

GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE





Dear parent,

I hope you have had a good week.

I am sending this week's update a day early as it contains some important reminders about tomorrow.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - FIRE ALARM UPDATE



You hopefully received an email this afternoon regarding an activation of the fire alarm. Due to the evacuation of the school and canteen and the automatic locking of the shutters in the kitchen, we were unable to feed many of the children in P1-6.

Please check with your child if they were fed. In the middle of the evacuation, it was impossible to ascertain who had been fed and who had not.

Some children were also upset by the activation, so please check in with them and reassure them that it was a false alarm.

Please note, children attending Astoria and P7 children who were due to take dinners have been fed, as we managed to get the shutters released eventually

Apologies for any inconvenience.

It was certainly an interesting end to the day.

LAST DAY OF HALF TERM REMINDERS....

Don't forget tomorrow (23rd October) is our last day of this half term. Here is a reminder of the arrangements:

- *Non-uniform - no donations necessary*
 - *Packed lunch required or school dinners are available*
 - *Please send money for Candy fair - see details below*
 - *All children finish at 1.30pm*
 - *Coding and Salt Factory Sports clubs will meet from 1.30pm - 2.30pm*
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AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES...

Reminder: If your child attends one of the Friday after school clubs (Coding or Salt Factory Sports), don't forget those clubs will meet from 1.30pm-2.30pm on Friday.

Also, below you will see some information about new bookings for after Halloween. The rest of the clubs have already organised bookings after Halloween so they will run on as normal. Clayful Kids, HealthyKidz and Coding require new sign ups. New members welcome!

Teachers who run teacher led clubs will keep children informed as required.

Clayful Minds - Monday - P1-3



CLAYFUL MINDS AFTER SCHOOLS CLUB

NEW TERM, NEW CREATIONS!



Gilnahirk Primary School

Monday's 2:00pm-3:00pm
2nd November- 7th December
£35 FOR 5 WEEKS

Air-drying Non-toxic
Clay Modelling Group games
Mindfulness

Scan QR code below to book Or
contact
luka@clayfulminds.co.uk

SPACES
LIMITED!
DON'T MISS OUT

BOOK NOW

luka@clayfulminds.co.uk 07783158763



Rebekah Leeson

e: Rebekah@clayfulminds.co.uk
t: 079 1937 1505
i: clayful.minds

clayfulminds.co.uk



HealthyKidz - Thursday - P1-7



The poster features a grey stone wall background. At the top center is the Gilnahirk Primary School crest, which includes a shield with a cross and the text 'GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL'. To the right of the crest is the 'healthy kidz' logo, which includes a stylized 'h' and 'k' and the text 'healthy kidz'. Below the crest and logo, the text 'GILNAHIRK PS' is in a small, white, sans-serif font, followed by 'AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS' in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the text '£4.50 PER SESSION' and 'COMMENCING 5TH NOVEMBER 2026' is in a small, white, sans-serif font. In the center, the text 'Thursday 6 Weeks' is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by 'P1-P2 Multi-Sports @ 2pm-3pm' and 'P3-P7 Multi-Sports @ 3pm-4pm' in a white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are three polaroid-style photos. The first photo shows a group of children playing basketball on a court, with the caption 'Move More' below it. The second photo shows a group of children hugging, with the caption 'play with your Friends' below it. The third photo shows a boy and a girl smiling, with the caption 'Grow with Confidence' below it. At the bottom center, the text 'BOOK VIA HEALTHY-KIDZ.COM' is in a small, white, sans-serif font.

GILNAHIRK PS
AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS
£4.50 PER SESSION COMMENCING 5TH NOVEMBER 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

1 - Booking link: <https://pbbl.uk/4z2n9WM>

Coding - Friday - P1-7



The advertisement features a black and blue robot with glowing blue lights. The robot has a large, circular head with a glowing blue ring around it. It has two large, black, treaded wheels on the sides and a smaller wheel in the center. The robot is positioned on a dark surface with blue and red light streaks in the background. The text 'MAX CODING' is in a large, white, sans-serif font at the top left. To the right of the robot, the text 'There's a new bot in town...' is in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, the text 'www.bookwhen.com/Maxcoding' is in a small, white, sans-serif font. A QR code is located at the bottom right.

MAX CODING

There's a new bot in town...

www.bookwhen.com/Maxcoding

2 - Booking link: www.bookwhen.com/maxcoding

ULSTER SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA



Entries for this year's Swim Ulster schools gala at Bangor Aurora are now open.

The event is open to pupils from age 9 upwards. They should preferably swim for a club and must be able to confidently swim 50m in official gala conditions.

If your child is interested in representing Gilnahirk at the gala, please contact Mrs KJ **by Thursday 5th November at the latest.** (kjohnston773@c2kni.net)

REMINDER MESSAGE ABOUT SCHOOL DINNERS...



Due to staffing pressures in the canteen, the EA meals service have decided to remove the choice option from the menu on a temporary basis.

When booking your child in for dinners, please now be aware that ***only main course one will be available each day*** until further notice.

The menu for the canteen can be found at this link:

<https://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=311&type=pdf>

ANNUAL POPPY APPEAL...



If your child has not yet had a chance to purchase a poppy or other poppy related items, they can do so in the week after half term. Please see below for the price list.

Snap Bands - £2

Fabric wrist bands - £1

Rubber wrist bands - £1

Lanyard - £1

Badges - £1

Reflector poppy - 50p

Pencil - 50p

Poppies with plastic - 30p

SAMARITAN'S PURSE ANNUAL SHOEBOX APPEAL (P5-P7).



In our Harvest assembly this week, we also had Barbara Marshall, from Samaritan's Purse who spoke to the P5-7 children about the annual shoebox appeal.

If your child is in Key Stage 2 (P5-7) and wishes to take part, shoeboxes can be requested from Mr Halliday.

They should then be filled with the required items and returned when filled but ***no later than 4th November.***

Thank you.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS...

Parents Association

CANDY FAIR...

The Parents' Association will again run their now traditional Candy Fair on ***Friday 23rd October*** to mark the end of our first half term. Price of goods will range from 20p to £3 - full price list below.



GILLY'S GILNAHIRK VALUES...

Our School Value for the month of October is EMPATHY. In Assembly this week, we spent some time thinking about empathy and how we can apply it in school.



SCHOOL LIFE THIS WEEK...

P1 IPAD FUN...





P2 CLAY HEDGEHOGS...







P3 +20 UNO...





P4 SHOEBOX RAINFORESTS...







P5 'BIG WRITE WEEK' - PROCEDURAL WRITING...

P5 did their first 'Big Write week' of the year, focusing on Procedural writing.







P5 HEALTHY BREAKFAST

Linked to their current World Around Us topic and this week's 'Big Write Week', P5 came to school in their pyjamas for a healthy breakfast. Mrs Dowie even came to school with her rollers in!















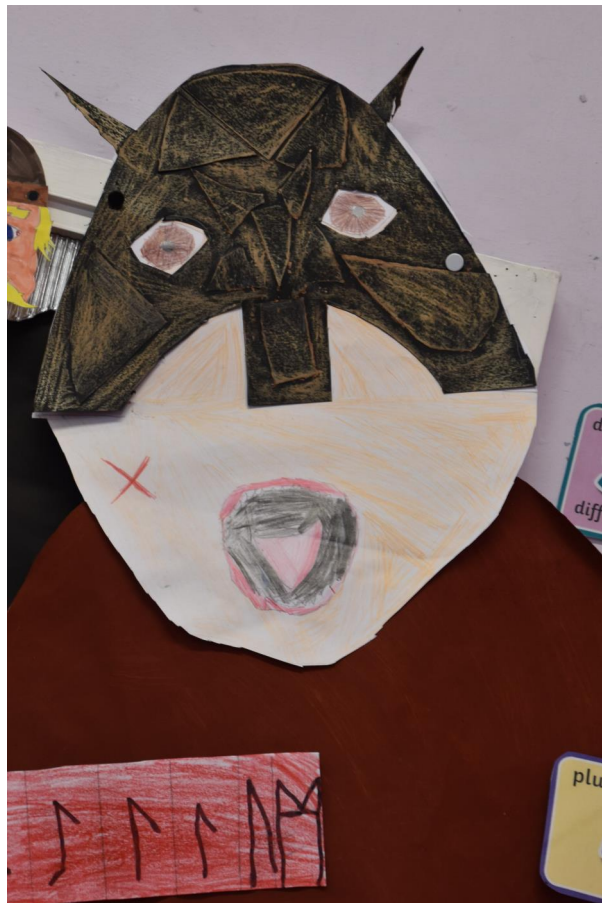


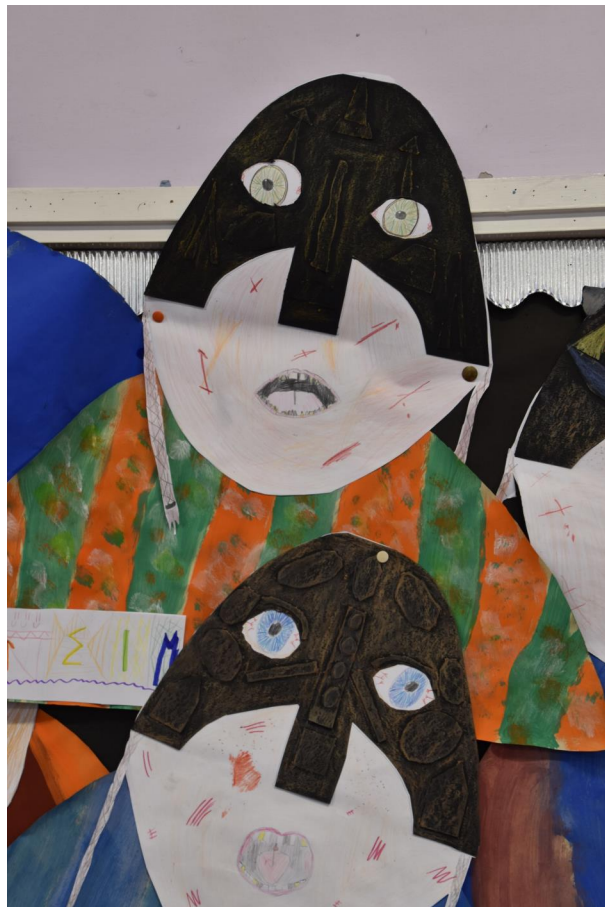






P6 - THE VIKINGS ARE COMING!









WONDERFUL WALL DISPLAYS...

Our school is currently alive with beautiful art work and other curriculum work all around the classrooms and corridors...









VISIT FROM CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN...

Thank
you,



As part of this week's Assembly, Rebecca from Cancer Fund for Children came in to say a huge thank you for the money raised by Gilnahirk, which was ***an amazing £7408.20***

This is an outstanding charity effort - thank you to all who contributed.

THE GILNAHIRK GALLERY OF GREATNESS...





3 - Super conjunctions work in P4!

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

TULLYCARNET LIBRARY EVENTS...



TEA AND TONE...

A fun and gentle seated exercise class suitable for everyone including people with Dementia and their carers. Relieve tension and improve flexibility. The perfect mix of music, movement, craic and a cuppa.

Third Wednesday of every month 1:45pm – 2:30pm

Everyone welcome. Ask staff for details

t: 028 9048 5076

e: tullycarnet.library@librariesni.org.uk

GREEN GUARDIANS...

The Tullycarnet Green Guardians is a new fun, hands-on monthly library group. Discover nature, learn about saving the environment, and become local eco-heroes through exciting outdoor adventures, wildlife crafts, and environmental projects.

Sign up now –your planet needs you.

15th October, 19th November, 17th December, 3:30pm –4:30pm

Ages 8 and up

Everyone welcome. Ask staff for details

t: 028 9048 5076

e: tullycarnet.library@librariesni.org.uk

RISING STAR SPORTS
FOOTBALL • LASER TAG • DODGEBALL • MORE

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

HALLOWEEN CAMP

AGES 4-11 AT GILNAHIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL

26-30TH OCTOBER | **9-2 EACH DAY** | **£60 PER WEEK** | **£15 PER DAY**

FOOTBALL **DODGEBALL** **LASER TAG** **AND MUCH MORE**

BOOK BEFORE 1ST OCTOBER TO GET OUR EARLYBIRD PRICE OF **£50** → **USE CODE HALLOWEEN10**

TO PRE BOOK CONTACT **MATTHEW ON 07702646828**

DON'T MISS OUT... IT'S GOING TO BE A SCARY GOOD TIME!



Online Workshops



November 2026

Nov 2nd	10.30-11.30am Sensory SOS: Practical Strategies for kids who feel everything	SCAN ME
Nov 3rd	7.30-8.30pm Sensory SOS: Practical Strategies for kids who feel everything	SCAN ME
Nov 11th	10:30AM -11.30AM Stop, Think & Act: Helping Children Manage Impulsivity	SCAN ME
Nov 12th	7.30-8.30pm Stop, Think & Act: Helping Children Manage Impulsivity	SCAN ME



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



November 2026

**Nov
17th**

7:30PM - 8:30PM

Thinking Outside the Box. How Different Brains Learn & Grow

SCAN ME



**Nov
19th**

10.30-11.30am

Thinking Outside the Box. How Different Brains Learn & Grow

SCAN ME



**Nov
25th**

7.30-8.30pm

Calm & Connected
Helping kids understand and manage emotions

SCAN ME



MAIN DATES FOR THE REST OF TERM 1...



- **Friday 23rd October** - last day of half term - early finish (1.30) - see further details above
- **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)
- **Friday 18 December** - Last day of term 1 - early finish

KEY PARENT ACTIONS BASED ON THIS WEEK'S SWAY...

Here are the main actions parents should consider from this week's update:

- *Check in with your child following today's fire alarm. Please check whether they received their school dinner and reassure them if they were unsettled by the false alarm. P7 pupils due to take dinners and children attending Astoria were fed.*
- ***Friday 23 October:** Children may come in **non-uniform** with **no donation required**. Please send a **packed lunch or book a school dinner**, and send money if your child wishes to buy something at the **Candy Fair**. All pupils finish at **1.30pm**.*
- ***Friday clubs:** Coding and Salt Factory Sports will run from **1.30–2.30pm** following the early finish.*
- ***After-school clubs after Halloween:** New bookings are required for **Clayful Minds, HealthyKidz and Coding**. Other clubs continue as already arranged.*
- ***School dinners:** Please note that **only Main Course 1** will be available each day until further notice due to canteen staffing pressures.*
- ***Swimming Gala:** Children aged **9+** who meet the swimming requirements and wish to represent Gilnahirk should contact Mrs KJ **by Thursday 5 November**.*
- ***Shoobox Appeal, P5–P7:** Children wishing to participate can request a shoobox from Mr Halliday. Completed boxes must be returned **by 4 November**. [*
- ***Poppy Appeal:** Children can purchase poppies and related items during the **week after half term**.*

- *Half-term: School is closed **Monday 26–Friday 30 October** and reopens **Monday 2 November**.*
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Have a great half term break.

With kind regards

D Corbett

Principal.

