

# 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,

That's another week done and we have arrived at our last update for January.

I know it is a short half term but it's hard to believe that we only have one week left before we break for half term (9-13 February inclusive)

Can I draw your attention at the top of this week's update to plans for our **second 'Aspire' (Careers week)**. We'd love you to get involved this year, even if you took part last year.

## ASPIRE WEEK - MONDAY 2 MARCH - FRIDAY 6 MARCH



You may remember our very successful Aspire week last year (careers week) in which many of you took part through class talks, year group presentations and our careers fair. **This links well to our Gilly's Gilnahirk Value of 'Aspiration' for the month of March.**

We have decided to run this again this year and would love as many of you as possible to get involved, in whatever way you can, ***even if you took part last year - we'd love to hear from you again!***

Last year we had such a wide variety of careers represented and hopefully that will be the same this year. However, the trades were under-represented and we'd love to have the tilers, plumbers, electricians etc. to show this side of the world of work.

Please do consider getting involved this year, whatever your profession.

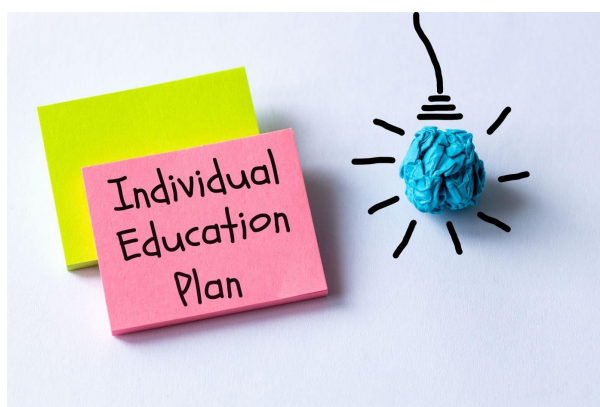
You can express your interest and availability by completing this form: [Gilnahirk Primary School Aspire week \(Monday 2 March - Friday 6 March\) – Fill out form](#)

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*Thank you in advance for your interest and support.*

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## PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (I.E.Ps)...



On **Monday 2nd February** you will receive a copy of your child's reviewed IEP and a copy of their new IEP, which will be reviewed in June. Please take the time to read these documents and if you have any queries in relation to them, you can contact your child's class teacher.

## 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 last Friday 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/>

## P1-6 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS - PRELIMINARY INFORMATION...



*Please see below for some early information on our second round of P1-6 Parent-Teacher interviews:*

- Date: **Monday 9th March - Thursday 12th March.**
- P1-6 children will **finish at 1.15pm** each of those days to accommodate the interviews.
- Bookings will be done once again via the booking portal we have used for the last two sets of interviews. This will open on **Monday 16th February** - further information will be sent regarding this closer to the time.

## TERM 2 CHILD PROTECTION REMINDERS...



*Please see below for a reminder about key Child Protection personnel and procedures at Gilnahirk Primary:*

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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

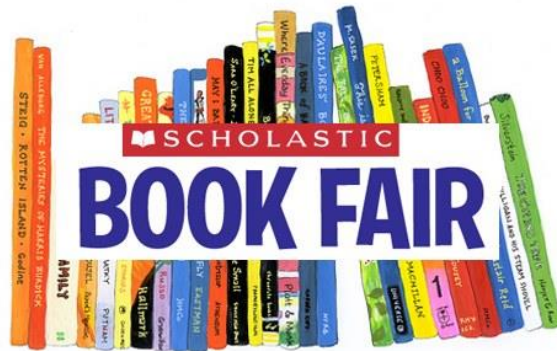
The SFC movement provides lots of helpful information

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...

### P1 LUNCHTIME PLAY...



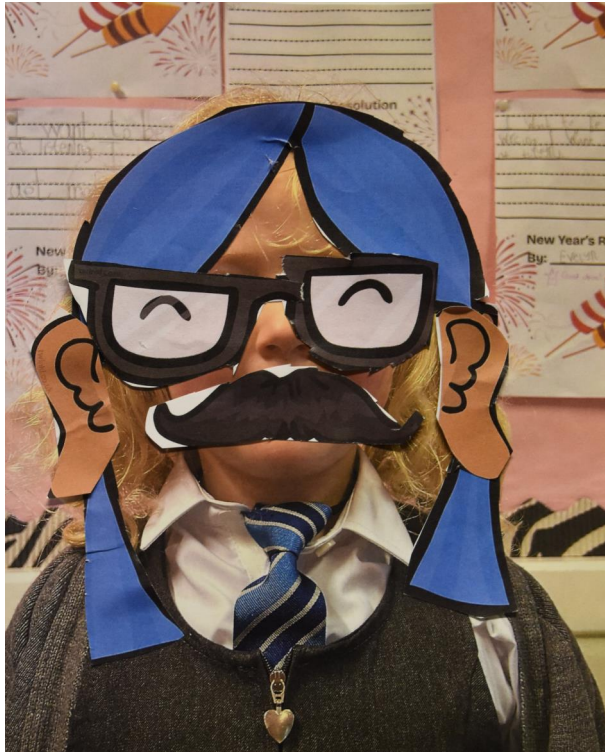


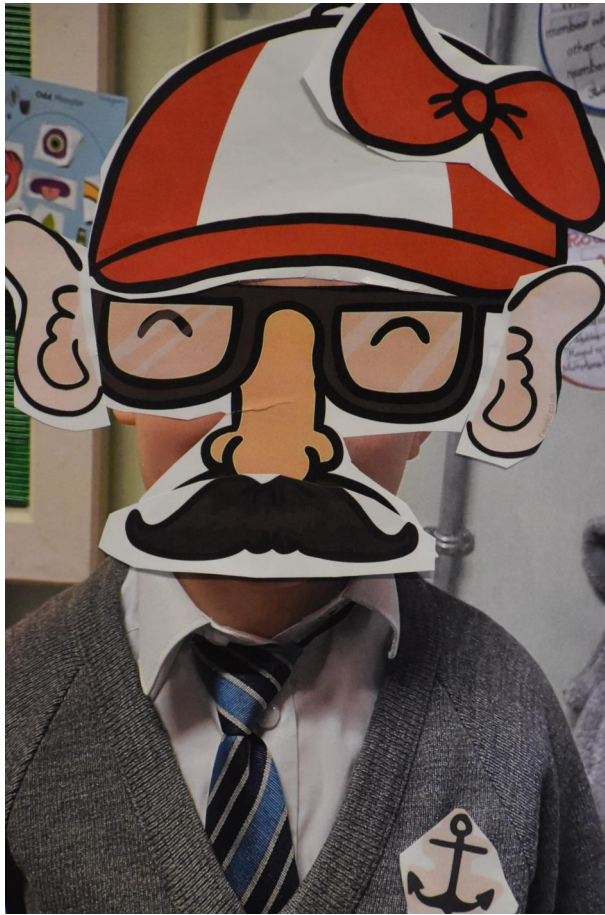
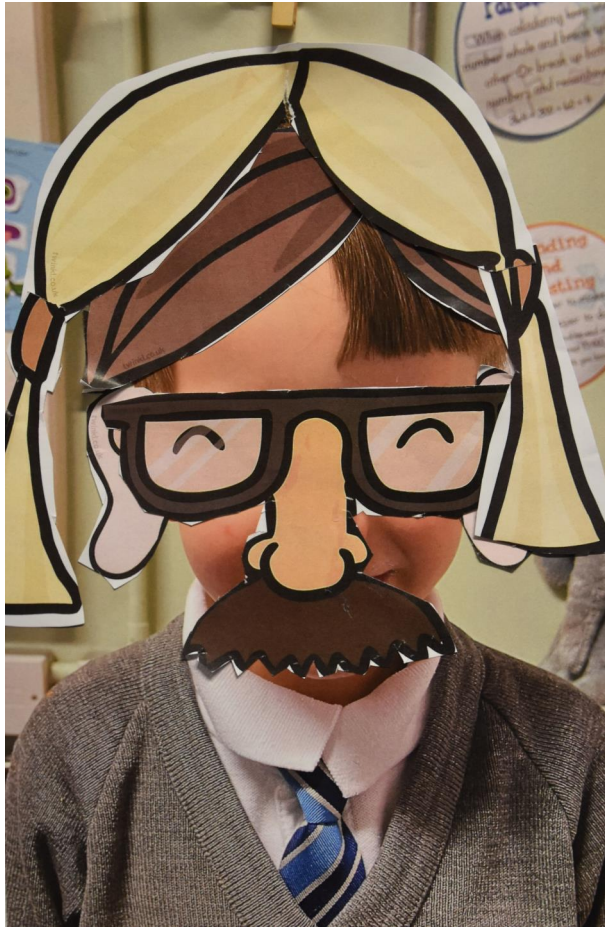




P2 LITERACY - 'BIG WRITE' WEEK - GUESS WHO??









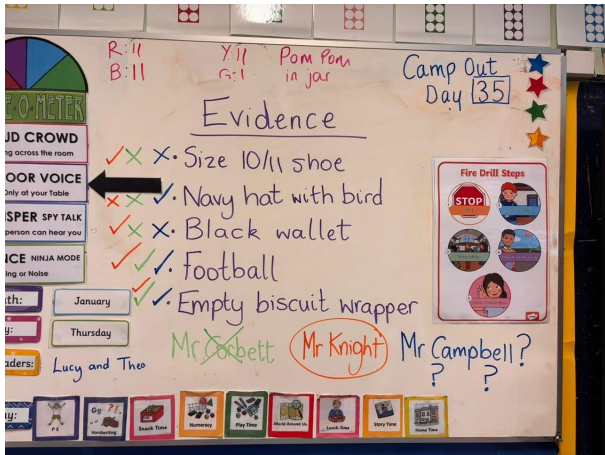
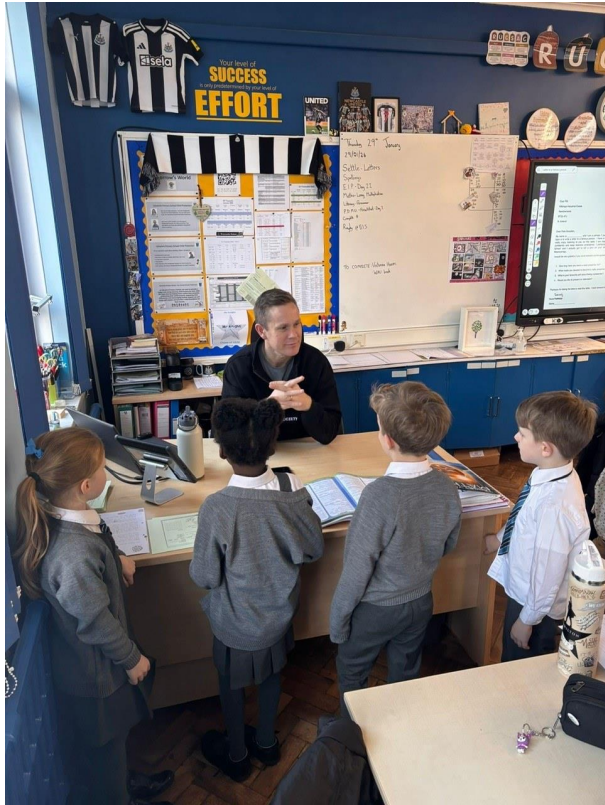


### **P2 'BIG WRITE' WEEK - 'WHODUNNIT?'**

**P2 detectives got on the case of the missing cookies this week. Who took them? Was it Mr. Corbett. Was is Mr. Campbell? Was it Mr. Knight?**









*1 - If it wasn't for those pesky kids, they might have got away with it!!*

## **P2 VISIT FROM MRS KERR (OPTOMETRIST)...**

Mrs Kerr, one of our Gilnahirk parents, visited P2 to talk about her job as an optometrist.  
Thank you, Mrs Kerr!





### P3 P.E. - COACHING WITH CATRIONA...







P4 ART - ROYAL SELF-PORTRAITS...





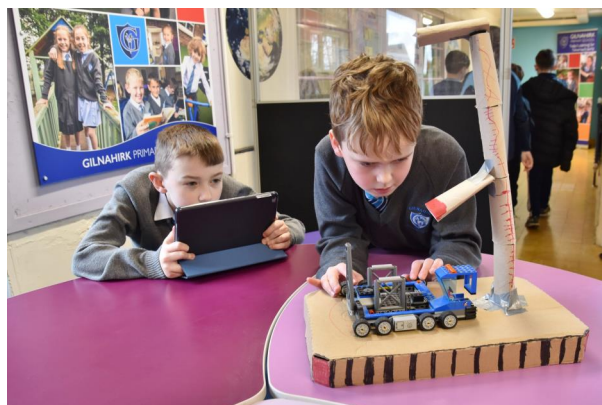


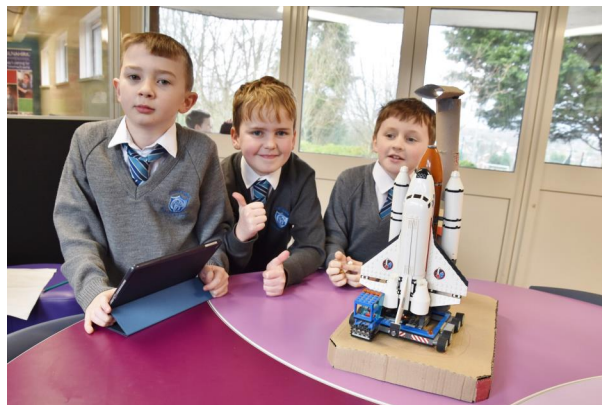
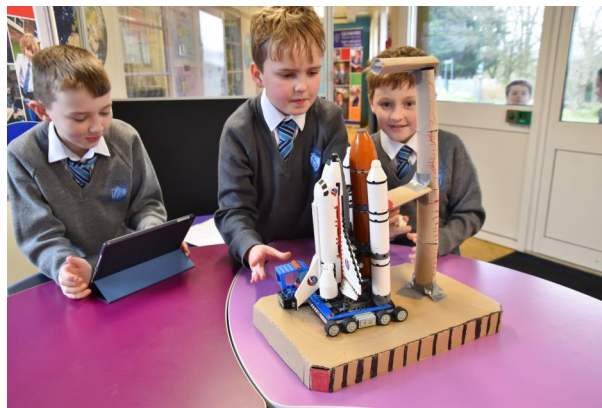






**P5 ICT - ROCKET SHIP MOVIE MAKERS!**





**P6 CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS...**

**Mrs. Nelson held some Cross Country trials for an upcoming meet in March.**





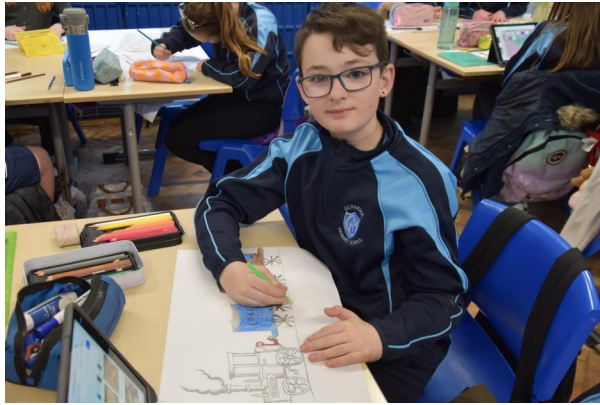


P7 VICTORIAN ART...









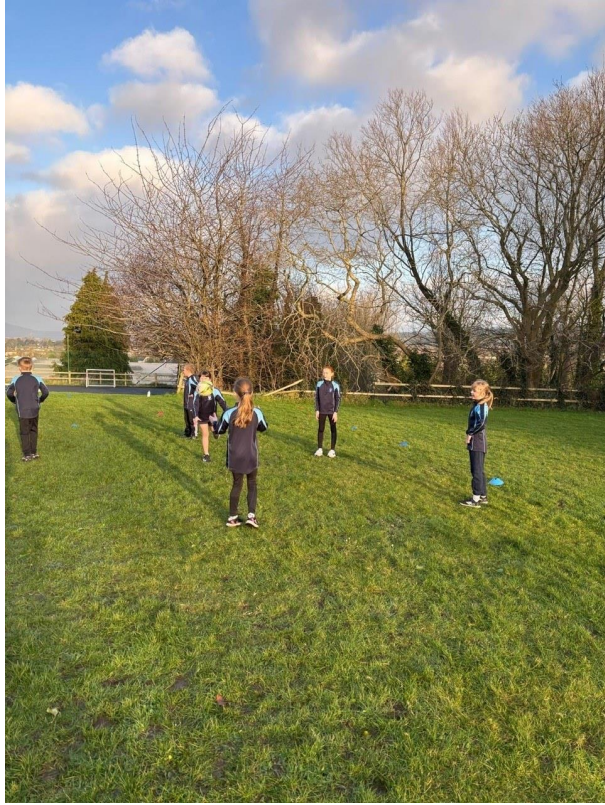
**P6/7 RUGBY COACHING...**

**P6 and 7 enjoyed their first session of rugby coaching with Chris from Civil Service.**

















## FOOTBALL NEWS...



Our boys five-a-side squad travelled to the Shankill Leisure Centre for the Belfast District Primary schools' five a side competition this week.

The boys competed brilliantly, finishing second in their group and progressing to the knockout stage against St Bernard's PS, which they lost 1-0, just narrowly missing out on the finals next week.

Another close call, but we're very proud of how well the boys played and represented our school.



*2 - Back row: Dylan, Archer, Hugo*

*Front row: Bobby, Mason, Mateo*

## **GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...**

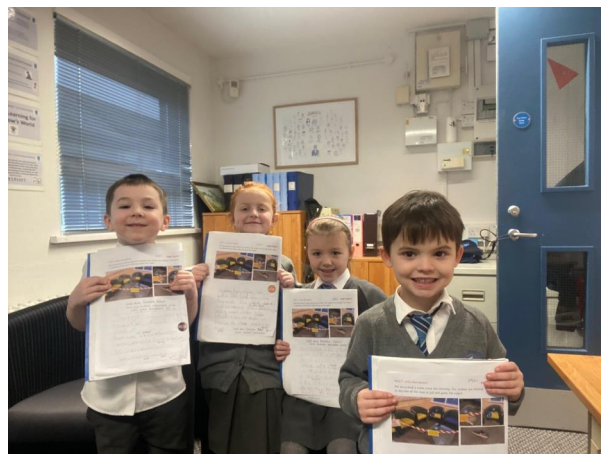
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*Don't forget, our two values for January - Responsibility and Kindness!*

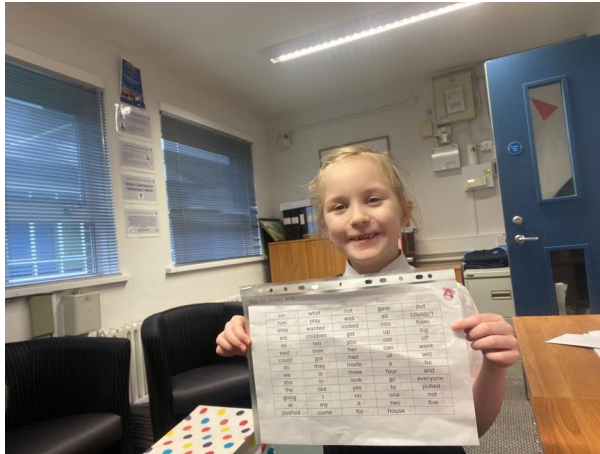
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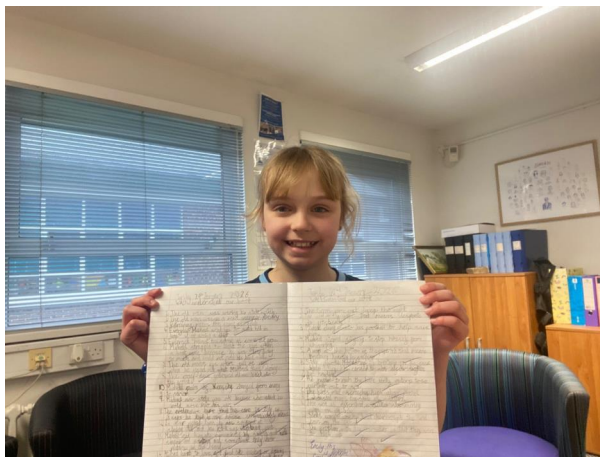
THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



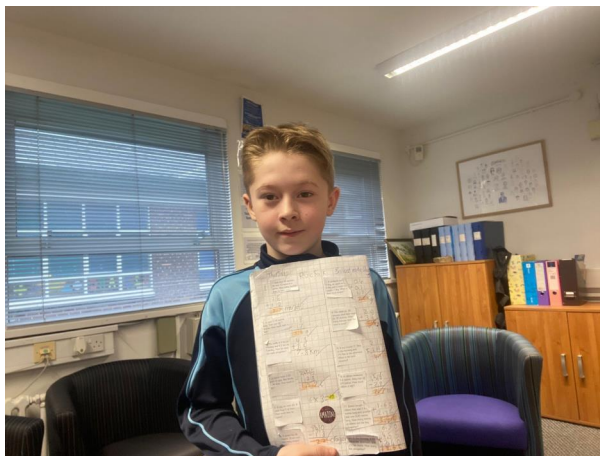
*3 - Adam, Alba, Sophia and Jude all produced brilliant writing in their P2 'Big Write' week! Super work, all of you!*



**4 - Grace in P2 has been working so hard at her high frequency words - great work, Grace!**



**5 - Emily in P6 produced some outstanding reading activity work over the last couple of weeks. Well done, Emily!**



**6 - Oliver in P6 called in to Mr Corbett's office to show his outstanding work on using the RUCSAC strategy to solve mathematical word problems. Well done, Oliver!**

## 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](mailto:dcorbett546@c2kni.net)*



**RISE & SHINE**  
**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**

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**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, 8-15 yrs  
 Strathern 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
- mitchell play
- 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

**OLYMPIC HANDBALL IRELAND**

# 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

**T:buc**  
 Central Good  
 Relations Fund





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

## KEY DATES IN TERM 2...



- **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.

