

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE.



Dear parent/carer,

I hope you have had a good week.

Welcome to our final update of the school year...

As we reach the close of another school year, I would like, as I do annually, to express my sincere thanks for your ongoing interest in, support of, and involvement in school life over the past ten months. Our strong partnership with parents is central to everything we achieve, so I am truly grateful for all you have contributed this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the entire team at GPS — our teachers, classroom assistants, office staff, caretaking and cleaning staff, and catering team — each of whom makes an invaluable contribution to the life and success of the school.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to our governors; their steadfast support and commitment to the school continue to be a great source of encouragement.

We begin the main part of our update with some farewells...

FAREWELL TO OUR P7 CHILDREN...





We will miss you

Another group of P7 pupils have reached the end of their journey at Gilnahirk, a milestone marked this week with the leavers' party followed by the leavers' service. Both occasions provided a valuable opportunity for the children and the P7 staff to recognise this significant moment as the pupils prepare to transition to a variety of post-primary schools. Mr Halliday, Mr Knight, Mrs Dimond and our P7 classroom assistants have put in tremendous effort to ensure that the final year does not simply fade to a close. Instead, it has been brought to an end filled with enjoyment, lasting memories and a sense of reflection, and we hope that the experiences of not only this past week, but of their entire time at GPS, will stay with the children as they move on to new opportunities.

Last night, at Gilnahirk Presbyterian, we held our annual Leavers' Service. All in attendance would agree that it was a very fitting way to mark the end of the children's journey at Gilnahirk. It was a rollercoaster of emotions as the children led the service through readings, songs, musical recitals and much more. A truly wonderful way to finish their time at GPS.

STAFF FAREWELLS...



Mrs Patterson (Foundation Stage classroom assistant), **Mrs Spence** (SEN assistant) and **Mrs Young** (SEN assistant) will all retire at the end of June after many years as employees of the

school. All three have made such incalculable contributions to the life and work of Gilnahirk Primary and we will miss them all immensely.

Mr Craig Knight will move on at the end of this school year to take up the post of Vice Principal at Forthill Integrated PS in Lisburn. Whilst we wish Mr Knight every blessing as he moves on, we are nevertheless sorry to see him leave. In the 4 years that he has been with us, he has formed such an important part of the teaching team, fitting right in to the ethos and values of our school.

Mr Peter Scott will also move on after 6 months in P6 - we wish Mr Scott every success as he takes up a teaching position at Methody Prep from September. Thank you for your efforts in P6, Mr Scott.

Mrs Diane Wallace will end her Thursdays in P3 to take a full time position at Cairnshill PS. Best wishes and thank you for all of your efforts in P3, Mrs Wallace.

Below, some of the departing members of staff have written some reflections on their time at Gilnahirk.

Mrs Patterson...



1 - Mrs Patterson in her Gilnahirk P7 photo!

Goodbye to Gilnahirk Primary School for the second time!. I say for the second time - the first time was 30th June 1971, when as a P7 pupil, I went through the school gates for the

last time, or so I thought. So many happy memories - my athleticism on Sports Day (3rd in the sack race!), P7 trip to Brussels and, of course, being a prefect.

Then in September 1995, I was appointed as a P1 classroom assistant, working with Mrs Thompson and Mrs Newnes. I stayed in P1 for 17 years, before moving to P2 with Miss Irvine, and there I have stayed for the last 14 years, ending my time with Mrs Collins. Over my time in GPS, I have had many adventures - the farm, Ulster Museum, Ulster Folk Museum, York and Edinburgh with P7s and, of course, not forgetting the annual trip to Bethlehem!. I became the self appointed 'musical director' at Nativity time. I haven't got a musical note in my head, but pressing the start button on a DVD player is more difficult than you think!

Thank you to all the teachers who have put up with me. To my fellow assistants, thanks for the craic. Mrs Hill, I appreciated you ticking me in. Lastly, but most importantly, to all the pupils. I am so humbled to have played a small part in your school journey.

Gilnahirk Primary School will always hold a special place in my heart.

I wish all staff and pupils the very best for the future, whatever it may hold.

Today's Learning for Tomorrow's World

Gail Patterson

P2C threw a tea party in honour of Mrs Patterson...











Mrs Spence...

I started working in Gilnahirk as temporary cover and stayed for 18 years!. In that time, I've worked with 4 different classes and have managed to work with every teacher, so now feels like a good time to put my feet up and retire.

I'll miss the the different and individual personalities of the children and I've learned so many things over the years. Every day is a school day!

Thank you to all the parents for letting me grow up beside your children and thank you to all of the staff for an unforgettable experience!

Mrs Young...

After 21 wonderful years as a classroom assistant at Gilnahirk Primary School, it's time for me to retire. I've been so lucky to work alongside inspiring teachers, amazing colleagues and, most of all, incredible children.

There has been so much laughter along the way and it has been a privilege to play a small part in so many young lives and watch them grow. I'll leave with countless happy memories, wonderful friendships and a heart full of gratitude.

An enormous thank you to everyone for the lovely cards, kind messages and thoughtful gifts. I appreciate everyone who has made these 21 years so special.

Thank you and I will miss you all so much.



2 - Three legends - Mrs Spence, Mrs Young and Mrs Patterson

Mr Knight...

As I prepare to leave Gilnahirk Primary and begin a new chapter as Vice Principal at Forthill Integrated PS, I want to take the opportunity to thank all of the pupils, parents and staff for making my time here so special. My years at Gilnahirk have been among the happiest of my

teaching career. It is a truly special place where the experiences, wellbeing and success of the children are at the heart of everything we do. The staff are far more than colleagues - they are friends and I have been incredibly fortunate to work alongside such dedicated and caring people. I am deeply grateful for the kindness, encouragement and support that I have been shown throughout my time at the school. While I am excited for the opportunities ahead, I will miss Gilnahirk very much and will always look back on my time here with great fondness and appreciation.

Thanks to everyone.

Some photos from our farewell assembly. All classes packed in to the Morrow Hall to say farewell and to sing 'Let Them Go' to the tune of, you've guessed it, Let It Go!





REMINDER OF CLASS MOVES FOR NEXT YEAR.



Please see below for the class moves for 2026-2027

- P1Hodgen - P2Collins/Pitts
- P1 Gordon - P2Boyd/Fish
- P2Boyd/Fish - P3Johnston
- P2Collins/Pitts - P3McCaffrey/Pitts
- P3Johnston/Wallace - P4King/MacDonald
- P3McCaffrey/Pitts - P4Bennett
- P4King/MacDonald - P5Porter
- P4Bennett - P5Johnston
- P5Porter - P6Buchanan (until Christmas)/Mrs. Tate (after Christmas)
- P5Johnston - P6Nelson
- P6Scott - P7Rice
- P6Nelson - P7Halliday/Dimond

Children had the opportunity to meet their new teacher for a short time on Friday 26th June - hopefully you heard all about it.

PURCHASING PE KIT.

Hopefully you were able to get along to the sizing sessions for the PE kit (current P3 can purchase new kit for starting P4 and any P4-P6 children can purchase new kit if the old kit is lost or too small).

If you were not able to buy at the sizing session, you can do so online at <https://uniformstoreni.co.uk/product-category/gilnahirk-primary-school/>

Kits should be ordered as soon as possible.

Please note when ordering your child's PE kit, you should enter the class that they will be in when they come back after the summer break (see section above for class moves).

GILNAHIRK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

YOUTH SIZES BUNDLE
MIDLAYER & TRAINING TEE
£35.00

ADULT SIZES BUNDLE
MIDLAYER & TRAINING TEE
£40.00

The advertisement features a blue background with a black banner at the top containing the school name. Below the banner, two bundles of PE kit are shown. The Youth Sizes Bundle includes a long-sleeved midlayer and a short-sleeved training tee, priced at £35.00. The Adult Sizes Bundle includes a long-sleeved midlayer and a short-sleeved training tee, priced at £40.00. The items are displayed against a blue background with white and black accents.

PURCHASING OF UNIFORM FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR...

- 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.

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.*

KS2 HOUSE COMPETITION RESULTS...



Final standings are in for the House Competition...

1st Place - Stormont with 2900 points

2nd Place - Scrabo with 2790 points

3rd Place - Donard with 2390 points

4th Place - Lagan with 1790 points

Members of Stormont House will receive their prize on Monday afternoon!

LAST DAY OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS...



Tuesday 30th June is the final day of this school year. Please see below for the arrangements:

- Non - uniform day
- No packed lunches or dinners
- Children should bring the usual mid morning snack for break
- School finishes at 12.00pm for P1-4 and 12.05pm for P5-6

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...



This week, we finished off our work on School Values by awarding certificates for **Perseverance** and **Respect**.





FIRST WEEK BACK

I know it's difficult to even think about after the summer, but here is some advance information about the first few days back in school...

- P1 will have their own induction arrangements - this information has been shared with the parents of new P1 children
- For P2-P7 children, our first day will be **Thursday 27th August**, which will be a half day (**12.30** finish for P2-7)
- **Friday 28th August** will also be an early finish, times as above.
- **Monday 31st August** - School closed for bank holiday
- First full day is **Tuesday 1st September**. Canteen dinners will be available from that day.
- As usual, for the month of September, children who wish to, may wear the summer uniform. Of course, if you wish for your child to wear the full uniform from the start of the school year, they can do so.

REMINDER OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2026-2027

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

SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...

P1 HANDWRITING...





P2 PICNIC AT BREAKTIME...







P3 WATER FIGHT...

Now a time honoured tradition, the P3 children had their annual water fight. They took particular delight in soaking Mr Corbett!!



DANIEL'S DAD SINGING IN P3 FOR MISS WATSON'S 30TH BIRTHDAY...



P3 AND P4 ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE...









P4 CIRCUITS IN PE...







P5 LENGTH LANGUAGE...







P5 MEASUREMENT LANGUAGE POSTER COMPETITION...





P6 PIZZA PARTY...













INSTRUMENTALISTS PERFORM FOR THE SCHOOL...





READING PARTNERSHIP THANK YOU...

Thank
you,



Huge thanks to Jill Lytle who has come in all year to provide reading partnership. As always, we deeply appreciate all of the support from our reading partners.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

SPORTSTOPIA

SUMMER CAMP 2026

Come and join us for a fantastic week of Sports, Games, Play & More!
1st July- 26th August

LOUGH VIEW INTEGRATED SCHOOL CAMPS
9AM-3PM OR 9AM- 12PM

MULTI-SPORTS CAMP
AGE 3-12

Week 1- Wed 1st July - Fri 3rd July (3 days)
Week 2 - Mon 6th July - Fri 10th July (WEEK 3 - No camp at Lough View)
Week 4 - Mon 20th July - Fri 24th July
Week 5 - Mon 27th July - Fri 31st July
Week 6 - Mon 3rd August - Fri 7th August
Week 7- Mon 10th August - Fri 14th August

DUNDELA INFANTS CAMPS
9AM-3PM OR 9AM- 12PM

MULTI-SPORTS CAMP OR DANCE & DRAMA
AGE 3-9

Week 1- Wed 1st July - Fri 3rd July (3 days)
Week 2 - Mon 6th July - Fri 10th July
Week 3 - Mon 13th - Fri 17th July
Week 4 - Mon 20th July - Fri 24th July
Week 5 - Mon 27th July - Fri 31st July
Week 6 - Mon 3rd August - Fri 7th August
Week 7 - Mon 10th August - Fri 14th August

EXTRA DATES
9am-3pm or 9am- 12pm

Belmont Presbyterian Church
Age 3-9

Week 8 - Mon 17th Aug - 21st Aug
Week 9- 24th Aug-26th Aug (3 days back to school camp)

The Fun Part!
The Fun Part!
Ages 3-5
Week 1-2
Fundamental skills based on fun themed games such as Pokemon, Pirates, Disney, Superheroes, Ninja games and way more sports ready games.

Ages 5-8
Sports specific
Sports specific mini games including team games e.g Football, Handball, Racket Sports, Tag Sports and more!

Ages 8-11
The Sportstopia House!
Sports specific games including Basketball, Football, Racket Sports and Athletics, Team fun games like Doctor Dodgeball, Tag Handball & so much more!

Children who attend Dundela camp have the option for sports or dance camp. This can be chosen on the day and no need to book separately.

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING THOSE WHO DO NOT ATTEND THE SCHOOLS

Camp Review

"My 8 year old had just attended the first Easter week camp at Sportstopia and absolutely loved it. In his own words 'It's brilliant'. I very highly recommend!"

Prices

Full Week Full Days (9am-3pm) £95
Full Week Half Days (9am-12pm) £75
Single Full Day £25
Single Half Day £15

DISCOUNTS! AVAILABLE
Check out our Facebook, Instagram or Tik Tok for Sibling or Multi week discounts or email us @ luke@sportstopia.co.uk

BOOK @ WWW.SPORTSTOPIA.CO.UK

THE ULSTER CONSORT Foundation

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



STRATHEARN
PREP

ulsterconsort.org

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. 100266

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

BOOST HOCKEY ACADEMY

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 £30 PER DAY	FREE GOODY BAG

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 DEVISING
DRAMA GAMES
DANCING

ARTS & CRAFTS

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!

BOOK NOW

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

WEEK 1 July 17th - 21st | WEEK 2 August 10th - 14th

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 www.clayfulminds.co.uk
rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk clayful.rebekah




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




A LOOK AHEAD TO SOME OF THE KEY DATES EARLY IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR...

Please note, these are just the main whole school dates for now. There will be other events added in the early updates of the new term.

- **Thursday 27th August** - school resumes for new school year. No packed lunches or dinners. Early finish (12.30)
- **Friday 28th August** - second day of term. No packed lunches or dinners. Early finish (12.30)
- **Monday 31st August** - school closed for Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 1st September** - first full day of school. Packed lunches or school dinners required
- **Week commencing Monday 7th September** - Parent Curriculum talks (further details will be provided)
- **Friday 25th September** - school closed for staff development (TransformEd day)
- **Monday 28th September - Thursday 1st October** - P7 parent teacher interviews
- **Monday 19th October - Thursday 22nd October** - P1-6 parent teacher interviews
- **Friday 23rd October** - last day of half term - early finish (12.30)
- **Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October** - school closed for half term break
- **Monday 2nd November** - school resumes for new half term

AND FINALLY...

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS WATSON...



Will you marry me

A double whammy for Miss Watson this week! 30th birthday and now this...

There was much excitement in P3 today as Miss Watson's partner, Jordan, arrived with a marriage proposal with the help of the P3 children.

I am both delighted and relieved to report that Miss Watson said yes!



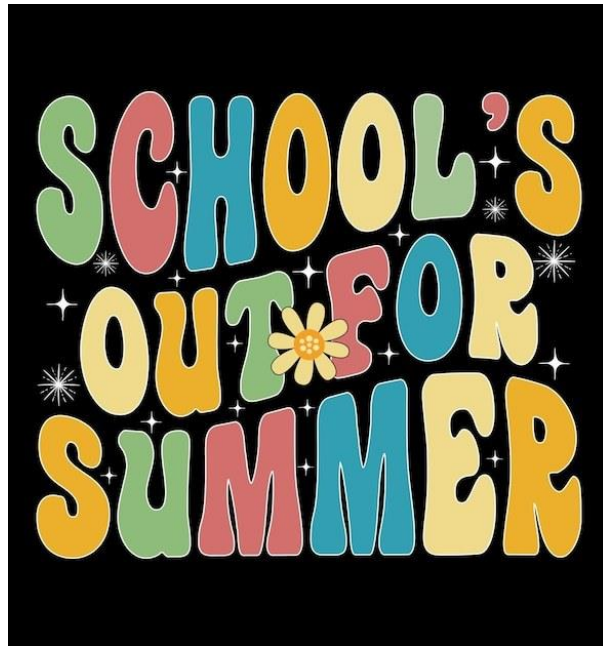


Have a super weekend.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.



have a great 
SUMMER

A graphic with the text "have a great" in a black cursive font, followed by a small black heart icon. Below this, the word "SUMMER" is written in large, colorful, block letters (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). A black wavy line is positioned underneath the word "SUMMER".