

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/carer,

That's another week done in quick time - I hope it has gone well for you.

At the top of this week's update, can I draw your particular attention to the following:

-
- *Parents' Association Quiz night (Friday 29th May from 8pm) - time is running out to secure your ticket - £10 per person - see information below*
 - *School Uniform purchase - if buying from school, please see the information on order deadline in the uniform section of the Sway.*
-

WEDNESDAY WOW WITH A DIFFERENCE!



This week in Assembly, we had a once in a lifetime Wednesday Wow, when Evie (P5) and Alfie (P3) told us the amazing story of meeting King Charles and Queen Camilla. The King and Queen paid a visit to Titanic Distillers, which Stephen (Evie and Alfie's dad) is CEO of.

Alfie got to present the King with some whiskey glasses and Evie got to present the Queen with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. What an amazing experience!!



PURCHASING OF UNIFORM/PE KIT FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR...

At this time of the school year, thoughts begin to turn to uniform for the new school year. Please see the following points which reflect the **recent legally binding guidance published by the Department of Education:** (guidelines can be found at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-uniforms-guidelines>)

- School jumpers and cardigans with the Gilnahirk crest can be purchased via SchoolMoney (in the Shop section). Depending on size, prices vary from £14.50 to £17.00 for the jumpers and £15.00 to £17.50 for the cardigans.

- Please note, we operate the uniform sales to break even - no profit is made for the school.
- As per the recent guidance, there is no obligation on you to purchase the school crested jumpers/cardigans. Plain grey cardigans and jumpers can be purchased from a range of outlets.
- As school is the only official stockists for school ties, they must be purchased from the online shop on SchoolMoney at a cost of £3.50 for junior ties (elasticated) and £4.00 for senior ties.
- As with previous years, grey trousers and skirts can be purchased at a range of outlets - we do not sell these from school.
- School PE kits for P4-7 (quarter zip and sports T-shirt) will once again be available to purchase and further information will be provided about this later in the term. In keeping with the guidance, we cannot insist that you purchase the PE kit but parents who have purchased them in the past report good quality, durability and value for money - if you buy large, there is no reason why a PE kit cannot last two years.
- If you choose not to purchase the PE kit, you will be advised later in the term about the alternative.
- P1-3 children will continue with existing PE kit arrangements.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ORDERING UNIFORM FROM SCHOOL...

*If you are ordering jumpers, cardigans, ties and other items from school, you should do so through the Shop section on SchoolMoney by **Friday 10 July**. If you order later than this date, we cannot guarantee that you will have the item or items in time for the new school year, due to staff shortages over the summer break.*

MILK ORDERS FOR FIRST HALF TERM OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR...



If you wish your child to take milk in school, this is a reminder that milk orders for September-October 2026 should be placed on SchoolMoney by **19th June 2026**. Orders placed after that time will not be processed.

REMINDER...



School is closed on:

Monday 25th May for the late May bank holiday

Tuesday 26th May for a staff development day on TransformEd.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY UPDATE...



A revised Child Protection policy which was ratified at last week's Board of Governors' meeting can be found on the school website at this link:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/school-information/key-information>

By way of reminder, our safeguarding team consists of:

Mrs Thelma Johnston - Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr David Corbett - Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr Alan Morrow - Designated Governor for Child Protection

In their roles as Vice-Principal and SENCo, **Mr Gary Halliday** and **Mrs Louise McCaffrey** are also actively involved with pastoral care in school.

LOST PROPERTY...

Do you recognise any of these coats from the lost property box? If so, please call at reception to collect.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS...

QUIZ NIGHT...



Friday 29th May sees the return of our ever popular quiz night.

Tickets are now available at the cost of £10 per person in the Shop section on SchoolMoney.

It would be great to see the Morrow Hall full that evening.

SUMMER FAIR...



Our Summer Fair is planned for **Friday 5th June from 5.30pm - 7.30pm**. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible. There will be lots of stalls, food and other attractions.

SPORTS DAY INFORMATION...



Sports Day is scheduled for **Tuesday 2nd June**, with each year group running a few races at the times listed below. Hopefully as many mums, dads, grannies, grandas (and whoever else!) can make it to cheer the children on in their races.

P1 - 9.00 - 9.30

P2 - 9.30 - 10.00

P3 - 10.00-10.30

P4 - 11.00-11.30

P5 - 11.30-12.00

P6 - 12.00-12.30

P7 - 12.30-1.00

Please note in the event of poor weather, we will run a contingency sports day on Thursday 4th June at the times noted above. If the weather is also poor on the Thursday, year group races will be run in the hall. In the unlikely event of this happening, unfortunately space would not allow parents to attend.

P5-7 HOUSE COMPETITION .

Our 4 Houses at Key Stage 2 are...



1 - SCRABO



2 - STORMONT



3 - LAGAN



4 - DONARD

RESULTS FOR APRIL...

The points for April are in...

1st place - Scrabo with 770 points

2nd place - Stormont with 630 points

3rd place - Lagan with 580 points

4th place - Donard with 500 points

OVERALL CURRENT HOUSE PLACINGS...

Overall placings are as follows...

1st Place - Scrabo with 1150 points

2nd Place - Stormont with 920 points

3rd Place - Lagan with 860 points

4th Place - Donard with 730 points

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



Don't forget our Gilly's Gilnahirk Value for this month is PERSEVERANCE...

SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...



P1 VISIT FROM RACHEL

Mabel's auntie Rachel came in to P1 and showed her short film animation called 'Stand By Me'. It was fantastic and the children loved watching it and hearing all about how animations are made. Thank you Rachel!







P1 OUTDOOR PLAY...





P2 CAMP OUT IN THE HALL!

As a reward for filling their class donut jar, P2C camped out in the hall, enjoying marshmallows and movies!













P2 PLAY...





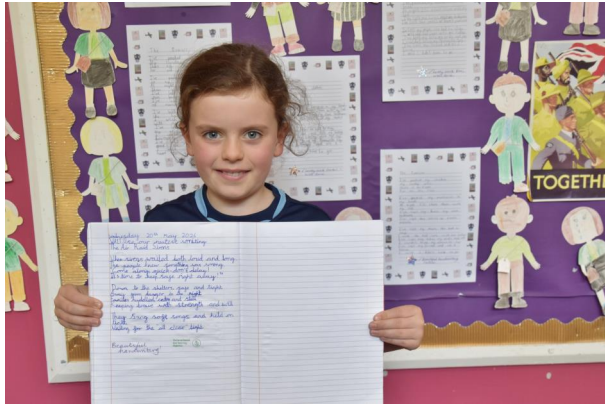


P3 LUNCHTIME FUN...









P4 BELFAST BLITZ ART...





P6 NETBALL AND FOOTBALL AT LUNCHTIME...

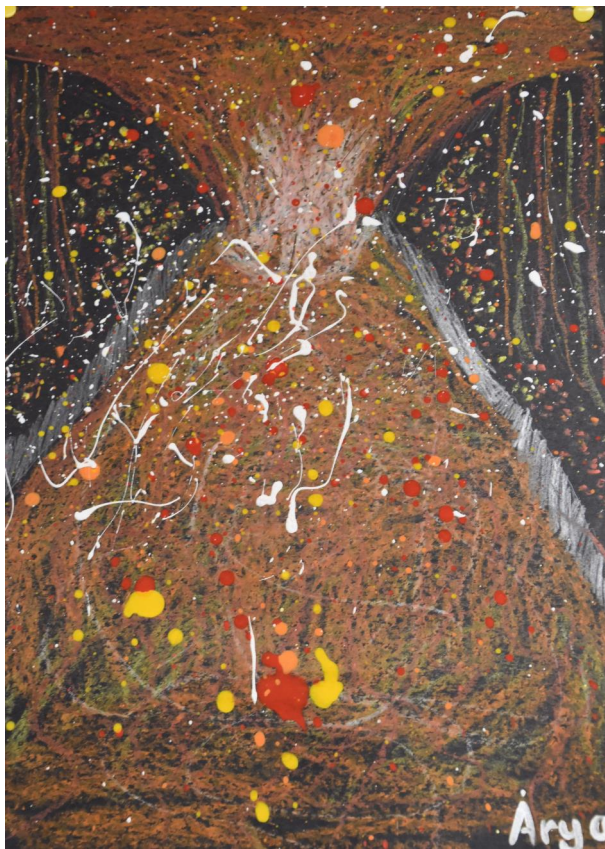


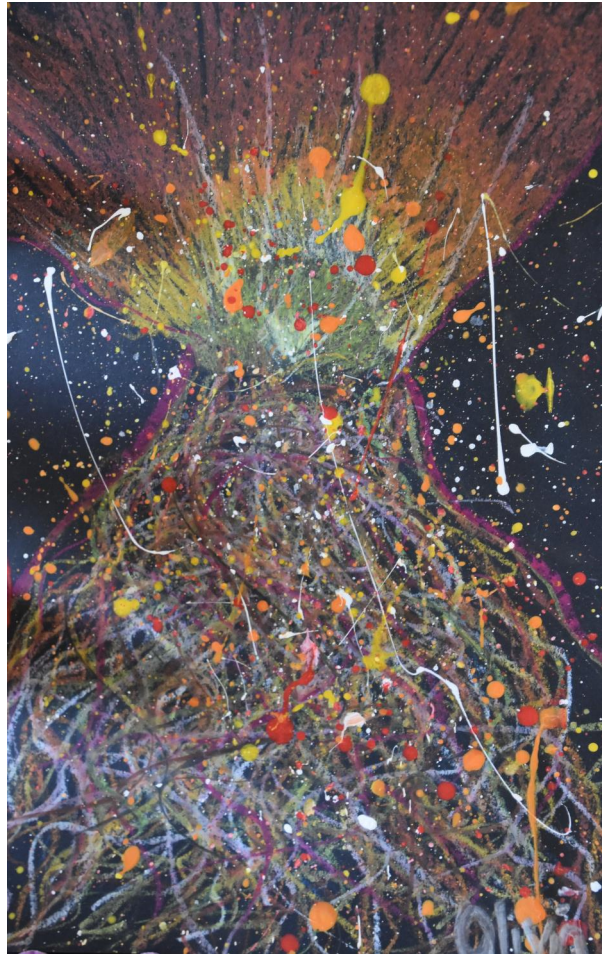


P6 VOLCANIC ART...









SPORTS UPDATE...

BOYS' FOOTBALL...

Another tournament win for the Gilnahirk footballers, this time for the boys, in the East Belfast Primary Schools festival. In the group stage, they played 6 games, winning 4 and drawing 2, without conceding a single goal. This took them to a crunch semi-final against local rivals Braniel PS. After a tight encounter, the game went down to penalties, which Gilnahirk won. Last hurdle was Nettlefield PS in the final. Another cagey match in regulation time resulted in another penalty shoot out! Gilnahirk held their nerve and secured the win. Cue the wild celebrations!









THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...

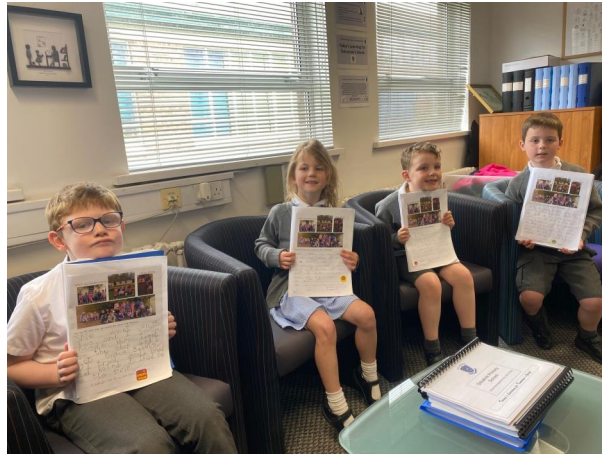




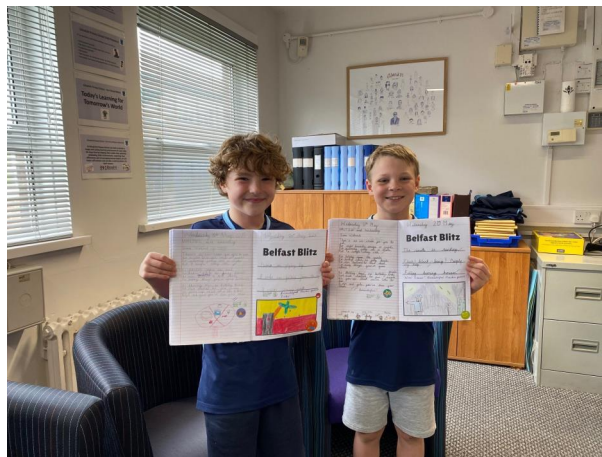
5 - Josh, Jamie and James produced some super work on their Volcanoes topic.



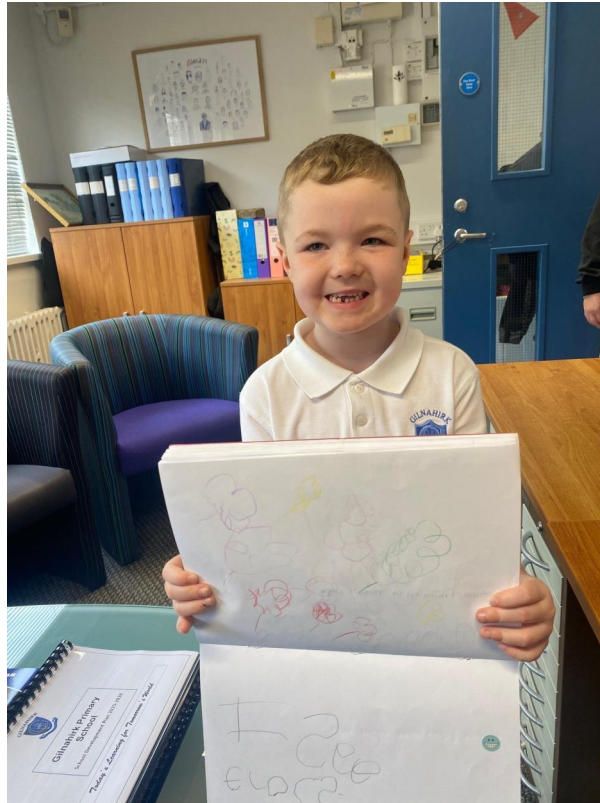
6 - Brilliant writing in P2 from Connie, Harry, Erin and Ollie.



7 - More super writing in P2 from Oscar, Evi, Grayson and Ruan.



8 - Zeke and Oscar in P4 wrote fantastic WW2 haiku poems.



9 - Joel in P1 has been trying so hard in his independent writing. Keep up the hard work, Joel!

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

ARE YOU



WE NEED YOU!

GIVE BLOOD
Save Lives

Book online today
www.NIBTS.org

New parent workshop



Together with
Settled Petals



Toilet Training for Children of Nursery/School Age

**Monday 1st June, 10.30am-12noon, online via
Zoom**

Is your little one about to start Nursery or School in September? Perhaps they are already at school but still experiencing issues around toileting. At this workshop we will explore some reasons which may be impacting them and respectful strategies to support them.



Call NOW to book your place

0808 8020 400





Joseph

AND THE AMAZING
TECHNICOLOURED DREAMCOAT

by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

SUMMER MUSIC SCHOOL

A week-long singing school for children

Ages 5-15 | £200

27 - 31 July, 9am - 4pm (daily)

Strathearn Prep School

Joseph

AND THE AMAZING
TECHNICOLOURED DREAMCOAT

Ages 5-8 Songbirds Course | Ages 9-15 Junior Course

Monday 27 - Friday 31 July, 9am - 4pm daily

Strathearn Prep School

157 Belmont Church Road, Belfast BT4 2TD

The Ulster Consort Foundation is very excited to present Strathearn Preparatory School as the venue for the Children's Summer Singing School 2026! Children, ages 5-15, will receive expert daily tuition provided by some of Northern Ireland's leading musicians, whilst having great fun preparing music for a grand finale concert on the final evening. Strathearn Prep provides a fantastic location for a week of music-making, and is ideal for easy drop off and pick up by parents/guardians.

Cost: £200, which includes:

- all musical tuition
- daily lunch box
- all snacks
- group activities and crafts
- a branded top

To book please scan this QR code
or visit ulsterconsort.org



Grand Finale Concert for family and friends
Friday 31 July, 5pm

ulsterconsort.org



STRATHEARN
PREP



ULSTER BRONCOS

Thinking of retiring or stopped playing because you're 'too old?'

TRY MASTERS RUGBY LEAGUE

Strictly Social. Strictly Fun.

A modified version of the sport for the older player.

- Players aged 35+
- Non-competitive & safe
- No winners, leagues, or finals
- All games end in a 0-0 draw
- Great for fitness



Based out of Lisburn RFC, we're welcoming new players now.

No prior Rugby League experience necessary.

Get in touch!

Find out more:

[#ULSTERBRONCOSMASTERSRL](#)

www.rli.ie/masters

www.rugbyleague.com/get-involved/play/masters



GIVE BLOOD Save Lives

Book now for your local community blood donation session!

VENUE

St Mary's Church Hall
Dundonald

DATE & TIME

Friday 22 May
12:30 - 19:00

Northern Ireland needs 1200 blood donations per week.

That's 1 every 8 minutes.



Scan to book your appointment.

www.NIBTS.org

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service



DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS FOR AGES P3 TO YEAR 14



SUMMER SCHOOL



SCAN HERE

TO ENROL
FULL AND HALF
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

Contact
info@youthlyric.co.uk
Youth Lyric -
Charity no. 102566

GLENMACHAN CHURCH YOUTH HALLS

Glenmachan Road Belfast BT4 2NN
20-24th July - 9am to 2pm
Cost £110 per child

ANTRIM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

10 Steeple Road, Antrim, BT41 1AF
27th-31st July - 9am to 2pm
Cost £100 per child

SUMMER HOCKEY CAMPS

BELFAST | LISBURN

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| JULY 6 th - 10 th | £130 FULL CAMP | 9AM - 5PM |
| JULY 20 th - 24 th | £230 TWO CAMPS | AGES 8 - 15 |
| AUGUST 10 th - 14 th | £330 ALL CAMPS | FREE GOODY BAG |
| | £30 PER DAY | |

BOOK ONLINE AT BOOSTHOCKEYACADEMY.COM

**SUMMER 2026
MULTISPORT & FOOTBALL
CAMPS**

**RISING STAR
SPORTS**

| | |
|--|---|
| Week 1: 6-9 July (4 days £60) • Hillsborough Village Centre • 6-10 July Gilnahirk Primary School | Week 2: 20-24 July Crewe United Football Club (10am - 2pm £60) |
| Week 3: 27-31 July St Aloysius Primary School | Week 4: 3-7 August Hillsborough Village Centre |
| Week 5: 10-14 August Crewe United Football Club (10am - 2pm £60) | Week 6: 17-21 August GIRLS ONLY Crewe United Football Club (10am - 2pm £60) |

TIME: 9am - 2pm • **PRICE:** 5 day camps **£70**
✓ 5 day camps **£70** • Day rate **£15** • Week 1 (4 days) **£60**

MULTISPORTS CAMPS WILL INCLUDE:
FOOTBALL, DODGEBALL, ROUNDERS, LASER TAG, EUROHOC

**TO BOOK A SPACE, CONTACT
MATTHEW (COACH) ON
07702646828**

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGED 4-12

Dramarama
Performing Arts Academy

SUMMER SCHEME 2026

| | |
|--|--|
| | BELMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 34 SYDENHAM AVENUE, BELFAST, BT4 2DT |
| | 20TH - 24TH JULY 2026 |
| | MON - THURS: 9AM-2:30PM FRI: 9AM-3:30PM |
| | £140 PER CHILD £130 PER SIBLING |

TO BOOK A SPACE OR FIND OUT MORE CONTACT US

- Sarah Steen-Calderwood: 07885243386
- dramaramaperformingarts@gmail.com
- facebook.com/dramaramaperformingarts

★ JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED SUMMER OF PERFORMANCE! ★

- CONFIDENCE BUILDING
- PERFORMANCE SKILLS
- IMPROVISATION
- SCRIPT DEVSING
- DRAMA GAMES
- DANCING
- ARTS & CRAFTS



BOOK NOW

Join us for our 11th year of Dramarama Summer Scheme!
 We strive to make each year our best yet! We take so much pride in spreading joy and helping our young people build their confidence and enjoy performing.
 Our week-long program is open to all children aged 4-12, and will culminate in a showcase for parents & loved ones on the Friday afternoon.
 Our talented coaches are passionate about making sure all our pupils have a wonderful week and get the chance to shine and grow their talent in a supportive and safe environment.
 From the movie stars of tomorrow, to those who want to build a bit of confidence and have a lot of fun - everyone is welcome at Dramarama!

PLACES ARE LIMITED!
 BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE YOU ARE NOT DISAPPOINTED!

TO BOOK, SIMPLY GET IN TOUCH VIA PHONE, TEXT, WHATSAPP, EMAIL OR FACEBOOK!





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

WEEK1 July 17th-18th | WEEK2 August 10th-11th

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 - 21st July 2025

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

mindstorms Raspberry Pi python unity

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MAIN DATES FOR TERM 3...

TERM 3 DATES

- **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) - 7pm
- **Friday 29 May** - Parents' Association quiz night - 8pm
- **Tuesday 2 June** - Sports Day

- **Friday 5 June** - Summer Fair (5.30pm - 7.30pm)
- **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.

