

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE



OUR SCHOOL MOTTO...

'Today's Learning for Tomorrow's World'

OUR SCHOOL MISSION 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,

That's the first full week of the new school year and everyone seems to have settled well in to familiar routines.

In this week's update, I have repeated some of the important back to school information from last week, but can I draw your particular attention to the following new information for this week:

- ***School dinners arrangements for next week***
- ***Parent curriculum presentations - please take note of your child's year group presentation date and time***
- ***Whole school individual and family photos***

SCHOOL DINNERS FOR NEXT WEEK...

The following information was sent today by hard copy letter but is repeated here for your reference...

Thank you for your ongoing patience with the difficulties with our online payment system this week.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we still have not managed to resolve the issue.

*However, dinners will be available next week, **but you are asked to pay in cash**, hopefully just for the incoming week.*

Please send a note **on Monday morning** with your child, detailing which days they are taking dinners and send the **correct amount of cash**, as far as possible.

Money can only be taken on Monday morning.

Prices are given below:

1 day - £3.10

2 days – £6.20

3 days - £9.30

4 days - £12.40

5 days - £15.50

If your child is entitled to free school meals, please still send in a note with the days your child will take dinners next week.

Thank you for your understanding as we try to get to the bottom of this issue. To say we have been left frustrated by the lack of support from our payment provider would be something of an understatement!

Please do not attempt to go on to SchoolMoney to pay. It may look like it is working from the parents' end, but we continue to have issues from the school end. Thank you.

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOS...



Cool for School Photography

Cool for School photography will be in school on Monday 14th September to take individual and family photos.

For your child to have their photo taken, you must register at the following link (even if you have registered before):

<https://orders.coolforschoolphotography.com/register/?code=GHIRK26>

The graphic below outlines the steps you need to take to register

Cool for School Photography

To have your child's photo taken you **must** register!

Register Now!

Complete online registration to ensure your child's photo is taken this year. Just follow these **three** simple steps.

Please register by **7pm** the day before Photoday

Get ready for
PHOTODAY!

Monday 14th Sept



STEP 1

Grab your phone or PC and go to orders.coolforschoolphotography.com

STEP 2

Enter this unique school code.

GHIRK26



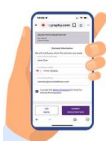
STEP 3

Fill in **Pupil's** name, choose **their** class from drop down menu Click Add Child.

If a sibling photo is required, complete additional section.

Click **Confirm and Continue** then enter your contact details

Scroll down and Click **Submit Registration**



That's it! After you have hit submit you should receive a confirmation email that your child or children have been registered successfully.

Your contact details will be securely stored and kept private, due to strict GDPR compliance. Feel free to visit our website for further information. If you have any queries, please contact our us on ...02892683966



'MILES TO MAYO' SPONSORED WALK...



This September, Rory Best (formerly of Ulster and Ireland Rugby) is leading a team in a project called '**Miles 2 Mayo**' to raise money for the Cancer Fund for Children charity.

Roger Johnston, husband of Mrs KJ, is walking with Rory (9 marathons in 9 days!!) and we would love to support this venture as a school. It is anticipated that Rory's fundraising will receive significant support from the press and community.

To play our small part as a school, we intend to do a sponsored walk in Tullycarnet Park on **Friday 18th September**.

A sponsor form will be provided on Monday 7th but in the meantime, you can read more about Rory's fantastic fundraising efforts [here](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOL CANTEEN...



A temporary vacancy (cook) has arisen in the school canteen - hours are **Monday - Friday, 8.00am - 2.00pm.**

If you would be interested in these hours, please contact **Kelly Richardson** in the canteen on **07974716345**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATED GUIDANCE ON MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS...

The Department of Education has recently published updated guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools. The guidance essentially states that pupils should not have access to personal mobile phones, smartphones, smartwatches or other internet-enabled devices during the school day. Any exceptions should be limited, clearly justified, appropriately documented and subject to regular review. This may include circumstances relating to medical needs, special educational needs, disabilities, safeguarding requirements or other agreed exceptional circumstances.

The guidance can be found [here](#) and a letter from the Minister is attached to the email containing the link to this Sway.

You can also find our school's mobile phones policy [here](#)

PARTNERSHIP WITH ULSTER HOCKEY



P6 and 7 had a taster session with some coaches from Ulster Hockey this week.

A great session, enjoyed by all involved





AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



This year again, we will have a mixture of external (paid) after school clubs and teacher led (free) after school clubs.

Please note, free teacher led clubs cannot be offered from 2-3 pm as staff are not available to lead them but there is a range of external clubs available for the younger children, as detailed below.

EXTERNAL FEE PAYING CLUBS...

Please note, places for external clubs must be booked and paid for directly with the club providers.

MONDAY

Clayful Kids - P1-P3. Places can be booked using the information below.



TUESDAY

Laser Tag - P4-7 - booking link:
<https://risingstarsoccer.bookwhen.com/schedules/b20vn81buljk>

A promotional poster for Rising Star Sports at Gilnahirk Primary School. The top features a logo with a soccer ball, a baseball bat, and a basketball, with the text 'RISING STAR SPORTS' and a yellow star. Below the logo, the school name 'GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL' is written in large, bold letters. The poster is divided into two main sections: 'LASER TAG' on the left and 'DODGEBALL' on the right. The Laser Tag section is blue and white, while the Dodgeball section is red and white. Both sections specify the start date, age group (P4-7), and time (3-4 PM). At the bottom, a yellow banner encourages booking both sessions for a 10% discount. Below this, a dark blue bar contains contact information for Coach Matthew, including a phone number and icons for a calendar and a phone.

RISING STAR SPORTS

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL

LASER TAG
★ STARTS ★
TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
P4-7
TUESDAYS
3-4PM

DODGEBALL
★ STARTS ★
WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER
P4-7
WEDNESDAYS
3-4PM

BOOK BOTH SESSIONS
RECEIVE 10% OFF!

TO BOOK EITHER OR BOTH SESSIONS
CONTACT COACH MATTHEW ON
07702646828

WEDNESDAY

Dodgeball - P4-7 - booking link:

<https://risingstarsoccer.bookwhen.com/schedules/b20vn81buljk>

A vibrant poster for Rising Star Sports at Gilnahirk Primary School. The top features a shield logo with a soccer ball, basketball, and baseball, with the text 'RISING STAR SPORTS' and a yellow star. To the left is a blue laser tag gun, and to the right is a red dodgeball. The school name 'GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL' is prominently displayed in white and yellow. Below are two session boxes: 'LASER TAG' on a blue background for Tuesday 8th September, P4-7, 3-4PM; and 'DODGEBALL' on a red background for Wednesday 9th September, P4-7, 3-4PM. A yellow banner at the bottom encourages booking both sessions for a 10% discount. The footer provides contact information for Coach Matthew on 07702646828, flanked by calendar and phone icons.

**RISING STAR
SPORTS**

**GILNAHIRK
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

LASER TAG
★ STARTS ★
TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
P4-7
TUESDAYS
3-4PM

DODGEBALL
★ STARTS ★
WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER
P4-7
WEDNESDAYS
3-4PM

BOOK BOTH SESSIONS
RECEIVE 10% OFF!

TO BOOK EITHER OR BOTH SESSIONS
CONTACT COACH MATTHEW ON
07702646828

Dramarama P1-P7 - sign up using the information below:

OPEN TO ALL GILNAHIRK PS PUPILS



Dramarama
Performing Arts Academy

WEEKLY IN-SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR
SPEECH & DRAMA CLASSES

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL
CLASSES HELD IN THE CATEREN
AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY
£8.75 PER CLASS
PAYABLE ON A TERM BY TERM BASIS

CONFIDENCE BUILDING
IMPROVISATION
POEMS
STORYTELLING
ACTING
GAMES
FESTIVALS
LAMDA EXAMS
CONCERTS

The poster features three photographs of children in various drama activities: a group of children in costumes on a stage, two children in a scene, and two children in a scene. The central text is enclosed in a yellow speech bubble with a black outline.

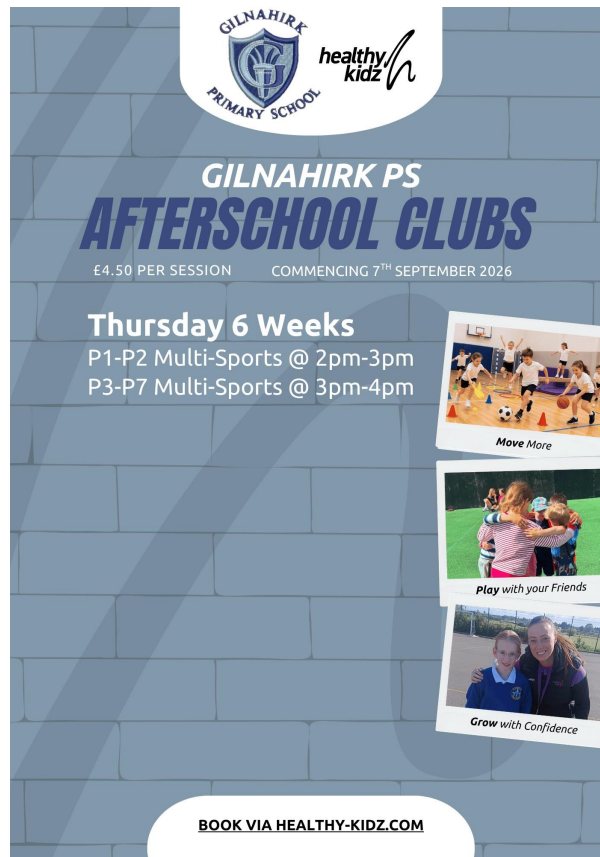
TO BOOK A SPACE OR FIND OUT MORE CONTACT US!

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

THURSDAY

HealthyKidz P2-7 Booking link: <https://pbbl.uk/4cWHW57>

**healthy
kidz** 



The poster features a blue stone wall background. At the top, the Gilnahirk Primary School crest and 'healthy kidz' logo are displayed. The main title 'GILNAHIRK PS AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the text '£4.50 PER SESSION' and 'COMMENCING 7TH SEPTEMBER 2026' is shown. The section 'Thursday 6 Weeks' lists 'P1-P2 Multi-Sports @ 2pm-3pm' and 'P3-P7 Multi-Sports @ 3pm-4pm'. On the right, three photos show children in various activities, with captions 'Move More', 'Play with your Friends', and 'Grow with Confidence'. At the bottom, a white button says 'BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM'.

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL healthy kidz

**GILNAHIRK PS
AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS**

£4.50 PER SESSION COMMENCING 7TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Thursday 6 Weeks
P1-P2 Multi-Sports @ 2pm-3pm
P3-P7 Multi-Sports @ 3pm-4pm

Move More
Play with your Friends
Grow with Confidence

BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM

Sew Ready - P4-7 - booking details can be found in PDF attached to the email with the link to this Sway or at this link: <https://app.classmanager.com/portal/sew-ready/enrolment/classes/schools-2627-qilnahirk-primary-school>



Friday

Max Coding P2-P7

Booking link: <https://bookwhen.com/MaxCoding#focus=ev-simi-20240902140000>



TEACHER LED CLUBS IN TERM 1...

The following clubs will be offered by teaching staff in the first half term/term.

Please note, individual teachers will provide information to the children about their clubs.

Club	Day	Year group(s)	Staff involved	Location of club
ICT	Monday	P6/7	Mrs Bennett	ICT suite
Lego	Monday	P4/5	Mrs McCaffrey/Mrs KJ	P3M classroom
Scripture Union	Monday	P4-P7	Mrs Gordon	Morrow Hall
Netball	Monday	P6-7 girls	Mrs Johnston and Mrs Nelson	Front playgrounds
Book club	Tuesday (lunchtime)	P4-7	Mrs Boyd and Mrs Collins	Library
Football	Wednesday	P7 boys and girls initially	Mr Rice and Mr Buchanan	Back pitch
Art	Wednesday	P7	Mrs Hodgen	P1H classroom
Hockey	Thursday	P6-7 boys and girls	Mr Halliday	Front playgrounds

Putting both our teacher led and external clubs together provides a real sense of the depth of extra curricular experience currently being offered at Gilnahirk...

- Monday - ICT, Lego, SU, Netball, Clayful Kids
- Tuesday - Book club, Laser Tag
- Wednesday - Art club, Football, Dramarama, Dodgeball
- Thursday - Hockey, Multi-sports, Sew Ready
- Friday - Coding

OTHER 'BACK TO SCHOOL' KEY INFORMATION...



START OF TERM YEAR GROUP/CLASS TALKS.



P1 - No presentation needed at this stage - start of term info covered in the parents meeting back in May.

P2 - Tuesday 8 September, 1.00pm - 1.30pm

P3 - Thursday 10 September 1.15pm - 2.00pm

P4 - Tuesday 8 September, 1.30pm - 2.00pm

P5 - Wednesday 9 September, 1.30pm - 2.00pm

P6 - Wednesday 9 September, 1.30pm - 2.00pm

P7 - Tuesday 15th September, 7.00pm in the Morrow Hall.

We appreciate that most of these are during the school day but if one (or both) parents could plan to attend, that would be great. It's a good opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher and hear a bit more about the year ahead.

READING PARTNERSHIP.



If you would like to return as a reading partner volunteer this year, or sign up for the first time, Mrs KJ, our reading partner organiser, would love to hear from you on kjohnston773@c2kni.net

MORNING DROP OFF.



Please remember that the drop off window is from 8.40am to 8.50am.

Doors at the various entry points will not open before 8.40am, **so please try to avoid bringing/sending your child in to the school grounds before that time - we have seen large groups of children gathering at various entrance points this week as early as 8.25am. There is no supervision of children at that time of the morning.**

All children should be in their classrooms by **8.50am**

PICK UP TIMES.

School Pick-Up

A reminder of Monday – Thursday pick up times:

- P1 – 12.30pm until Friday 25th September. 2.00pm from Monday 28th September
- P2 – 2.00pm
- P3 – 2.00pm until Christmas. 3.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from after the Christmas break.

- P4 – P7 – 3.00pm

Friday pick up times.

P1-P4 - 2.00pm (P1 12.30pm until Friday 26th September)

P5-P7 - 2.05pm

The first few pick up times always feel quite chaotic, due to all children being dismissed at virtually the same time. This will ease next week with the return to normal finishing times.

CAR PARK AND OTHER SAFETY ISSUES



Your cooperation with the following safety issues is very much appreciated...

- Please remember that vehicle **access to the school grounds is strictly limited to wheelchair users only**
- Please **do not** attempt to access the school grounds by car if you are not a wheelchair user.
- **Please leave the school grounds via the pedestrian exit**, not under or around the vehicle barrier.
- **Please avoid crossing the car park when you pick your child up**, remembering that there may be delivery trucks etc. moving in and out of the area.
- **Please do not allow your children to walk along the wall alongside the path from the main staff car park.** In the past a number of children have taken nasty falls off the wall.
- **Children on scooters and bikes should dismount well before the school gates** and should be mindful of pedestrians when making their way to school. This message will be reinforced in assembly but it will be helpful if you could remind your child also.

P.E. KIT (P4-7)

Most of our P4-P7 pupils have purchased the new PE kit of a quarter zip top and T shirt in the school colours. If you have not received your kit, it should be with you very soon.

This should be worn to school as directed by P4-7 teachers, along with dark/navy track bottoms or leggings.

If you have ordered your child's PE kit but do not receive it by the end of next week, please contact the school office.

If you chose not to purchase the PE kit, children should wear a white polo/T-shirt with navy shorts/bottoms on PE days.

If you have not yet purchased a PE kit for your child and price is a barrier to purchasing, please speak to me in confidence - financial assistance can be provided.

P3 children should continue to wear a simple PE kit of plain white T shirt/Polo shirt (you can use the school polo if you have one), navy bottoms (shorts, leggings or track bottoms) and trainers/plimsolls. The school jumper/cardigan can be worn over the top. **P3 teachers will direct children as to which day(s) they can wear PE kit to school**

Children in P1-P2 will simply remove ties and change their footwear to plimsolls on their PE days.

ALLERGY REMINDERS.



We will continue to keep Gilnahirk PS as nut free as possible, so you are asked not to send nuts or nut based products (like peanut butter) in to school with your child.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.



Dogs should not be brought on to the school grounds, with the exception of guide dogs. For safety reasons, there can be no exceptions to this rule. Thank you.

MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS.

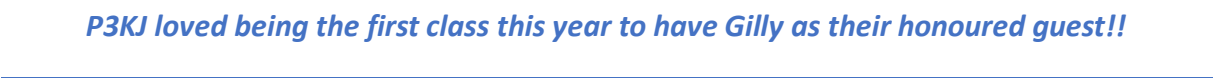


As always, you are encouraged to arrange dental and medical appointments out of school hours or out of term time. However, I accept that this is not always possible, so please follow the routine below if you need to collect your child early.

- Inform your child's class teacher and/or the school office about the time your child needs to leave and for what reason.
- Class teacher will send your child round to reception at the designated time, where they will sit on the seat at the front entrance.
- Collect your child from the front entrance but ensure that you inform the office that you have collected your child.
- **Your child will not be sent out of the school grounds to meet you.**

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

What better value to start off a school year than CURIOSITY - we spent a short time in assembly on Wednesday morning thinking about this Gilly's Value, encouraging the children to always be curious, to ask questions, to find out more!







THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...



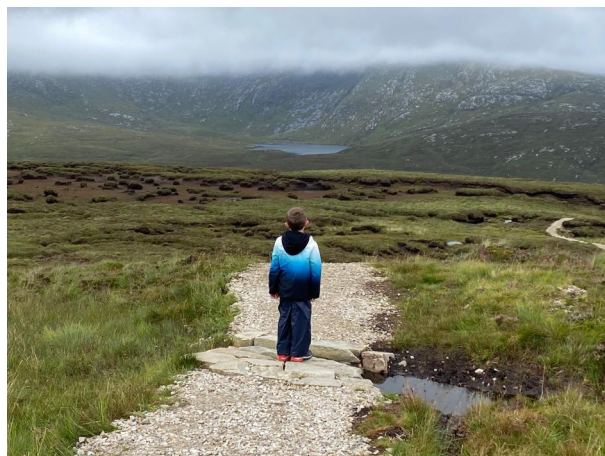


Jacob achieved the amazing feat of getting to the top of Slieve Binnian - no small task! This means he has now made it to the top of the three largest peaks in Northern Ireland (Donard, Commedagh and Binnian) Great work, Jacob.





1 - Some of the stunning views from Slieve Binnian





2 - MADE IT!

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



RIDGEWAY ROVERS FC 2015s

PLAYERS WANTED

RED & BLUE LEVEL PLAYERS

Looking for Red & Blue level players to come join our established SBYL squad who will play SBYL Div1 this season. Now is the time to get involved and long term progression to H&W Welders FC within our established player pathway.

★ 1 SESSION PER WEEK WITH A UEFA PRO. LICENSED COACH

- PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**
Focused on individual and team growth
- FUN & POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT**
Encouraging enjoyment, respect and teamwork
- FA QUALIFIED COACHES**
Expert coaching, qualified and dedicated
- LONG TERM PROGRESSION**
Clear pathway and opportunities to succeed

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH!

CONTACT TODAY
ANDREW
07846558564

RIDGEWAY ROVERS FC | @RIDGEWAYROVERSFC

3 - Ridgeway Rovers - players born in 2015 wanted!



Free event

Autumn Fair

Botanic Gardens

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September
12.30pm - 5.30pm

Celebrate the season with autumnal treats and blooms, family fun activities, live entertainment and more

Belfast

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/autumnfair



NEW WORKSHOP

Parent Line NI
0808 8020 400

PARENTING UNDER PRESSURE?

Find your parenting power and release the pressure valve

AMAZING! **Wednesday 9th September**
7-8.30pm on Zoom

Call 0808 8020 400 for more information or to book a place.

POWER

SOME KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **Week commencing Monday 7th September** - Parent Curriculum talks (further details will be provided in next week's update)
- **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
- **Thursday 3 December** - Flu vaccination day
- **Friday 4 December** - Open morning for new P1 parents of children due to start school in September 2027.
- **Saturday 5 December** - Christmas tree sale and fair (details to be confirmed)
- **Tuesday 8/Wednesday 9 December** - P1-3 Nativities (further details will be provided)
- **Wednesday 16 December** - Carol Service in Our Lady and St Pat's College Hall (7pm)

Enjoy your weekend.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

