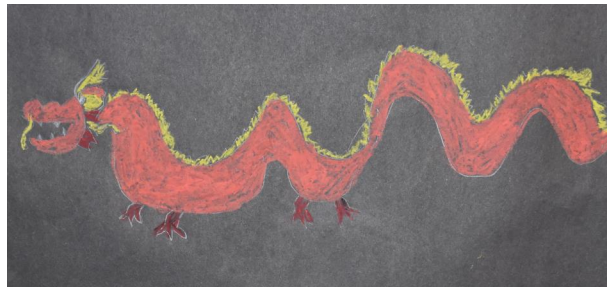
Mr Osborne called in to P2 to tell them all about his job as Station Commander with the Fire Service!







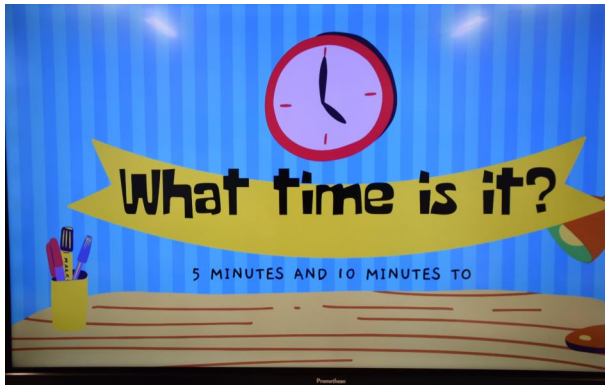
P3 CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH DANCING DRAGONS..!







P4 WHAT TIME IS IT..?







P5 BREAKTIME IN THE WINTER SUNSHINE...





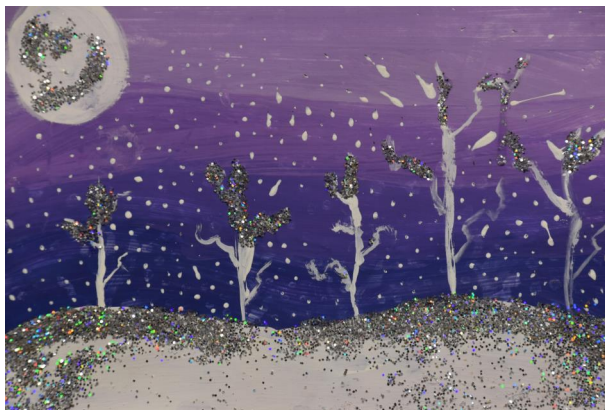




P6 WINTER CALM...







P7 SCIENTISTS EXPLORING SURFACE TENSION...







GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

Don't forget, our two values for January - Responsibility and Kindness!



Kindness



3 - P1-3 Honesty certificates winners



4 - P4-6 honesty certificates winners

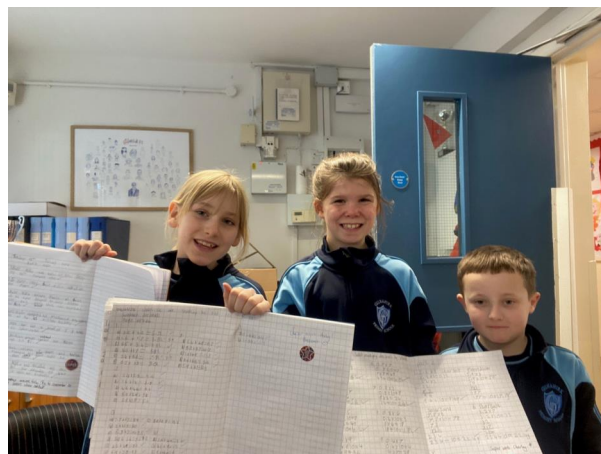


5 - P7K honesty certificate winners

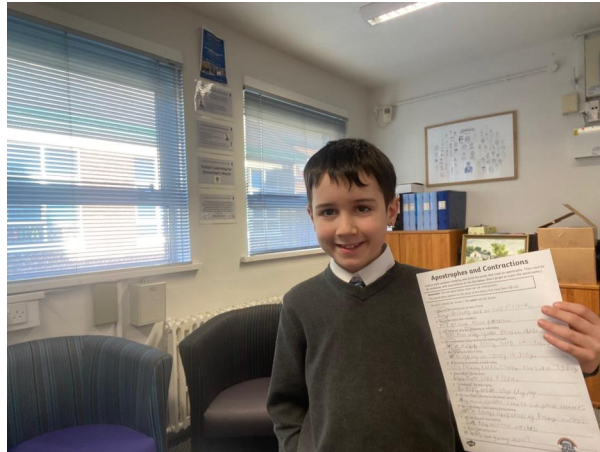


6 - P7H honesty certificate winners

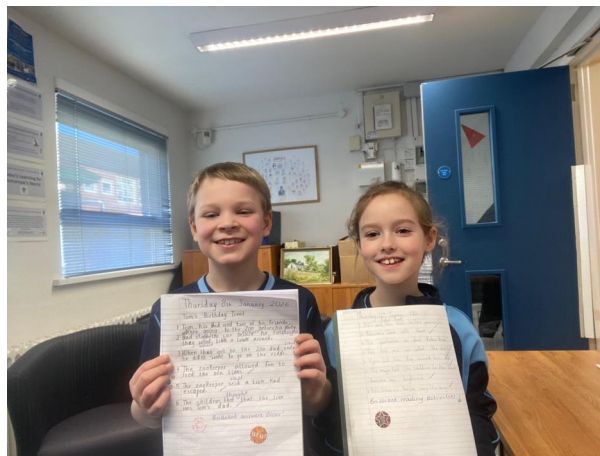
THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



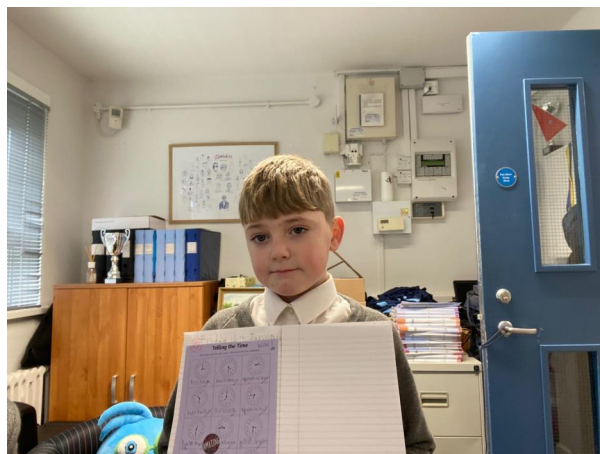
7 - Some fantastic work in P6 from Holly, Charley and Lucas (work on decimals and a brilliant comprehension from Holly on Buzz Aldrin!)



8 - Nathaniel in P6 produced some brilliant work on using the apostrophe in his literacy grammar focus this week. Great work, Nathaniel!



9 - Check out these brilliant, beautifully presented reading activities from Oscar and Aria in P4! Great work!



10 - Lewis in P4 called down to show Mr. Corbett another fantastic Friday progress test. Great work, Lewis!



11 - Super fire safety posters in P2 from Alex, Ruan, Charlotte, Mabel, Eva, Anita and Evi.



12 - More brilliant fire safety posters in P2 from Adlene, Sienna, Darcey, Ivy and Mia.



13 - EVEN more fantastic fire safety posters in P2 from Chris, Adam, Sophia and Lucy (pus special guest appearance from Gilly!)

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



RISE AND SHINE
SOCCER CAMP

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

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
NINE MILE CROSS RUGBY CLUB

Hockey Camp Sports Camp

Ages 4-11 yrs **Ages 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
* sibling discounts apply

Half Term Camp Details

Rugby camp sessions will include:

- possession
- contact skills
- handling skills
- kicking
- mauling
- 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
- unihoc
- 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

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

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

www.NIBTS.org Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

NEW Parent Workshop

Are you a parent fed-up fighting fires every day?
Do you feel caught in negative cycles with your partner and children?

You can **Bounce Back**!

Join our 3 week, practical parenting programme to support you to build calmer, more connected family relationships.

Online via Zoom, for three consecutive Tuesdays starting 20th January, 7-8:30pm.

Call 0808 8020 400 to book your place.

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

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

