

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE





Dear parent,

We've reached the final update for the month of September - hard to believe that we've been back to school for almost a month already!

I am sending this week's update a day early again due to school being closed to children tomorrow (Friday 25th) for a TransformEd staff development day.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS...



Here are a few reminders at the start of this week's update...

- *If your child is not already in full uniform (still wearing summer uniform), you should ensure that they are by Monday 28th September*
 - *P1 children will stay until 2pm from Monday 28th September. Please send a packed lunch or sign your child up for school dinners for each week ahead by midnight on the Sunday before each week.*
 - *Please check your child's school bag for an important letter sent home this week about P1-6 parent teacher interviews (further information below)*
-

P1-6 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS...



P1-6 parent teacher interviews are scheduled for **Monday 19th October - Thursday 22nd October**. You may remember for the last few sets of interviews, we used an online booking system. There were a number of technical issues on each occasion for a few of you, but in the end everyone managed to get a slot.

P1-6 parents should have received a letter with important action points for the parent teacher interviews, so if you have not seen it, please check your child's school bag for this. Alternatively, the letter has been attached to the email with this week's Sway link.

The practical arrangements for the parent teacher interview days will be:

- *School will close at **1.15pm for P1-6 children** to accommodate the interviews.*
- *School will operate as normal for P7 children.*

- *School dinners will still be available as normal or you should send a packed lunch.*
 - *There are no after school activities the week of parent teacher interviews, except for Coding, which will meet as usual on Friday 23rd October*
-

'MILES TO MAYO' SPONSORED WALK - A HUGE THANK YOU!

THANK
YOU! 😊



A huge thank you to everyone who supported last week's Miles to Mayo sponsored walk event. I am delighted to report the amazing sum of over £5000 has been raised (and counting!)

It was so good to be able to play our small part in the amazing overall total raised so far of £1,464,407

As a small thank you, children may have a non-uniform day on Friday 2 October - the only stipulation is that they wear something bright!

We will stay largely on timetable that day but we might be able to squeeze a bit extra out of break time!!

Thank you again.















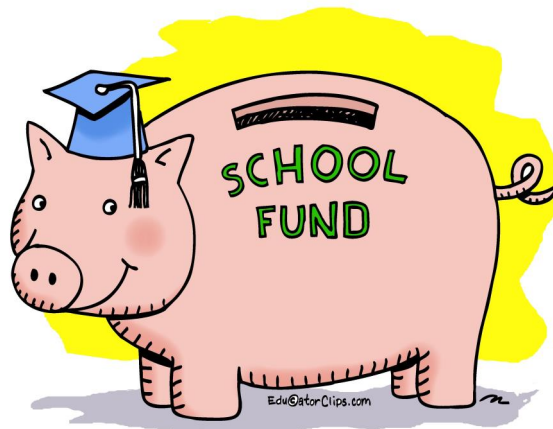
SCHOOL DINNERS...

The issue with Free School Meals not appearing on the dinner booking system seems to have been rectified so if your child is entitled to Free School Meals and is taking dinners any day next week, please ensure that you go on and sign them up - you will not be charged.

Signing your children up allows the canteen to make informed decisions around orders and stock etc.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL FUND...



At the start of each school year, we invite you as parents to contribute to our school fund. This fund is used to supplement many areas of school life that impact your children. You should have received a SchoolMoney notification last week.

The contribution is voluntary but any donation would be very gratefully received in these challenging financial times for schools.

Thank you.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION...

Our parents' association will meet for the first time this year on the evening of **Tuesday 6th October at 8pm** in the school staffroom.

It would be great to see a good attendance at this meeting as we plan the year's events.

Everyone who is a parent at Gilnahirk is welcome, so why not come along and get involved in the wider life of the school.

If you're a parent who has been with us for a number of years or a new parent starting on your Gilnahirk journey, you will all be made very welcome!



RUNNERS WANTED...



Linked to the information above, the Parents Association traditionally puts together a team (or teams) to run the Belfast Marathon relay.

If you'd be interested in running a leg in the 2027 marathon relay, please contact Glenn Porter on 07969770258

IEPs HOME TO PARENTS...

This week, teachers have been busy writing Individual Education Plans for some of the children. If your child is on an IEP, you will receive your parents' copy on Monday 5th October. This will give you a good opportunity to read through the targets ahead of the P1-6 parent teacher interviews, to be held during the week commencing Monday 19th October.

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOS NOW READY FOR PURCHASE...



Cool for School Photography

***School photos, taken at the start of the week, are now available to view and purchase.
Further details on the image below:***

SCHOOL PHOTOS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW AND PURCHASE.

If you registered please check your emails
including your junk folder for viewing details.

If you have not received an email or missed registering
please email us -
elaine@coolforschoolphotography.com



CHILD PROTECTION REMINDERS FOR TERM 1...

By way of reminder, the following staff fulfil the key child protection roles at Gilnahirk Primary:

- Designated Teacher for CP - Mrs Thelma Johnston
- Deputy Designated Teacher for CP - Mr David Corbett
- Designated Governor for CP - Mr Alan Morrow
- Chair of Governors - Mr Graeme Allen

In their roles as SENCo and Vice Principal, Mrs McCaffrey and Mr Halliday both also play crucial roles in our whole school safeguarding and child protection.



GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION


MY NAME IS MRS JOHNSTON. I AM THE DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION. YOU CAN TALK TO ME IF YOU ARE WORRIED OR CONCERNED ABOUT ANYTHING.


MY NAME IS MR CORBETT. I AM THE DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION. YOU CAN TALK TO ME IF YOU ARE WORRIED OR CONCERNED ABOUT ANYTHING.

The poster features a dark blue background with yellow text. It includes two portraits of staff members and is decorated with colorful school supplies like paper clips, pencils, and a ruler.

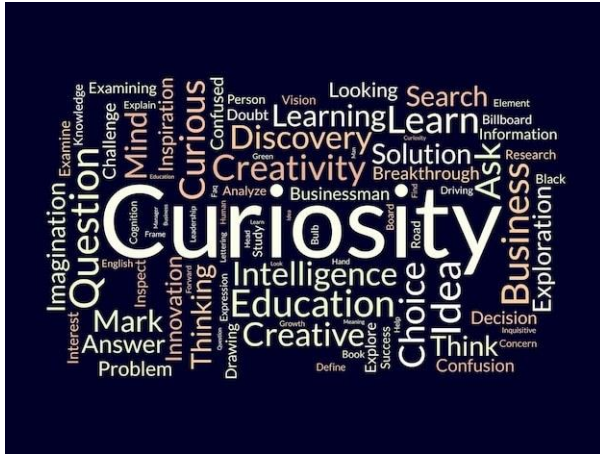


Our Child Protection Policy can be found at this link: <https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/school-information/key-information> - scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link for the CP policy.

GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

What better value to start off a school year than CURIOSITY - encouraging our children to learn more and try new experiences!

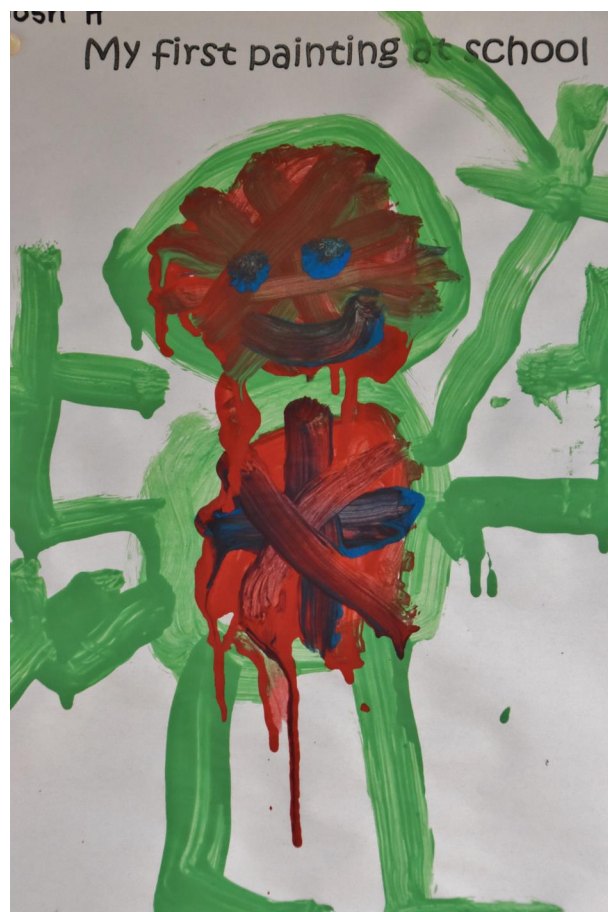




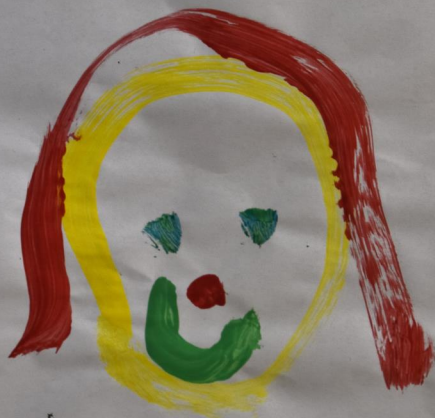
SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...

OUR FIRST PAINTINGS IN P1...





My first painting at school



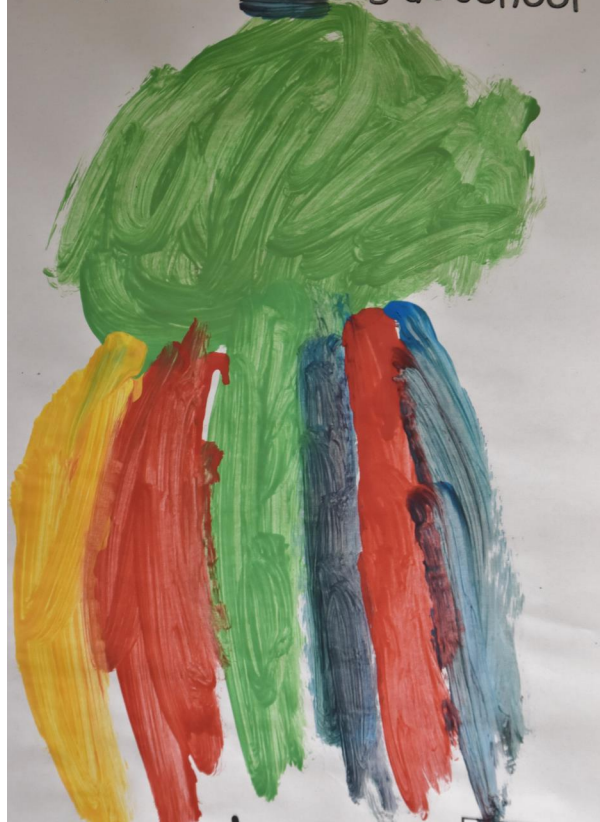
A smiley face

My first painting at school



A rainbow caterpillar

My first painting at school



My first painting at school



A heart

P2 FOREST ARTISTS...







P2 OUTDOOR PLAY...







P3 DRESSING UP FUN!





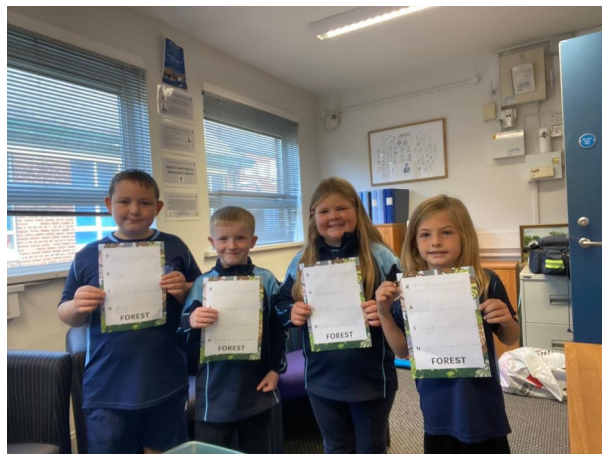
P4 RAINFOREST SNAKES...



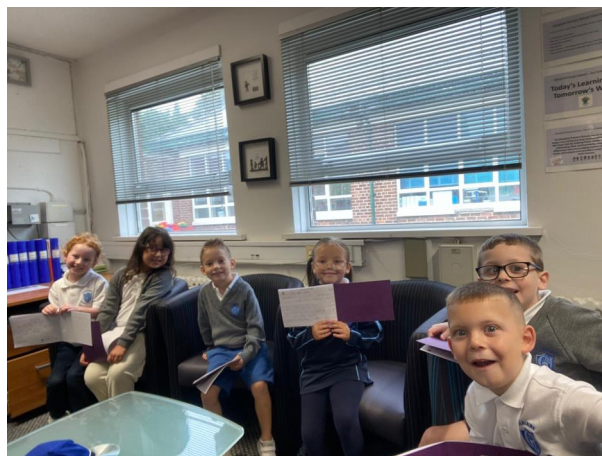


THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...

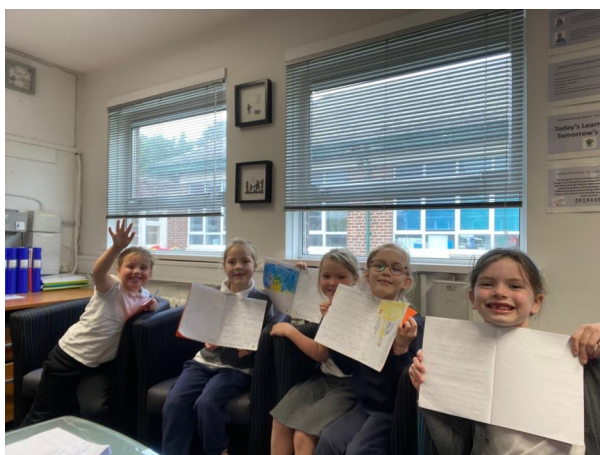




1 - Super shared writing in P4 - Rainforest poems



2 - Fantastic handwriting in P3.



3 - Excellent reading activities in P3.



4 - More brilliant reading activities 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



Online Workshops



October 2026

Oct 1st	7:30PM - 8:30PM Stop, Think & Act: Helping Children Manage Impulsivity	
Oct 6th	7.30-8.30pm Attention HQ - Helping Kids Tune In and Stay On Track	
Oct 8th	10:30AM - 11.30AM Calm & Connected Helping kids understand and manage emotions	
Oct 13th	10:30AM - 11.30AM Thinking Outside the Box How Different Brains Learn & Grow	
Oct 14th	7:30PM - 8:30PM Calm & Connected Helping Kids Tune in and Stay On Track	



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



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 | @RIDGEWAYROVERSEC

5 - Ridgeway Rovers - players born in 2015 wanted!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
FREE WORKSHOP

Parent Line NI
0808 8020 400

Worry to Wonder

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

PICK THE DATE/TIME THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU!

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 7-8.30PM ONLINE VIA ZOOM	TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 10-11.30AM ONLINE VIA ZOOM

CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE
0808 8020 400

SOME KEY DATES FOR TERM 1



- **Friday 25th September** - school closed for staff development (TransformEd day)
- **Monday 28th September - Thursday 1st October** - P7 parent teacher interviews
- **Tuesday 6th October** - Parents' Association Meeting - 8pm in staff room
- **Wednesday 7th October** - Board of Governors' meeting - 7pm.
- **Monday 19th October - Thursday 22nd October** - P1-6 parent teacher interviews
- **Friday 23rd October** - last day of half term - early finish (1.30)
- **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.



designed by  freepik