

# 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,

I hope you have had a good week.

We're now well in to term 2 with three weeks done.

At the start of this week's update, can I draw your attention to the following items at the top of the Sway:

- Ulster Orchestra workshops (Tues 3 February)
- For P7 parents - P7 SEAG outcomes information
- Preliminary information on P1-6 parent teacher interviews

## ULSTER ORCHESTRA INSPIRATION WORKSHOPS...



As part of our target to raise the profile of music in school (started last year), some members of the Ulster Orchestra will visit school for inspiration workshops on **Tuesday 3rd February** for P1-3 in the morning and P4-7 in the afternoon. This will be the second year of the workshops and they were thoroughly enjoyed by all last year.

In order to assist with the cost of the workshops, we are asking parents to consider paying **£2.50 per child**. As you may be aware, these continue to be very difficult times for schools financially, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Please note, your child's participation in the workshops is **not** dependent on payment being made but please do consider helping in this way. Thank you.

**A payment message will be sent via School Money this afternoon (Friday 23rd January) and will remain open until the day of the event.**

You can find out more about the workshops at this link:

<https://www.ulsterorchestra.org.uk/learning-community-engagement/learning/inspiration-workshops-for-schools/>

## **P7 SEAG OUTCOMES...**



Many of our P7 pupils will receive their SEAG scores tomorrow morning. We will be thinking about them all as they receive their scores, but as Mr. Halliday reminded the P7 children when he called in earlier this week, they will still be the same people after they receive their score, as they were before.

Whilst we acknowledge the importance of tomorrow morning, a number on a page can never, and will never, define who our children are.

Results will be available from 8am on the SEAG portal, using the same login details you used to register for the test. You may wish to log in prior to the morning just to make sure you can get on.

**If you are having any issues in the morning with receiving your child's score, please feel free to email me on [dcorbett546@c2kni.net](mailto:dcorbett546@c2kni.net)**

## TRANSFER INTERVIEWS...



If you requested a consultation with Mr. Knight and/or myself to discuss your child's post primary options, hopefully you can attend on 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>



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*Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs Thelma Johnston*

*Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mr David Corbett*

*Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mr Alan Morrow*

*Chair of the Board of Governors: Mr Graeme Allen*

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The school's child protection policy can be found at this link:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=191&type=pdf>

Please note this policy is up for review at the next Board of Governors' meeting (4 February). If you have any queries or suggestions in relation to the policy prior to its review, please send directly to myself on [dcorbett546@c2kni.net](mailto:dcorbett546@c2kni.net)

Should you have any concerns of a Child Protection nature, you should contact Mrs Johnston as Designated Teacher, in the first instance.

## **TERM 2 ATTENDANCE REMINDERS...**



School attendance plays a key role in children's development, not just academically but socially and in so many other ways. Attendance rates at Gilnahirk are very healthy with a current overall school attendance rate of **97%** for this academic year.

However, it is important for everyone in the school community to play their part in maintaining our attendance rates.

The Department of Education has compiled a helpful parents' guide which can be found here: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/attendance-matters-a-parents-guide.pdf>

Below, you will also find an attendance rate table that converts attendance percentages in to days/weeks missed and provides categories for the various percentage thresholds.

Attendance rate	Days missed	Attendance category
100%	0 days	Excellent
95%	9 days – 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90%	19 days – 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85%	28 days – 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very Poor
80%	38 days – 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75%	46 days – 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

## 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

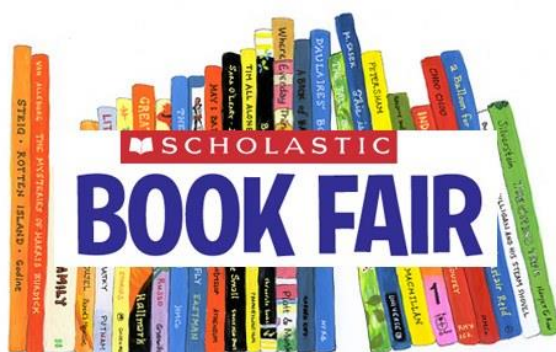
The SFC movement provides lots of helpful information

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

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 **girls football** squad played against Strandtown PS in the semi final of the Liz Bryson Cup. It was definitely a game of two halves, with Strandtown dominating the first half but after an inspirational half time team talk from Mr Knight, the Gilnahirk girls came out all guns blazing and created a number of good chances in the second half. And then, the classic sucker punch. As Gilnahirk pressed for the winner, Strandtown broke quickly from a Gilnahirk attack and scored the only goal of the game with two minutes to go.

Result: **Strandtown PS 1 Gilnahirk PS 0**

Hard luck, girls - you fought brilliantly but were just pipped at the post.

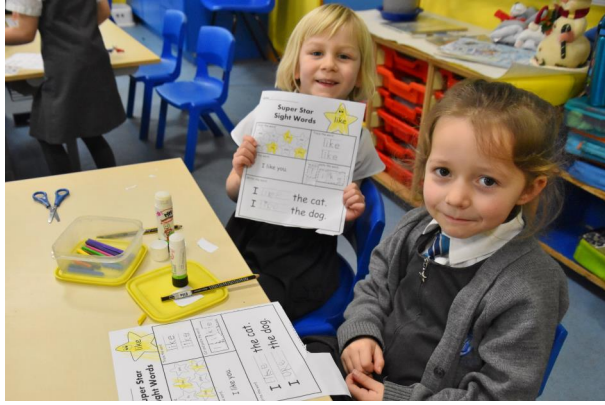


*1 - Back row: Zoe, Ailsa, Penny, Charley*

*Front row: Ruby, Emily, Robyn, Ellie*

## P1 SIGHT WORDS - 'I LIKE'

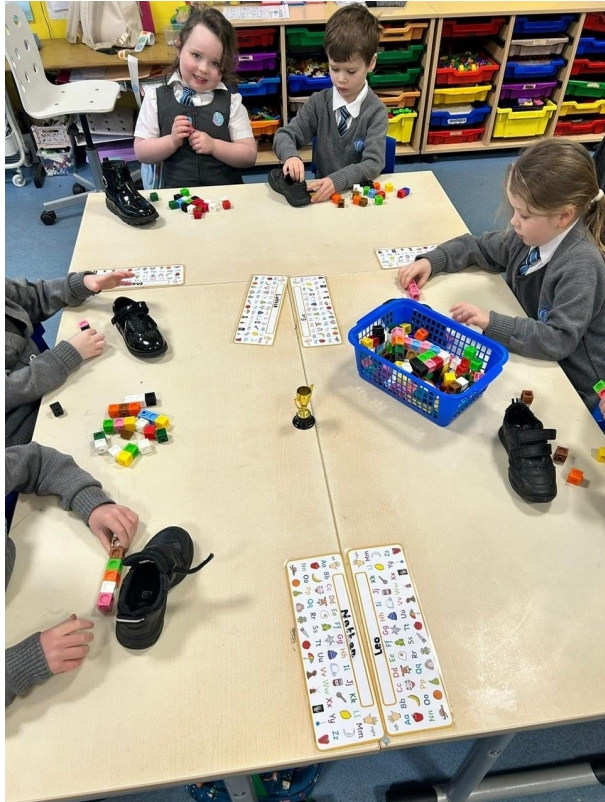


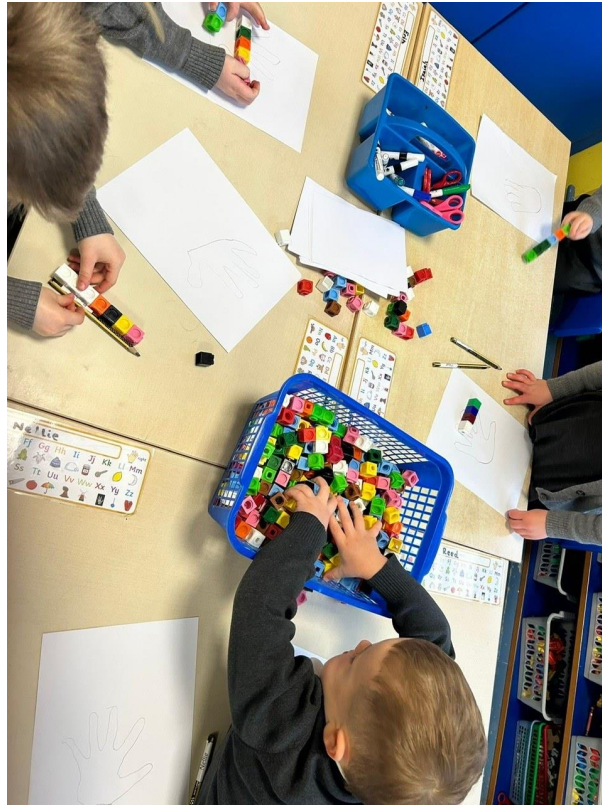




## P1 MATHS - ALL ABOUT MEASURE...







**P2 HEALTHY TEETH...**





P3 P.E...





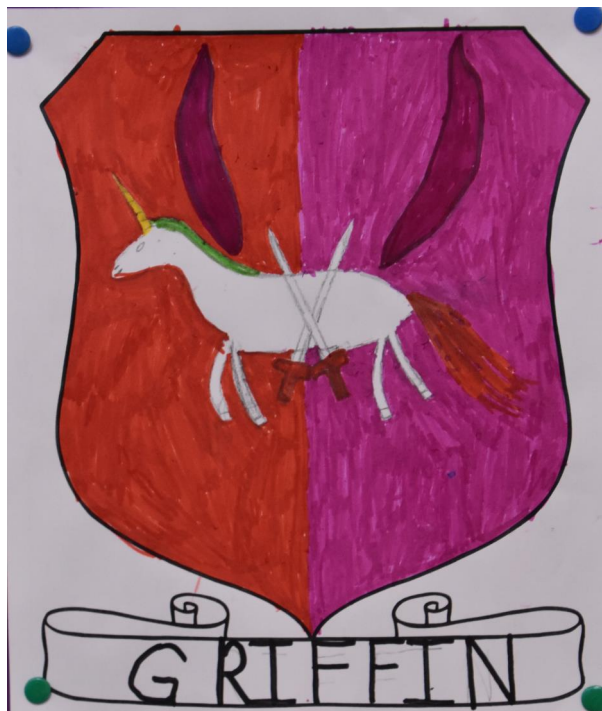


P4 COATS OF ARMS...







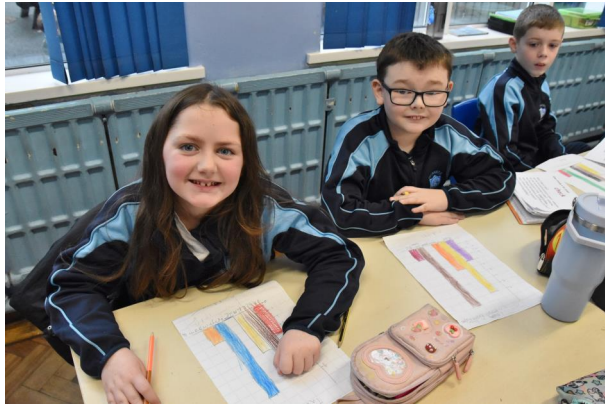




P5 HANDLING DATA...







**P6 ART - CREATING THEIR OWN PLANETS...**







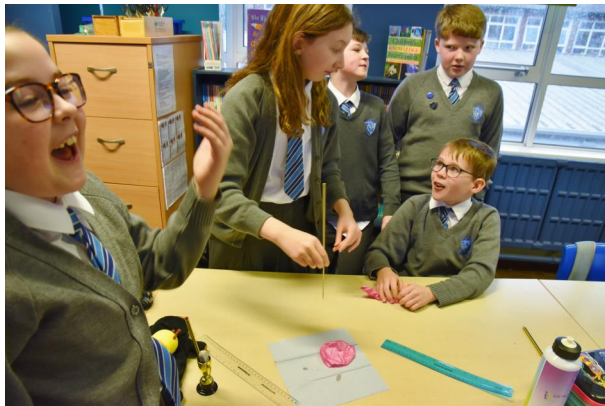
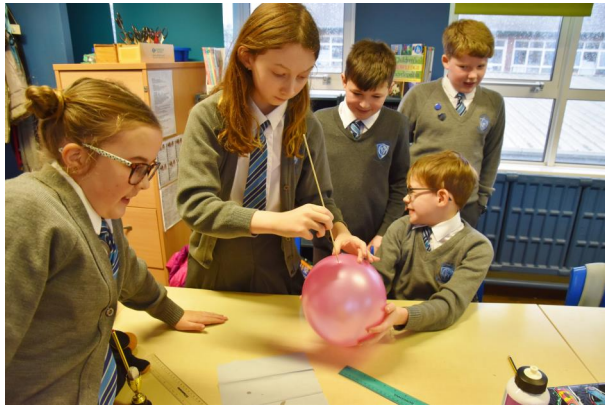
## P7 SCIENCE - 'BALLOON KEBABS'...

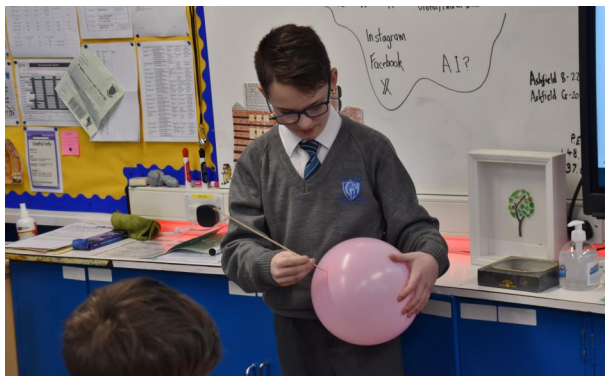
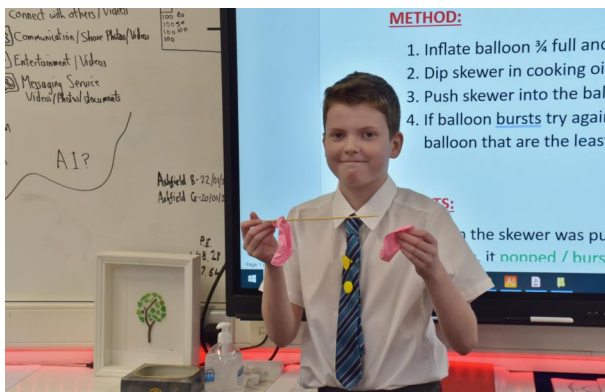
### **Balloon Kebabs**

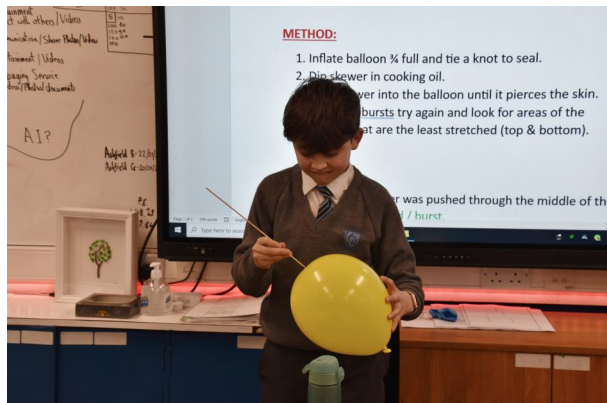
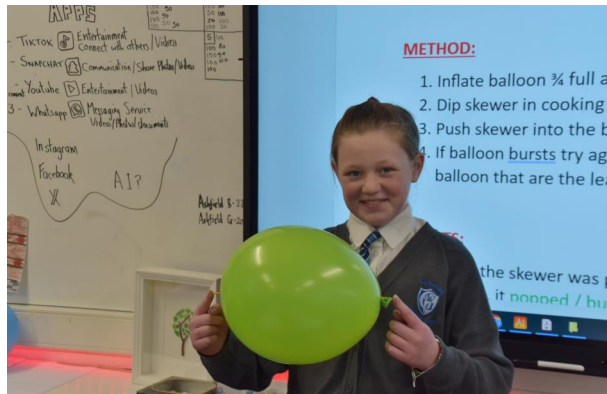
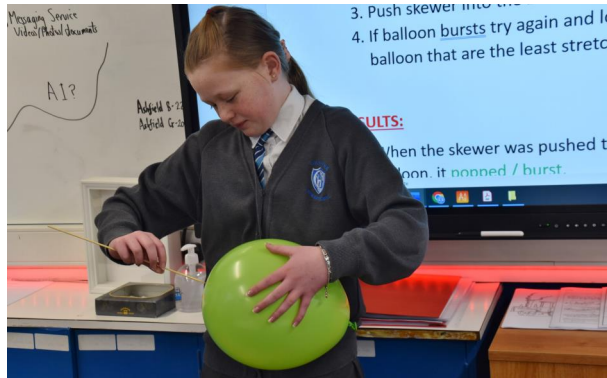
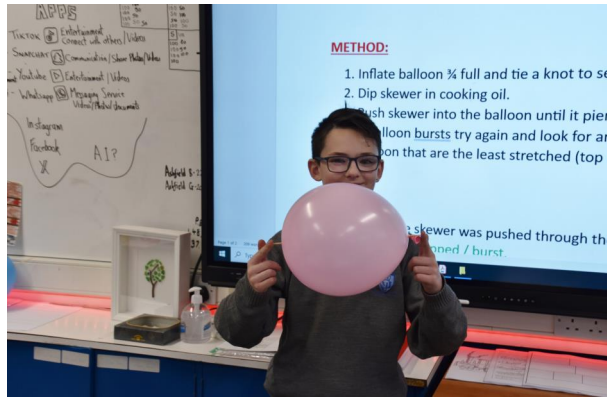
**AIM:** To explore what happens when a kebab skewer is pushed through a balloon that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inflated.

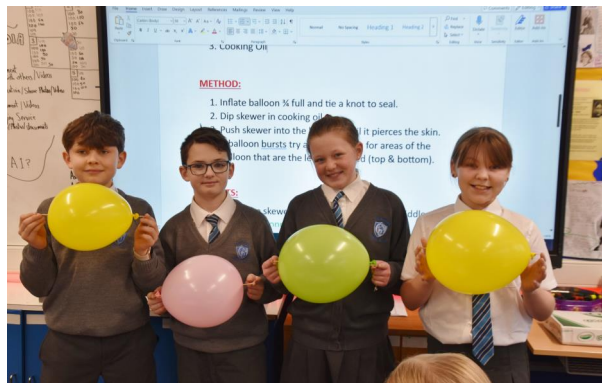
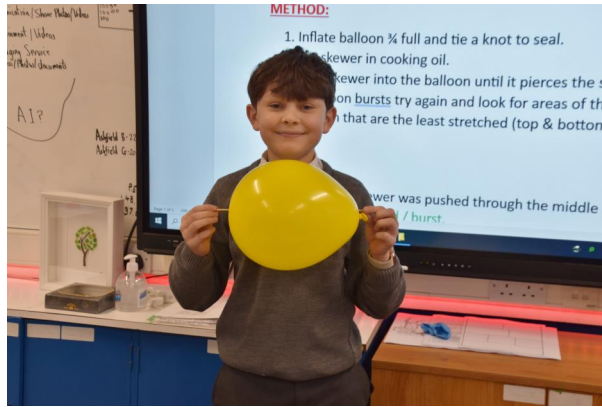
**PREDICTION:** I think the skewer will go through the balloon and the balloon will pop.











## P7 AT STRATHEARN ATHLETICS DAY...











## GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

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

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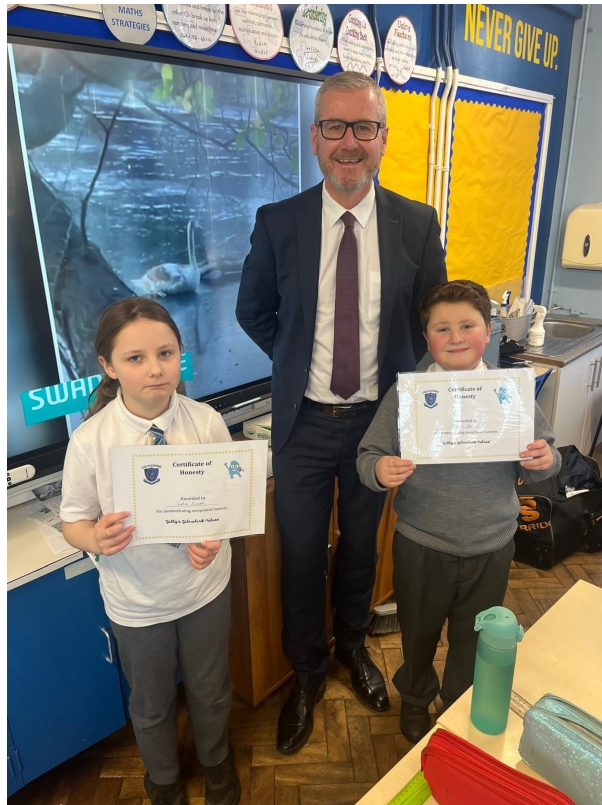
# Kindness



**2 - P1-3 Honesty certificates winners**



**3 - P4-6 honesty certificates winners**

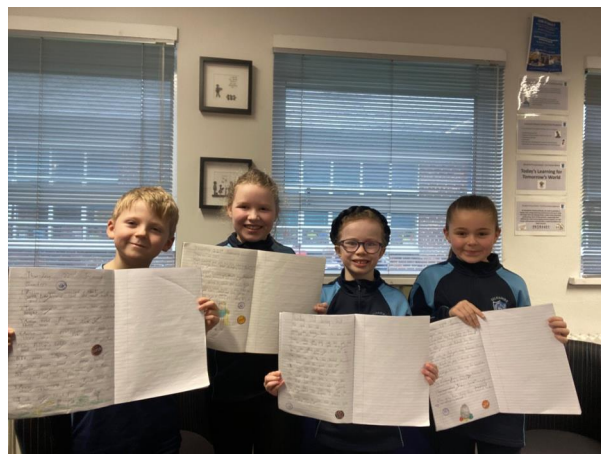


*4 - P7K honesty certificate winners*



*5 - P7H honesty certificate winners*

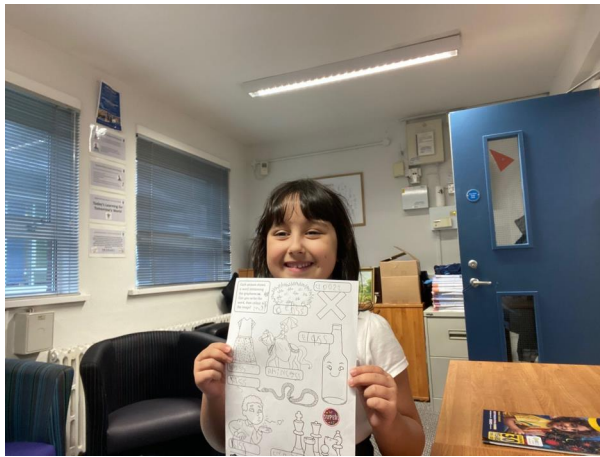
THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



6 - Fantastic reading activity work in P4 from Frederick, Juliet, Anna and Sophie. Great work, everyone!



**7 - Outstanding 'Cold' poems in P3 from Reuben, Alex, Oliver, Thomas, Isla, Charlotte, Reign, Chloe and Elin. Super writing, P3!**



**8 - Mara in P2 has been working so hard on her sounds and produced some great independent work on the 'ss' sound. Super work, Mara!**



**9 - Super handwriting in P2 from Evie, Alba, Holly, Freya, Huxley and Jace. Great work, all of you!**



10 - Amazing penguin facts from Alex, James, Hugo, Daisy, Zach, Reuben, Joshua, Ellie and Bailey. Super work, P1!

## 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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**RISING STAR SOCCER**

# FEBRUARY HALF-TERM SOCCER CAMP

**GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> February

**ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY, LISBURN**  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> February

**EARLY BIRD OFFER!**  
Book before 31<sup>st</sup> January & SAVE £5!

**3 DAY CAMP £40** (£45 after 31<sup>st</sup> Jan)

**2 DAY CAMP £25** (£30 after 31<sup>st</sup> 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 MR. COLBY RUGBY CLUB

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

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

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Time: 9AM-2PM

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

www.galaxycoaching.com f i s d

### 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



# HANDBALL

# CAMP

FOR 6-14 YEAR OLDS

**FREE**

**WHERE**  
Queens PEC Centre,  
Belfast

**WHEN**  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> & Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb  
9am-12pm

In Partnership With



PARENT  
WORKSHOP



## Worry to Wonder

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 10am-11.30am  
Online via ZOOM

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

CALL NOW TO BOOK  
YOUR PLACE  
0808 8020 400



## Wee Brains Matters

Brain development session for  
parents/carers of 0-5 year olds.

**Wednesday 28 January**  
**10am – 11.30am**

To join our free, friendly online session led by  
your local Health Visitor contact:

- 07452 509 055
- [mona.hanna@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:mona.hanna@southerntrust.hscni.net)



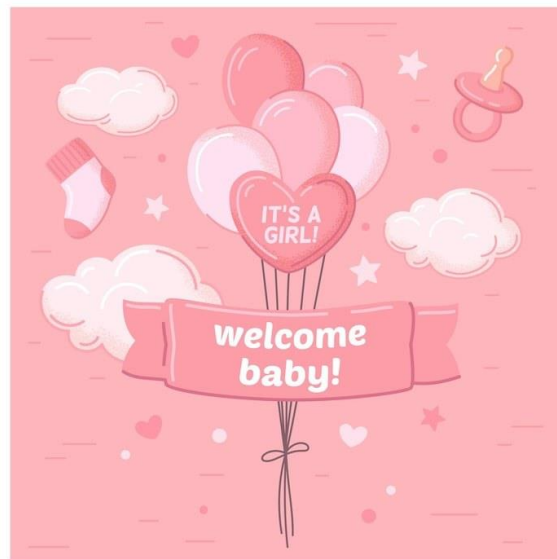
### KEY DATES IN TERM 2...



- **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

## AND FINALLY...



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*We send our congratulations to Mrs Tate and her husband Jonathan on the birth of their second baby daughter, Nina.*

*Mum and baby are both doing well and we send our best wishes to the whole family as they welcome their new arrival!*

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With kind regards

**D Corbett**

Principal.

