



December 2025 Newsletter



**Nursery & P1 Foundation Stage
Open Afternoon
Tuesday 9th December
2.15pm-3.15pm
All Welcome!**



Our School Prospectus can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20251111103757_13_Good_Shepherd_Primary_PROSPECTUS_2026_2027.pdf

Nursery Admissions Information

Date	Activity
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Admissions criteria for Pre-Schools published on the EA website.
Wednesday 7 January 2026 – at 12 noon	EA Connect opens for online applications for Pre-School, submitting verification/supporting documents.
Wednesday 21 January 2026 – at 12 noon	EA Connect closes. Last date/time for punctual applications for Pre-School.
Monday 26 January 2026 – by 4pm	Final date/time for late applications. Final date/time for Change of Preference in Exceptional Circumstances. Final date/time for documents in support of applications.
Monday 23 March 2026	Pre-School Stage 1 - Target Age Only - Parents/Carers will receive application outcome via email (where one is held) or by letter. Pre-School Stage 2 - Admissions applications opens.
Wednesday 1 April 2026 - by 4pm	Deadline for Pre-School Stage 2 application/preference(s)/documents: › Additional preferences (treated as punctual) from applicants who are engaging in Stage 2 for a child(ren) not selected in Stage 1; or › New 1st time Target age application or pre-school application related to a Late P1 Deferral (treated as punctual); or › New 1st time Underage application (treated as late); or › Additional preference from an applicant who declined a Stage 1 offer (treated as late).
Tuesday 19 May 2026	Pre-School Stage 2 - Parents/carers will receive application outcome via email (where one is held) or by letter.

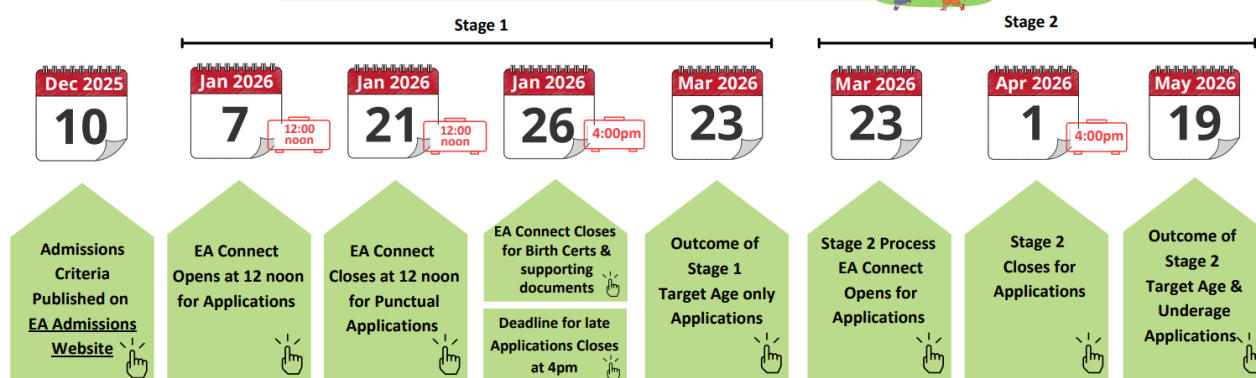


Applying for a Pre-School place for September 2026: Key Dates

For **target age** children born on or between **2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023**

For **underage** children born on or between **2 July 2023 and 1 July 2024**

If you are deferring your child from starting Primary School, you can apply for a Pre-School place.



IMPORTANT
Submit a Punctual Application
within these dates/times
eaconnect

It is important to read:

- ✓ the pre-school admissions guide; and
 - ✓ the published Admissions Criteria of your listed Pre-Schools
- Visit www.eani.org.uk/admissions for further information



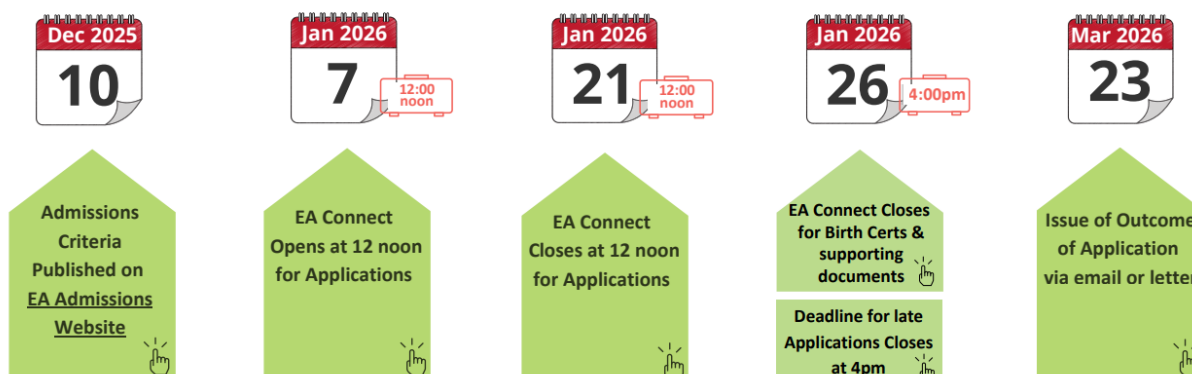
Primary 1 Admissions Information

Date	Activity
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Admissions criteria for Primary schools published on the EA website.
Wednesday 7 January 2026 – at 12 noon	EA Connect opens for online applications for Primary 1.
Wednesday 21 January 2026 – at 12 noon	EA Connect closes. Last date/time for punctual applications for Primary 1.
Monday 26 January 2026 – by 4pm	Final date/time for late applications. Final date/time for Change of Preference in Exceptional Circumstances. Final date/time for documents in support of applications.
Monday 23 March 2026	Parents/carers will receive application outcomes via email (where one is held) or by letter.



Key Dates: Applying for a Primary 1 Place for September 2026

- ✓ Children born on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 are compulsory school age in September 2026 and must apply for a Primary 1 Place.
- ✓ If you deferred your child from starting Primary School in September 2025 you must apply for Primary 1 for September 2026.



It is important to read:

- ✓ the Primary School Admissions guide; and
 - ✓ the published Admissions Criteria of your listed Primary Schools.
- Visit www.eani.org.uk/admissions for further information

We are delighted to welcome you to our open afternoon to be held on Tuesday 9th December 2024 where our Nursery and Foundation Stage classrooms will be open for all visitors from 2.15pm-3.15pm. Here, you will get a chance to meet our teachers and learning support assistants and interact with our exciting learning environments. We look forward to welcoming your family to the Good Shepherd School Community.

Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange an individual tour of the school.



Thank you for all your donations to our Cancer Focus fundraising in October!



Friends of Good Shepherd Christmas Fundraising

The school will hold 2 fund raising endeavours. Winners will be announced on Thursday 18th December.

1. Split the Pot- £1 minimum entry. Place **£1 or more** into the envelope issued by the school labelled with your child's name. One ticket will be randomly chosen with half of the money raised going to the named ticket holder and the other half going to school funds. The larger the donation, the more money 'in the pot' to win!
2. Christmas Raffle- £1 per ticket which are available to buy from the school council daily from the 1st of December or **during the Nursery-Primary 3 Christmas Nativity Plays- prizes to be announced...**

Both fundraising draws will be pulled on Thursday 18th December. Thank you for your continued support of the school.



Christmas Dinner will be served on Thursday 11th December 2025.

To give an idea of numbers to our kitchen team- please register your expression of interest here for each child: <https://forms.office.com/e/R33ux1F9Cj> this form closes on Tuesday 9th December at 12noon.

All children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers/festive clothing or non-uniform to school on Thursday 11th December for their Christmas Dinner (even if taking packed lunch).

Children are also permitted to wear Christmas jumpers/festive clothing or non-uniform from Monday 15th December until the end of term.

Staff Gifts

Whilst we, as staff really appreciate your gifts at Christmas, this year we would like you to instead to either donate to a local charity, perhaps a local foodbank or shoebox appeal, or to give a little extra to a deserving family member in what has been a very challenging year for many.



We would appreciate any local business owners to donate to our Christmas fundraising endeavours- all appreciated! Thank you!



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on. This is our central means of communication.



Teaching and learning starts at 9am every day. It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. **Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. No need to book in for the breakfast club- £1 a day per child.** **Please enter the school grounds via the Nursery pedestrian gate.** In the interests of health and safety, children should not be left unsupervised at the school gates before they open.



Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class will begin swimming every Friday for 10 weeks on Friday 9th January 2026. This should be paid on ParentPay.

Safeguarding Information



In the interests of health and safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch. This includes Nutella.



We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder- **spaces are very limited**. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence. If you are a blue badge holder and you avail of parking within the school grounds; **please wait to exit the school grounds until the large crowds have dispersed**. If crossing the road outside the school gates please cross with our school crossing patrol lady, Mrs McQuaid at the dropped kerb.

Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. **Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time.** Please talk to your child about general road

safety. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M. Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs M. Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs Kyle/ Mrs A Kivlehan/Mr D Herron.

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly.

The school holiday lists can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20250501113044_31_Holiday_List_PARENTS_2025-26.pdf

The new school dinner menu can be accessed here- please check which week we are on as there is a 4 week menu:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20250923023744_68_PS_Autumn_Winter_Menu_2025-26_2_Choices.pdf



**Why not take on a new challenge, learn new skills, have fun
and make new friends at our after school clubs...**

*All clubs must be signed up for before they commence...

Day	Club	Year Group & Time	Book/Pay
Monday	Mini-Professors Science Club	P1-P2 2-2.50pm P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	Restarts on Monday 12th January 2026 £30 for 7 weeks Book via ParentPay (20 spaces maximum for each session)
Monday	R9 Multi-Sports Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Started Monday 17th November £40 for 8 weeks (discount for siblings attending) Book via R9 Website https://www.cognitoforms.com/R9SportsCoaching/GoodShepherdPrimarySchool
Tuesday	Singing with Clodagh McCullough	P1 & P2: 2-2.45pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm	Restarts on Tuesday 6th January 2026 £42 for 10 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via Parent Pay
Tuesday	Young Authors and book publishing	P6-P7 3-4pm	Restarts on Tuesday 13th January 2026 *Primary 6 & Primary 7 only £42 for 6 weeks (10 spaces maximum) Book via Parent Pay
Wednesday	Dance with Skills Schools Dance	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Started Wednesday 26th November £36 for 8 weeks (discount for siblings attending) Book directly here: https://skillschool.classforkids.io/
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons with Mark from leap	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7	Restarts on Wednesday 7th January 2026 £46 for 10 weeks Book via parent pay

	lessons, Derry	3-3.30pm & 3.30-4pm	12 places maximum
Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Restarts again on Thursday 8th January 2026 Pay via Parent Pay £42 for 10 weeks Book via ParentPay
Thursday	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Restarts again on Thursday 8th January 2026 £42 for 10 weeks 20 places maximum Book via Parent Pay

Important Dates in December:

Date	What's on?
There is no formal homework set for the month of December. This is a special and busy time for families to prepare for the season of Advent together. We would encourage that families continue with reading together over this month.	
Monday 1st December	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Tuesday 2nd December	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 9
Wednesday 3rd December	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Wednesday 3rd December	Primary 7 Mandarin Lessons
Wednesday 3rd December	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 10. LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Thursday 4th December	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Thursday 4th December	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Monday 8th December	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4
Tuesday 9th December	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Wednesday 10th December	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Wednesday 10th December	Primary 7 Mandarin Lessons
Wednesday 10th December	The Education Authority publishes admissions criteria for Nursery & Primary 1
Thursday 11th December 	Christmas Dinner Register your child here: https://forms.office.com/e/R33ux1F9Cj This form closes on Tuesday 9 th December at 12noon. All children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers/festive clothing or non-uniform to school today (even if taking packed lunch).
Thursday 11th December	Primary 4RC/JD participate in intergenerational programme at 'Older People NW' Singing Christmas Songs 11am-12noon

Thursday 11th December	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Friday 12th December 	A special visitor is arriving to meet the boys and girls of Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School!
Monday 15th December-Friday 19th December: There are no afterschool clubs running on these days. Brothers and Sisters will run as normal from 2-3pm daily.  Christmas jumpers/non-uniform can be worn from Monday 15th December until the end of term	
Monday 15th December 	P2AD Nativity @11am P3MH Nativity @1.30pm
Tuesday 16th December 	P2JL Nativity @9.30am P1RC Nativity @11am P3CMK Nativity @1.30pm
Wednesday 17th December	Primary 7 Mandarin Lessons
Wednesday 17th December 	Nursery Mrs Kyle's Class Nativity @9.30am P1AK Nativity @11am
Thursday 18th December 	Nursery Mrs Warne's Class Nativity @9.30am

Thursday 18 th December	Split the Pot and Christmas Raffles
Thursday 18 th December	Our Nursery finish for the Christmas Holidays at 1.15pm
Friday 19 th December	The school will be closed from 12noon for Primary 1-Primary 7 children. School dinners will be available for those entitled to free school <u>meals only</u>. If your child normally has a packed lunch they shouldn't bring one to school as they will be leaving at 12noon.
School reopens for all pupils on Monday 5th January 2026 	



Wishing our entire school community a safe and happy Christmas from all the team at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School