



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,

We have come to the end of another half term - hopefully you have some nice things planned for the half term break.

At the top of this week's Sway, please take particular notice of the following:

- **Additional Staff Development Days (17 March, 26th May) - school closed to children on those days.**
- **Letter from Governors re: Car Park - please check your child's bag.**
- **School dinners reminders.**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - EXTRA STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS...



The Department of Education has unexpectedly allocated two additional staff development days to schools to train staff in TransformEd, the DE project to reform the NI Curriculum.

I am now in a position to confirm that these two dates will be:

- **Tuesday 17th March** (St Patrick's day)
- **Tuesday 26th May** - to tie in with the late May bank holiday.

School will be closed to children on both of the above dates.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS RE: CAR PARK...



In your child's school bag today, you should find a letter from Mr. Graeme Allen, chair of the Board of Governors, in relation to access to the school car park.

The Governors took the unanimous decision at their meeting on Wednesday evening (4 February) that **from Monday 16th February**, the school car park/grounds will be closed to all vehicle users (including those with blue badges), ***with the exception of staff, delivery vehicles and wheelchair users.***

The letter will provide more detail but you are asked to respect and adhere to the decision of the Governors **to ensure the safety of all of our children.**

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

If someone else, like a grandparent, does school drop off and/or pick up, please ensure this message is communicated to them. Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNERS REMINDERS...



Over the last half term, we have noticed a slip in the school dinners protocols, leading to excessive administrative burdens on our office staff. To assist with this, you are reminded of the following points:

- Dinners for the week ahead **must be booked by Sunday midnight**. If dinners are not booked by this time, a packed lunch should be sent instead. Please do not cold call at reception asking them to add your child in - as you can imagine, in a large Primary School, office staff are incredibly busy, especially first thing on a Monday morning.
- If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, you still need to sign them up for the days they want to take a canteen dinner. You will not be charged but the canteen need to know numbers well in advance for procurement purposes.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

REMINDER TO P7 PARENTS - APPLY NOW FOR POST PRIMARY PLACES...



The portal through which you should make your post primary application for your child is now open and **will close on Thursday 19th February at 12noon**. Please make sure your application is completed by then.

Further information can be found at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide#section-23345>

P1-6 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS.



Please see below for 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** - you will be sent a link to the portal at 4pm this afternoon but you will not be able to book on until Monday 16th. **Hopefully you will remember your log in details from October's interviews but if you have any issues with this, please get in touch.**

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!***

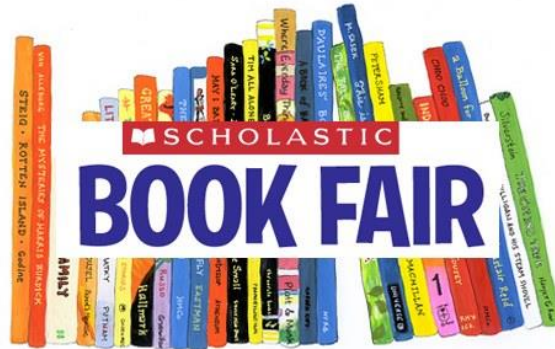
Last year we had such a wide variety of careers represented and hopefully that will be the same this year. However, the trades were under-represented and we'd love to have the tilers, plumbers, electricians etc. to show this side of the world of work.

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](#)

Thank you in advance for your interest and support.

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...

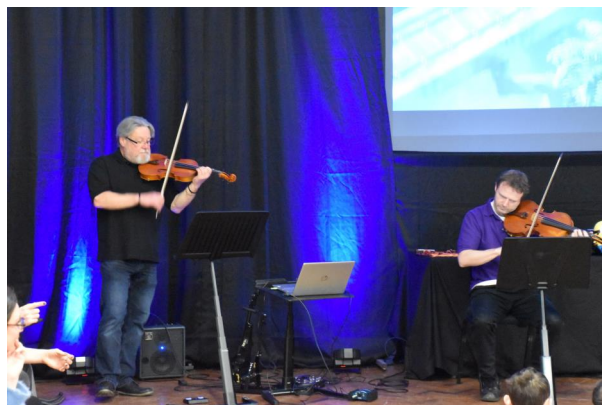
DIGITAL LEADERS LEADING 'SAFER INTERNET' ASSEMBLIES...

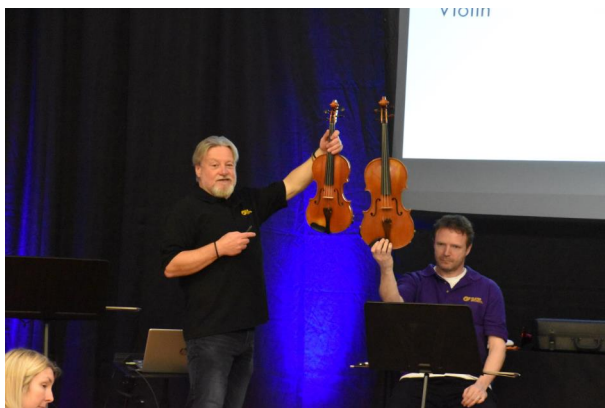
Our Digital Leadership Team led assemblies on 'Internet Safety' reminding the children about the SMART rules when online.





ULSTER ORCHESTRA INSPIRATION WORKSHOPS...





















HOCKEY SESSIONS AT CAMPBELL COLLEGE...

Our boys' and girls' hockey squads travelled to Campbell College for a very successful training session, winning practice matches against Cabin Hill and Cairnshill PS





AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL SESSIONS...



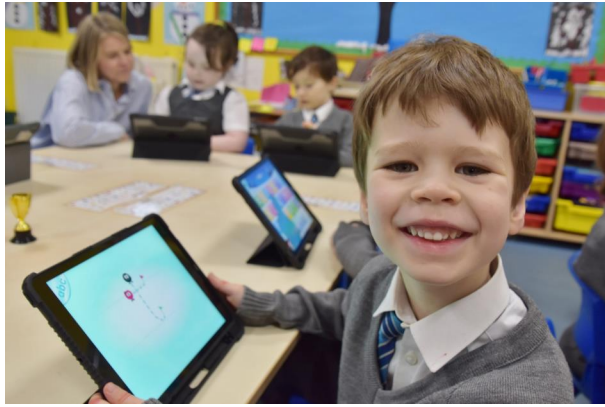




1 - TOON ARMY TAKEOVER AT THE FOOTBALL!

P1 iPad FUN...







P2 DOCTOR VISITS...

P2 loved their visit from Jack's dad (not pictured) and Alex's mum who are both doctors...



P3 ALPHABET SEQUENCE...





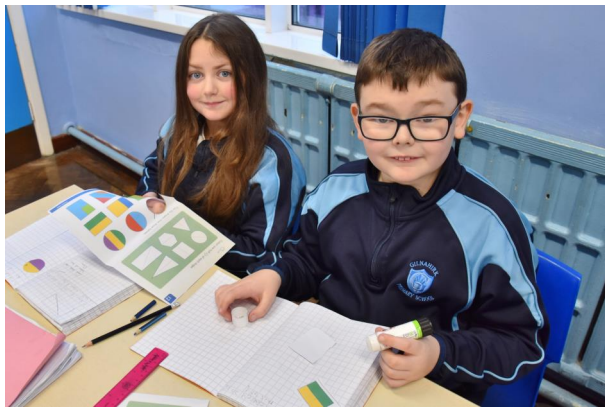
P3 ARCTIC PEAKS AND NORTHERN LIGHTS...





P5 FRACTIONS...







P6 PLANETS MNEMONICS...





P7 DANCING STICKMEN EXPERIMENT...











GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



This week, we awarded certificates for **RESPONSIBILITY** and **KINDNESS**. Here are photos from some of the classes...













THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



2 - Winners from P7K and P7H company points - a wee trip over to the garage to choose their chocolate treat!

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 & SHINE
SOCCER

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM
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
 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 12th & Fri 13th Feb
 9am-12pm

In Partnership With

T:buc
 Central Good Relations Fund

KEY DATES IN TERM 2...



- **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 2nd/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.

