

# 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/carer,

That's the first week back after the Easter break and, as always, we've hit the ground running, with lots going on this week.

## **WELCOME TO GEORGIE, OUR NEWEST SCHOOL MEMBER!**

Georgie, our pets as therapy dog, paid her first visit to school this week. Over the next few weeks, Georgie will visit every class. Georgie is very well trained and is very calm in the school environment. However, if your child might experience some anxiety about this, please let the class teacher know.







## HIKE FOR THE HALLIDAYS...



As many of you will know, our very own Mr Halliday has recently returned from a period of carers' leave, during which he was caring for Caroline, his wife.

A number of our staff are taking part in a 'Hike for the Hallidays' on **20th June** in support of Macmillan Cancer who have been instrumental in Caroline's care.

Please consider donating to this very worthwhile cause at this link:

[https://mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/gilnahirk-primary-school2026?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=dssb-WA&utm\\_content=MPC](https://mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/gilnahirk-primary-school2026?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=dssb-WA&utm_content=MPC)

## NEW GUITAR LESSONS AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 11 MAY...



As part of our expansive music tuition programme at Gilnahirk, an exciting opportunity has arisen for any children who might want to take up guitar lessons. Further details below:

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- *Beginner lessons for children in P4,5 or 6*
    - *£5 per lesson in small groups*
    - *Own guitar required*
  - *Contact Ben McCleary at [benmccleary4@icloud.com](mailto:benmccleary4@icloud.com) or 07935114214*
    - *Please include child's name and class*
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## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR...

Please see below for the proposed school calendar for next year. You will notice there are a total of 8 staff development days instead of the usual 5. The 3 additional days are days stipulated by the Department of Education as TransformED days - these are set for all schools in Northern Ireland next year.

Date	Details
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	School resumes for all children. Early finish
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	Second day of term. Early finish
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b>	School closed for bank holiday
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026</b>	First full day of school
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2026</b>	School closed for TransformED staff development
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026</b>	School closes for half term break
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2026 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026 (inclusive)</b>	Autumn half term break.
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026</b>	School resumes for all children
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026</b>	School closes for Christmas holidays
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027 (inclusive)</b>	Christmas holidays
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027</b>	School closed for Staff Development
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027</b>	School resumes for the spring term
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2027</b>	School closed for TransformED staff development
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2027</b>	School closes for half term break
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2027 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027 (inclusive)</b>	February half term break
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2027</b>	School resumes for all children
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2027</b>	School closes for Easter holidays
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027 – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2027 (inclusive)</b>	Easter holidays
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2027</b>	School closed for Staff Development
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2027</b>	School resumes for the summer term
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2027 (inclusive)</b>	School closed for Early May Bank Holiday/TransformED staff development day/normal staff development day
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027</b>	School closed for late May Bank Holiday
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027</b>	School closes for summer holidays. Early finish

## P5-7 HOUSE COMPETITION RESULTS FOR MARCH...

Our 4 Houses at Key Stage 2 are...





**2 - STORMONT**



**3 - LAGAN**



**4 - DONARD**

The scores for the month of March are in...

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***1st Place - Scrabo with 380 points***

***2nd Place - Stormont with 290 points***

***3rd Place - Lagan with 280 points***

***4th Place - Donard with 230 points***

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## UPCOMING PARENTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR...

### MARATHON RELAY TEAM...



As with previous years, a team of volunteers will run legs in the Belfast Marathon relay on Sunday 3rd May to raise funds for the school. If you would like to contribute you can do so at <https://gofundme.com/f/gilnahirk-primary-belfast-marathon-2026>

**A huge thank you to all of the parents and friends of the school taking part.**

### SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...



### P1 Photographers...







## P2 - Our first written comprehension!







P3 Cricket lesson...







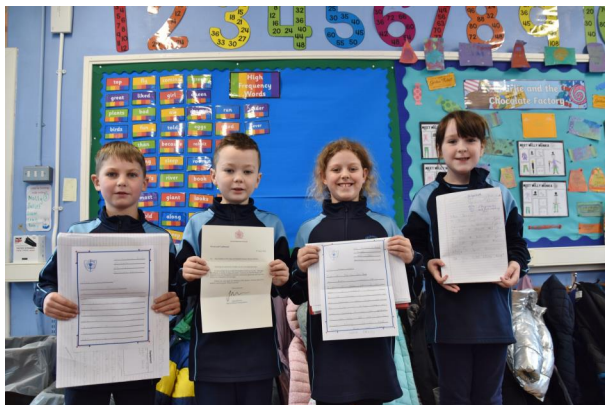
P3 Phonics fun...

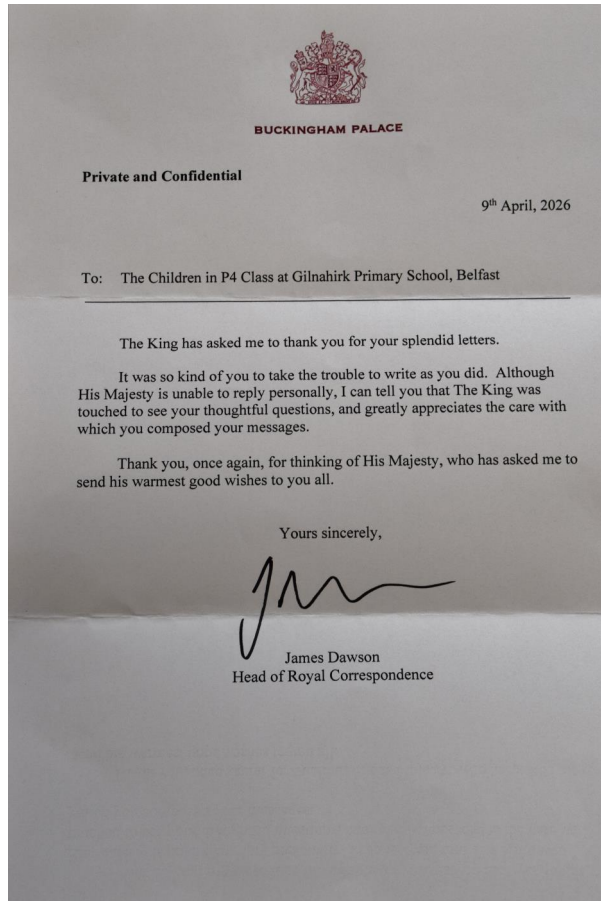






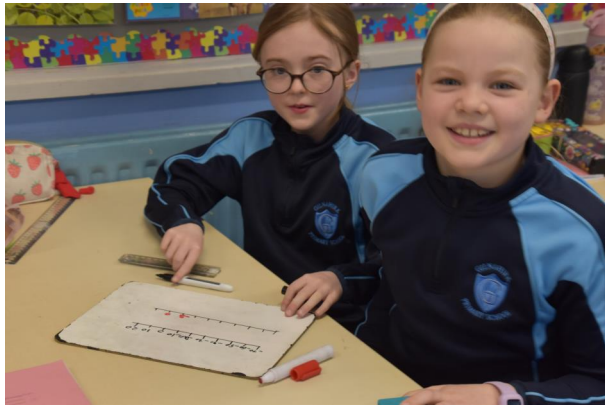
P4 Letters to Buckingham Palace...

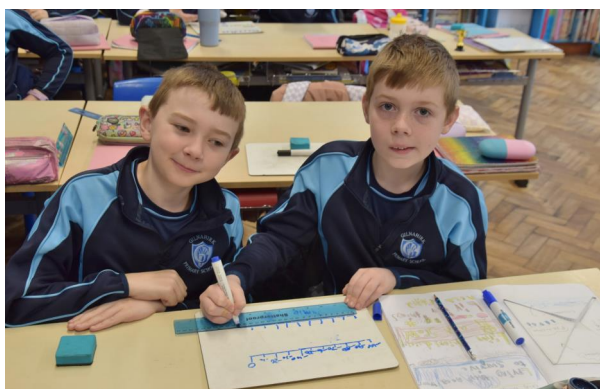




## P5 Positive and Negative numbers...







### **P6 Trip to Ganaway Activity Centre...**

P6 had an amazing couple of days at Ganaway Activity Centre just outside Millisle. The pictures below will give you an idea of the very busy programme!









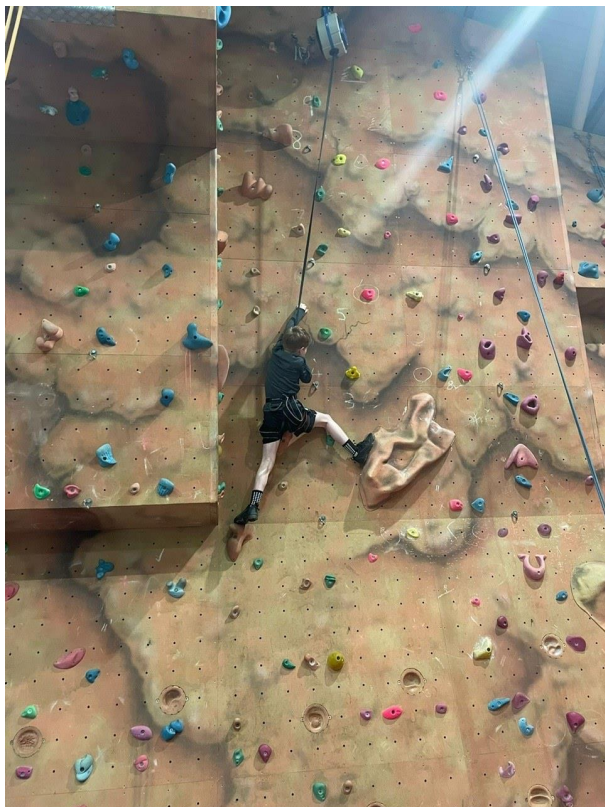




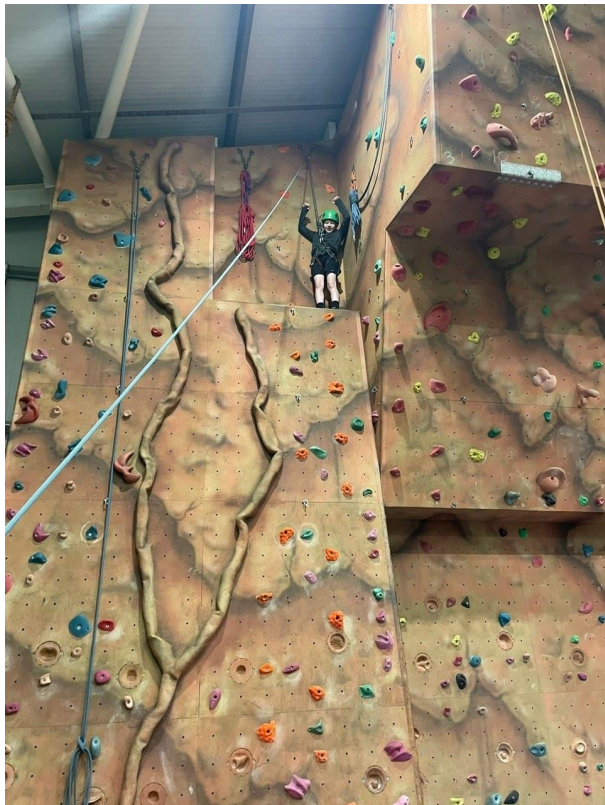
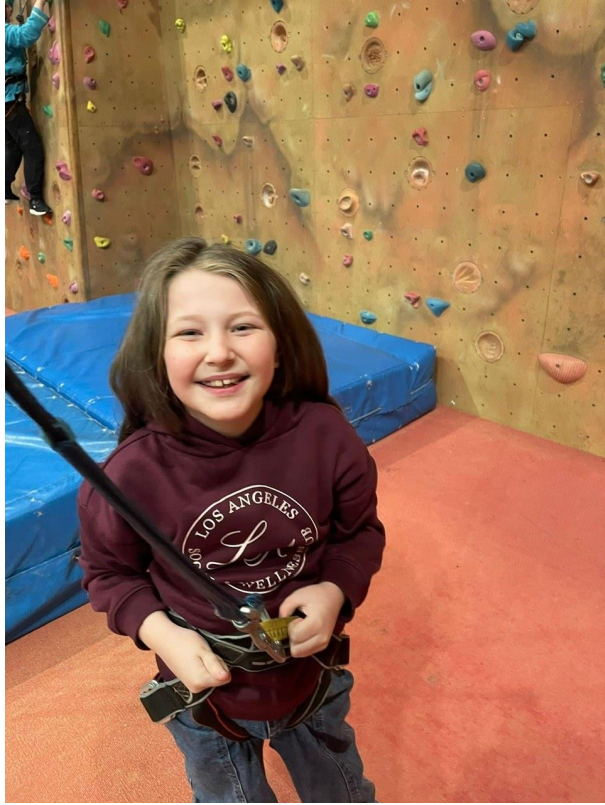


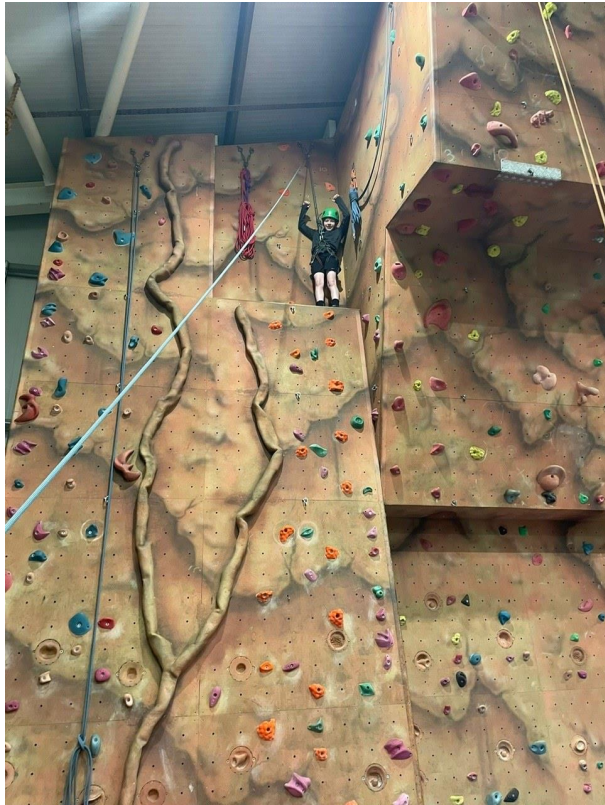




















P7 Fair Trade Art...







THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





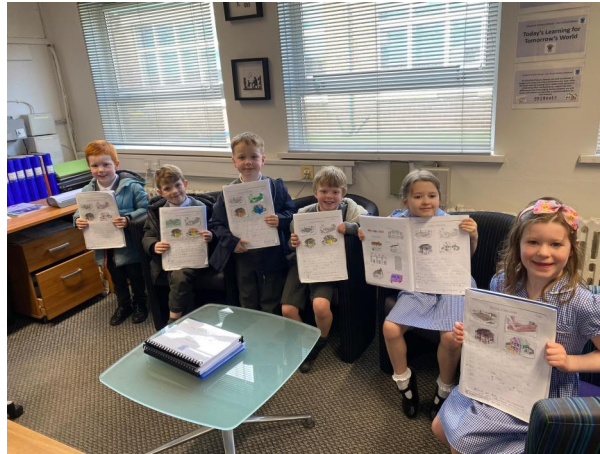
*5 - Sisters Chloe and Sophie both travelled to Dublin to compete in the Swim Ireland finals in the backstroke event. Both girls performed brilliantly, bot achieving personal bests in this event. Fantastic work, girls!*



*6 - Super art work in P3 from Irene, Lily, Mimi and Faye!*



*7 - Brilliant reading activities from Corin and Rory in P3!*



*8 - Amazing writing in P2 from Theo, Chris, Brodie, Ezra, Sienna and Holly!*



*9 - Fantastic Friday progress work from Reuben, Evie and Lexi in P3!*

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

*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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**East Belfast  
Mini Soccer**

Boys & Girls age  
4-11

£65 for 10  
Weeks Football

Friday 24th April

Kickabout  
KIDZ

Clayful  
Minds

**CLAYFUL MINDS  
SUMMER CAMP**

Early bird  
discount-book  
before May 1st

**All Out Summer! | Clay Modelling | Water Fun Days | Baking**  
Yoga | Indoor & Outdoor Activities | Mindfulness & Meditation

**WEEK 1 July 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> | WEEK 2 August 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>**

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church | Beersbridge Rd, Belfast BT5 5DW

**Ages 4-12**

£39.50 per day £185 per week

Sibling discount available for full week bookings

**Limited Spaces Available- Book Early!**

07919371505  
rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk

www.clayfulminds.co.uk  
clayful.rebekah



Code Clock School of Programming @ Queen's  
19th-20th July 2023

**SCHOOL OF PROGRAMMING**

**SUMMER CODE CAMP**  
HOSTED IN:  
**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST**  
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE BUILDING

**10th ANNIVERSARY**

**JUNIOR**  
Age: 7-11  
6th-10th July

**SENIOR**  
Age: 11-18  
27th-31st July

★ Learn to code Using the latest Programmable Technologies.  
★ All workshops delivered by qualified and experienced teachers.

Check out our website for further details [www.codeclock.co.uk](http://www.codeclock.co.uk)

mindstorms Raspberry Pi python unity

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## MAIN DATES FOR TERM 3...



- **Monday 20 April** - P6 parents SEAG meeting at 9.15am in the Morrow Hall
- **Wednesday 22 April** - P7 photos
- **Wednesday 22 April** - P1 trip to Streamvale Farm
- **w/c Monday 27 April** - CAT testing for P3,4 and 6
- **Monday 4 May** - School closed for bank holiday

- **Tuesday 5 May** - School closed for Staff Development Day
- **w/c Monday 11th May** - PTE/PTM testing for P3-7
- **Monday 18 May - Thursday 21 May** - P7 residential trip to Edinburgh
- **Monday 25 May** - school closed for bank holiday
- **Tuesday 26 May** - school closed for Staff Development Day (TransformED)
- **Thursday 28 May** - Induction evening for new P1 parents (September 2026)
- **Friday 29 May** - Parents' Association quiz night
- **Tuesday 2 June** - Sports Day
- **Friday 5 June** - Summer Fair
- **Wednesday 24 June** - P7 Leavers' Party (7pm)
- **Thursday 25 June** - P7 Leavers' Service at Gilnahirk Presbyterian (7pm)
- **Tuesday 30 June** - School closes for summer break

With kind regards

**D Corbett**

Principal.

