

# 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,

I trust you have had a good week.

Quite a lot of information in this week's update, with an abundance of photos in our 'School Life' section, reflecting another action packed week!

## IS YOUR CHILD STARTING P1 IN SEPTEMBER?



If so, you are asked to return the **P1 registration booklet** as soon as possible. You will have received the booklet in your P1 welcome pack. The information contained in the booklet is vital and can take some time to input on to the school's information system, so the earlier we get the booklets, the better. Thank you for your assistance with this.

## SUMMER UNIFORM...



Many of the children have already moved to our summer uniform, but please see below for a reminder of both the boys' and girls' uniforms:

### **Girls:**

Blue/white check summer dress or romper suit

White cardigan or grey school cardigan for cooler days

White or grey socks

White sandals/school shoes (not trainers)

### **Boys:**

White polo shirt

Grey school jumper for cooler days

Grey trousers or shorts

School shoes (not trainers)

***Please note, children who wish to continue wearing the full uniform can do so.***

## P6 PARENTS - NEW SEAG CYCLE STARTS SOON...



***Please see below for the key dates in the new SEAG cycle:***

- 
- *Monday 18th May 2026 - Registration period opens on a portal within the SEAG website ([www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk))*
    - *Friday 18th September 2026 (11.59pm) - Registration period closes.*
    - *Saturday 14th November 2026 (AM) - Entrance Assessment Paper 1.*
    - *Saturday 21st November 2026 (AM) - Entrance Assessment Paper 2.*
  - *Possibly Saturday 23rd January 2027 - Entrance Assessment outcomes are published.*
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***P6 parents, please note:***

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- *Only pupils who have been registered will be able to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment;*
  - *It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to register their children to sit the Assessment;*
  - *It is also the responsibility of parents/guardians to apply for access arrangements (if appropriate).*
  - *The Entrance Assessment consists of Paper 1 and Paper 2 and pupils sit both papers.*
- 

***If you have any queries about any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.***

## P6-7 GIRLS' NETBALL...



P6-7 Girls' netball will run from Wednesday 29th April for 6 weeks. Each session will last from 3.00pm until 3.45pm. Any girls who are interested in attending should return the permission slip they received as soon as possible, if they have not already done so.

## ASSEMBLIES IN TERM3...

Each Wednesday morning, children gather in the Morrow Hall for their weekly Assembly, a part of which is broadly Christian in nature. Assemblies also include:

- Work on our school values (Gilly's Gilnahirk Values)
- School news and announcements
- Celebration of children's success in and out of school (Wednesday Wows!)

Please see below for the list of invited speakers for the Christian aspect of our Assemblies. These speakers are from local churches or organisations with whom we have built up a positive, trusted relationship over many years.

- 
- *15 April - East Belfast PAIS team*
  - *22 April - David Jackson (CEF)*
  - *29 April - Drew Steele (Gilnahirk Baptist)*
  - *6 May - Jack McQuillan (Tullycarnet Presbyterian)*

- 13 May - Laura Hutcheson-Magee (Gilnahirk Presbyterian)
    - 20 May - Nicky Bradley (Knock Presbyterian)
  - 27 May - Matthew Gault and/or PAIS team (Tullycarnet Church of Ireland)
    - 3 June - Jax McCallum (Scripture Union)
  - 10 June - Ken McGrath (St Dorothea's Church of Ireland)
    - 17 June - David Jackson (CEF)
    - 24 June - Drew Steele (Gilnahirk Baptist)
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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.**



### QUIZ NIGHT...



**Friday 29th May** sees the return of our ever popular quiz night. Further details will be provided but do consider keeping that date in the diary.

### **SUMMER FAIR - CRAFTERS WANTED...**

Our Summer Fair is scheduled to take place on **Friday 5th June from 5.30pm - 7.30pm**. If you would like to set up a stall, please see the contact information on the image below...



## **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FUND RAISING - WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?**

As the summer term gets in to full swing, with two big fundraisers coming up (Quiz night and Summer Fair), I thought it would be a good idea to let you know the sort of things we have been able to do over the last few years using the funds raised through the various Parents' Association events...

- 
- *Purchase of 30 new iPads*
  - *New 4G surface in the P1 playground*
  - *Replacement of 'ActivPanels' in the P7 classrooms*

- *A range of outdoor play equipment*
  - *Development of a sensory room, known to the children as 'the Green Room'.*
  - *Refurb of ICT suite, including fresh paint, new carpet, 3 new flat screen TVs, attractive wall transfers and contemporary lighting.*
  - *Refurb of school library, including new shelves, fresh paint, new carpet, contemporary lighting*
  - *Development of 'break out' spaces across the school to aid in the support of small group teaching and music tuition. This involved repurposing spaces around the school including re-painting and carpeting. We have created new spaces called 'The Snug', 'The Cove', 'The Nook', 'The Den' and 'The Burrow'*
  - *Attractive new roller blinds in every classroom, including ICT suite, library, Mrs Newnes' learning support room and other smaller spaces.*
  - *Development of an outdoor chess playing space in the P7 playground and the purchase of chess boards.*
  - *Resources for the 'Morning Club' (for children who come in to school a bit earlier to aid the morning transition)*
    - *Development of garden spaces in the front playgrounds.*
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The above list does not include a whole range of smaller bits and pieces that are necessary to keep our school running.

The reality is that ten or more years ago, schools usually had a bit of spare money to afford items such as the ones listed above, but in the current climate, schools barely receive enough money to cover staff costs. This means that your support is absolutely vital and not taken for granted - it is, as always, deeply appreciated. Thank you.

## 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:

- 
- *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

## 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 CURRENT PLACINGS...

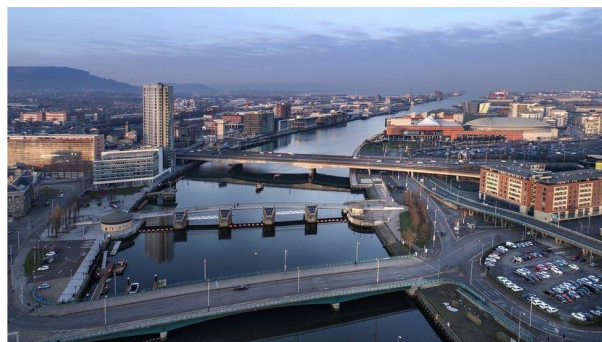
Our 4 Houses at Key Stage 2 are...



*1 - SCRABO*



*2 - STORMONT*



*3 - LAGAN*



*4 - DONARD*

## Current House Placings...

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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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## SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...



P1 TRIP TO STREAMVALE FARM...



















P1 ENJOYING THE SPRING SUNSHINE...

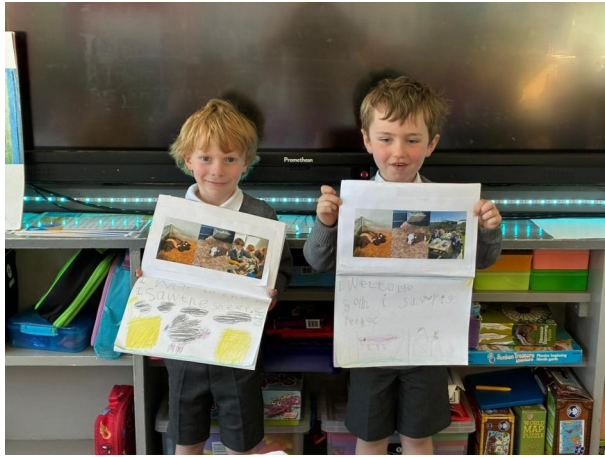






**P1 VISIT P3 TO SHOW THEIR WORK...**

Some of our P1 children called in to Mrs KJ's P3 class to show their brilliant writing about the farm.



## P2 HOUSE BUILDERS...







### P3 WORKING AT THEIR HANDWRITING...



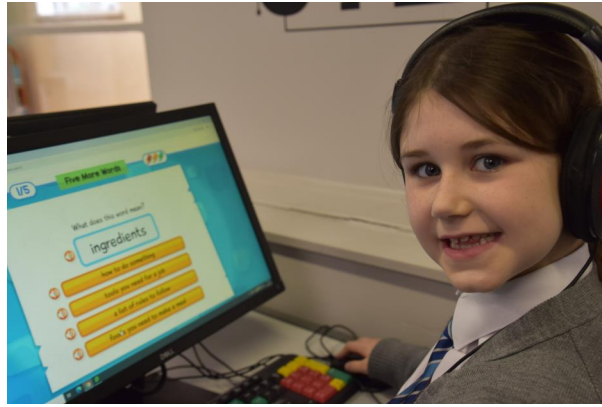




**P4 LITERACY THROUGH ICT...**







#### P4 PE - DRIBBLING SKILLS...







**P6 YOUNG ENTERPRISE...**

*P6 enjoyed their 'Our World' workshop with Young Enterprise...*





**P7 FRENCH DAY...**

*No shortage of French stereotypes in our **P7 French Day** this week!!*



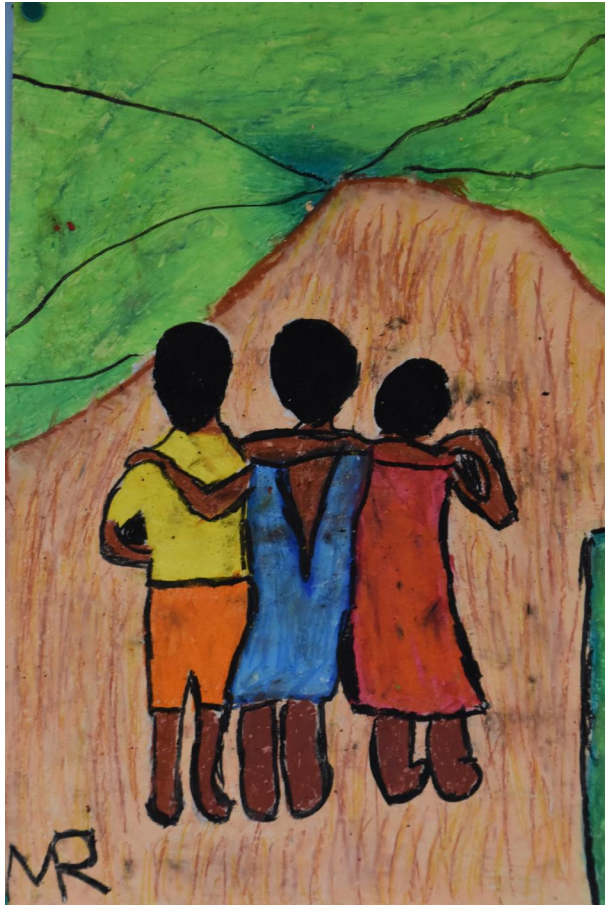


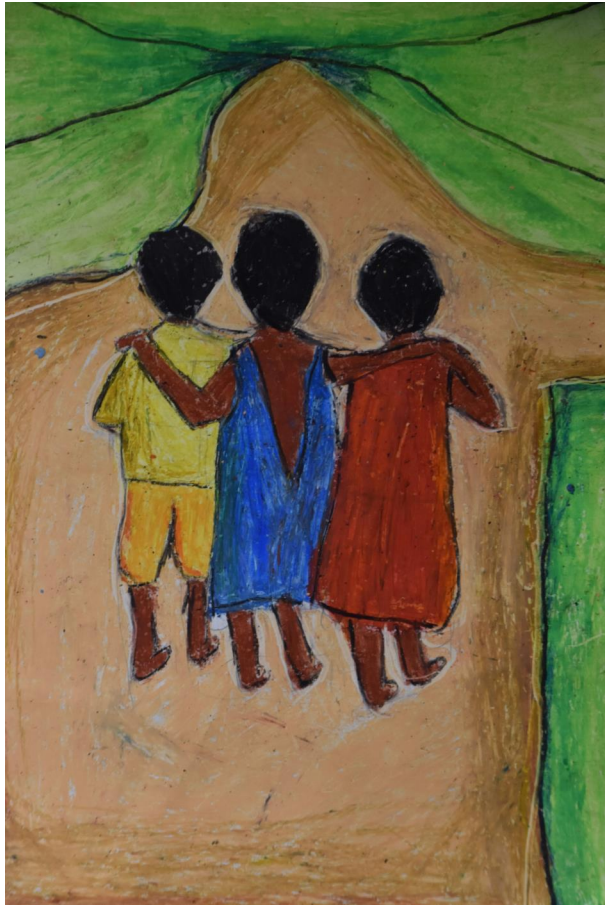


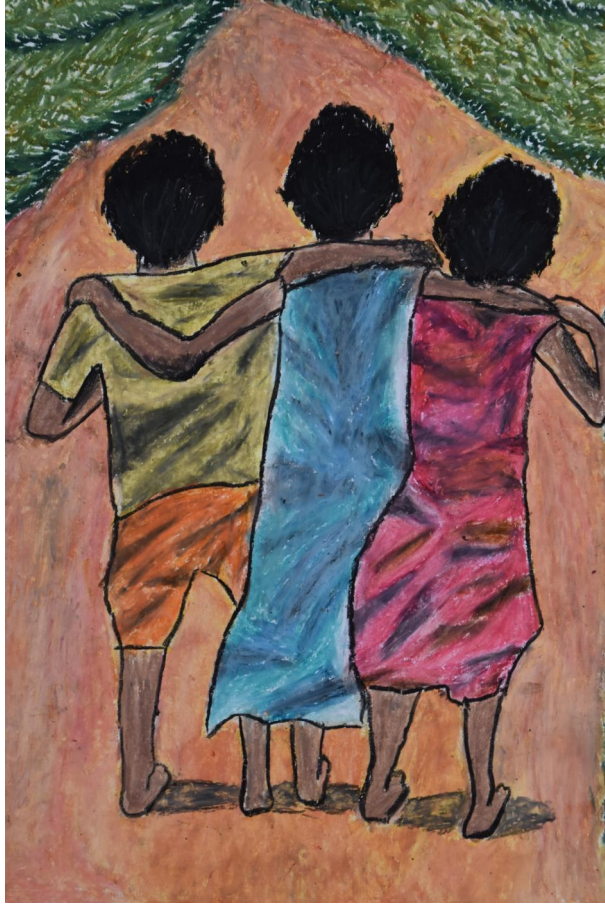


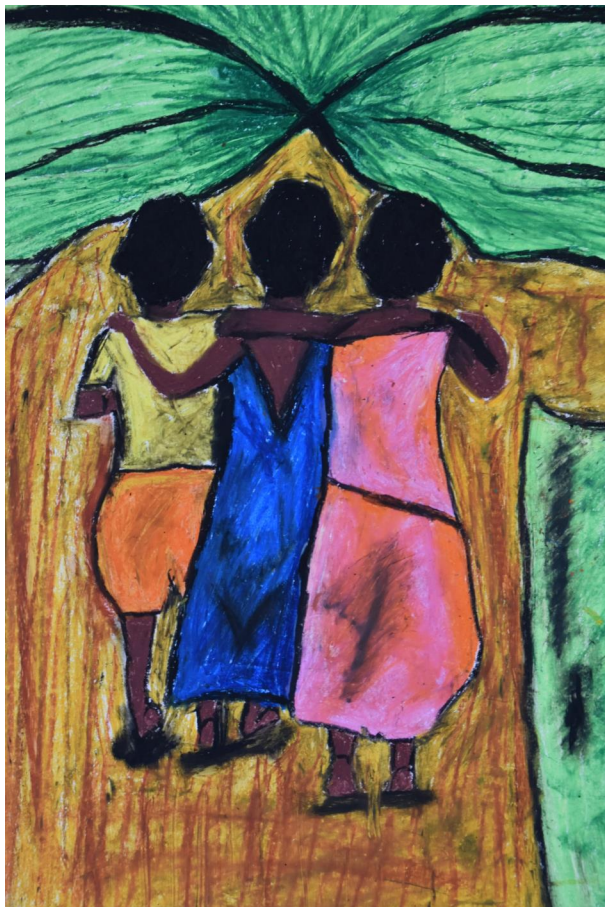
P7 FINISHED FAIR TRADE ART...













## VISIT FROM THE PSNI...

*Barry and Paul from the PSNI dropped in to school this week to remind our children about **staying safe**. They also talked about what their job entails, showed the children their kit and made a couple of arrests!*



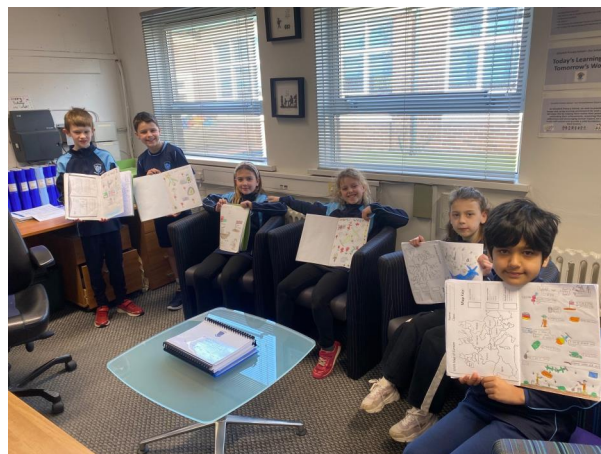


GEORGIE PAYS ANOTHER VISIT TO SCHOOL...





THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



5 - Super topic pages on WW2 from Alex, Ben, Winter, Caitlin, Nona and Owais. Great work!



6 - Brilliant independent writing about the farm in P1 from Katie, Ellie, Laurel, Daisy and Patrick.



7 - More super independent writing in P1 from Lucy, Olivia, Faye, Lily, Albie, Saul and Elliot.



8 - Beautiful tulip art work from Isla, Jack, Oscar, Isaac, Alex and Erin in P3.

## 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)*



**GIVE BLOOD  
Save Lives**

Book now for your local community blood donation session!

**VENUE**  
Wellington College  
Belfast

**DATE & TIME**  
Wednesday 29 April  
17:00 - 19:30

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

SCAN ME

Scan to book your appointment.

[www.NIBTS.org](http://www.NIBTS.org)

Northern Ireland  
Blood Transfusion Service





THE  
CHANGING LIVES  
INITIATIVE  
FLOURISH & THRIVE



## Sensory SOS!

Practical Strategies for  
Kids Who Feel Everything

Free Workshop For  
Parents and Caregivers

Does your child struggle with loud noises, itchy clothes or strong smells? For some children, everyday experiences can feel overwhelming to the senses. This free workshop will help you understand why sensory sensitivities happen, what they can look like, and how they affect daily life.

Whether your child has a diagnosis, is waiting, or you're beginning to explore the possibility, this session offers knowledge, confidence, and practical strategies you can use right away.

In this workshop you can expect:

- ✓ Parent-friendly information on what sensory sensitivities are and how they can affect children
- ✓ Practical strategies to support your child

### Event Details:

24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026

10:30AM - 11:30AM

GREENWAY WOMENS  
CENTRE  
19 GREENWAY  
BT6 0DT



SCAN HERE



PEACEPLUS

Children's Mental Health



Colin  
Neighbourhood  
Partnership

Supporting all walks of life

A project supported by the PEACEPLUS Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Delivered by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership as part of The Changing Lives Initiative: Flourish & Thrive

## GAMING AND GAMBLING HARM AWARENESS SESSION FOR PARENTS, CARERS, AND GUARDIANS

Come and join Ygam's online awareness session to develop your understanding of gaming and gambling, enabling you to have conversations with your children about the potential harms.

DATE: WED 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

TIME: 7-8.30PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

CALL 0808 8020 400



Parent  
LineNI  
0808 8020 400

**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  
19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

# SCHOOL OF PROGRAMMING

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

**10<sup>th</sup> 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)

**HSC** Belfast Health and Social Care Trust  
caring supporting improving together

**HSC** Health and Social Care

# PHONE FIRST

Before going to the Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Mater Infirmorum Hospital or Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children you should **PHONE FIRST**

**028 9615 9444**

Operating from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays

Get directed to the right care, first time

**FOR EMERGENCIES - 999**  
Including: stroke, heart attack, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, severe bleeding or major trauma  
**ALWAYS CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY**

## MAIN DATES FOR TERM 3...



- **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.

