



November 2025 Newsletter



Thank you to all those who supported our voluntary contribution towards school funds. This is very much appreciated.



We raised an incredible £562.30 with our book sale and non-uniform day held during maths week Ireland.

Our staff raised £460.50 with a coffee morning held on Tuesday 28th November.

In total we will be handing over an incredible £1,022.80 to Cancer Focus Northern Ireland. 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.

A safety message from Road Safe NI...

A poster for a school safety campaign. It features a young girl with pigtails and a pink backpack waving to a woman in a yellow shirt who is waving from the driver's seat of a car. The background is a blurred street scene.

CRASH

ROAD SAFE NI
CHARITY
WORKING TOGETHER SAVES LIVES

**TOP 7 SAFETY
TIPS FOR THE
SCHOOL RUN**

www.crashservices.com

Make every journey a safe one with these simple road safety tips.

Whether it's the first day of P1 or just another Monday morning, the school run can be hectic. Between forgotten lunches, missing shoes and traffic jams, it's easy to forget the basics- like road safety.

At Road Safe NI, we believe every school journey should be safe, calm and stress-free. Here are 7 essential tips to help parents, carers and drivers keep our roads safer for children during the school run.

1. Choose the Right Car Seat – And Fit It Properly

If your child is under 12 or under 135cm in height, they must use a child car seat that's appropriate for their size and weight.

For more on this see- <https://www.crashservices.com/have-you-the-right-child-car-seats-in-your-car/>

2. Give Yourself Extra Time

Running late leads to rushing and rushing leads to mistakes. Leaving just 10–15 minutes earlier can reduce stress, allow time for safe parking and keep you calm behind the wheel.

3. Park Smart – Not Just Close

Avoid stopping:

- On yellow zigzag lines
- Near corners, crossings or junctions
- Where you block driveways or force children to cross between cars

Park a little further and walk, it's safer and gives everyone a few minutes of fresh air.

4. Always Obey the Lollipop Person

The school crossing patrol (or “lollipop person”) plays a crucial role in keeping children safe. Follow their instructions, stop when asked and thank them, they stand in all weathers to protect your kids.

5. Ditch the Distractions

Stay off your phone, turn down the radio and keep your eyes on:

- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Children who may step out without looking

Remember, kids can be unpredictable. Stay alert.

6. Teach Your Child the Basics

Whether walking with you or independently:

- Always stop, look, listen and think
- Use pedestrian crossings
- Stay off phones and headphones when crossing

Reinforce these habits at home, they'll last a lifetime.

7. **Respect the School Zone**

Slow down to 20mph or less in school zones, even if there's no official signage. Children are harder to see and may dart into the road unexpectedly. Speed limits are a maximum, not a target.

Final Thought:

The school run may be routine, but road safety should never be taken for granted. By following these simple tips, you're helping to protect not just your own children, but every child in your community.

Together, we can make Northern Ireland's roads safer- one school run at a time.



Friday 14th November 2025

We will be holding a special walk, scoot or cycle to school day, with the theme of **Ditch the Dark!** To raise awareness of safe travel to school as the days remain dark, we are encouraging children to cycle, scoot or walk to school looking as bright, shiny and reflective as possible.

This is a non-uniform day for all pupils!

Children are invited to get creative with their outfits, and even to decorate their bikes and scooters to be super bright (please ensure decorations do not interfere with the safety of the bike / scooter). The possibilities are endless – bright clothing, bike lights, glow sticks, a helmet wrapped in tin foil, fluorescent orange socks, a pink tutu, a neon green wig – be bright, brighter, or the brightest!

You are more than welcome to join the fun, and walk, cycle or scoot to school as well – perhaps in ***your*** brightest outfit!

If you have any queries, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. McCafferty
Active Travel Champion
Good Shepherd Primary School

Donna McFeely
Sustrans Schools Officer
donna.mcfeely@sustrans.org.uk



Each Nursery-P3 class will hold a Nativity Assembly of their own. **There will be no limit of how many can attend from each family.** This aims to be a **reflective and personal approach** on what is such an important and magical time of year for our children and our school community.

Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 2 & Primary 3 Nativity dates...

Class	Date	Time
Primary 2 AD	Monday 15 th December	11am
Primary 3MH	Monday 15 th December	1.30pm
Primary 2JL	Tuesday 16 th December	9.30am
Primary 1RC	Tuesday 16 th December	11am
Primary 3CMK	Tuesday 16 th December	1.30pm
Nursery CK	Wednesday 17 th December	9.30am
Primary 1 AK	Wednesday 17 th December	11am
Nursery RW	Thursday 18 th December	9.30am

Open Afternoon Information:

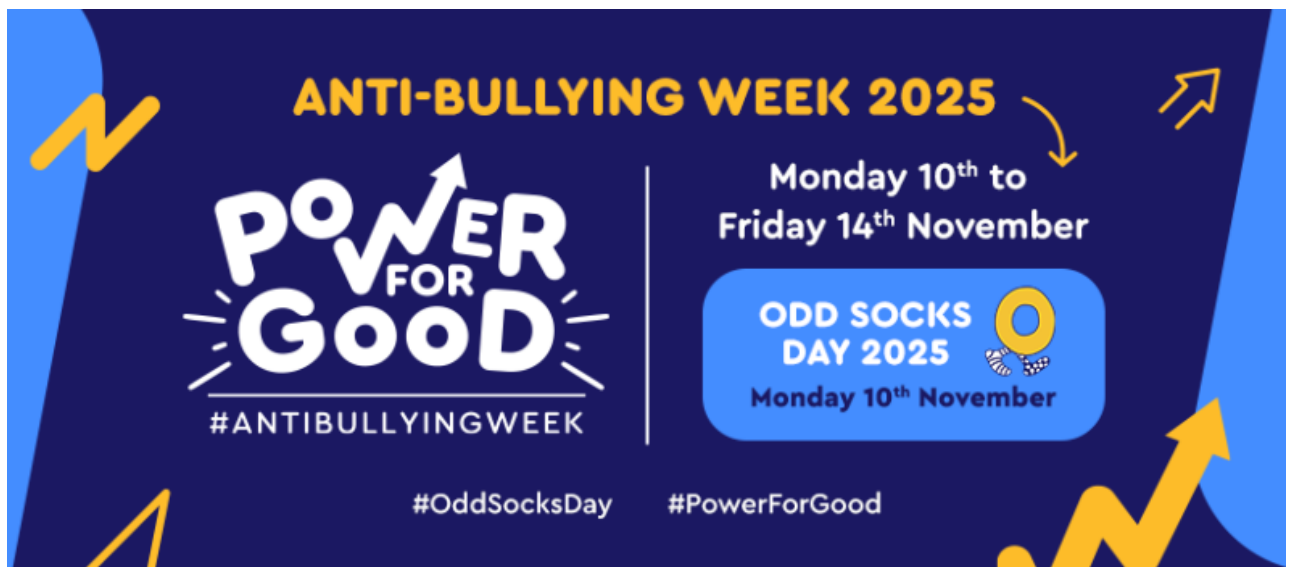



Nursery & P1 Foundation Stage
Open Afternoon
Tuesday 9th December
2.15pm-3.15pm ✨
All Welcome!









Anti-bullying week is being celebrated from Monday 10th November. The theme this year is 'choose respect.' **Odd socks day is on Monday 10th November.** Check out the link below for resources to compliment and support our efforts in school to raise awareness and prevent bullying behaviour:

- <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers>



We will be holding an anti-bullying poster competition this year. 1 winner will be announced from each class. Student council groups will be completing the judging. All entries to be in by Friday 14th November 2025. Good luck everyone!



We would like to draw your attention to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland website which is packed full of resources for both children and adults on a wide range of safeguarding topics including online safety, gambling and healthy relationships. Click the link below to find out more...

- <https://onlinesafetyhub.safeguardingni.org/>
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Primary 6 are continuing to make excellent progress at their weekly swimming lesson- well done! Their last lesson will be on Wednesday 26th November.

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



Please ensure all dinner money arrears are settled on Parent Pay. Our Dinner Money Policy is linked below for further details. Dinners should be paid for in advance.

Thank you!

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20250618082956_54_DINNER_MONEY_POLICY_2025.pdf

Dinner Menu:

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/dinner-menu/>



Free Fruit Breaks available every day!

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.

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 Maria 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.



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	Continues until December- will restart again in January 2026
Monday	R9 Multi-Sports Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Monday 17 th 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	Continues until December- will restart again in January 2026
Tuesday	Young Authors and book publishing	P4-P7 3-4pm	Restarting in January 2026- more information to follow.
Wednesday	Dance with Skills Schools Dance	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Wednesday 26 th November £36 for 8 weeks (discount for siblings attending) Book directly here: https://skillschool.classforkids.io/
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons with Mark from leap lessons, Derry	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7 3-3.30pm & 3.30-4pm	Continues until December- will restart again in January 2026

Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Continues until December- will restart again in January 2026
Thursday	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Continues until December- will restart again in January 2026



Friends of Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School

There will be a meeting of the Friends of Good Shepherd with Mrs Donnelly in the staff room on Thursday 13th November at 2.30pm. **New members welcome to attend!** The agenda will be for individuals to reach out to local business providers to assist with our Christmas Raffle fundraising endeavours. **If you cannot make the meeting but can help, please leave any donations for our Christmas Raffle at the school office- this is your opportunity to support your local school community and showcase your business in the community!**

All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank You

Important Dates in November:

Date	What's on?
Monday 3 rd November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 7
Monday 3 rd November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 5
Monday 3 rd November	Children of Fatima Prayer Group Visit Primary 4-7
Tuesday 4 th November	AFTER SCHOOL SINGING CLUB NOT RUNNING THIS WEEK
Tuesday 4 th November	Schools' Soccer League @ Ebrington PS
Wednesday 5 th November	P6 Swimming Week 8
Wednesday 5 th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Wednesday 5 th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 6 3pm-3.30pm & 3.30pm-4pm
Wednesday 5 th November	Primary 7 Mandarin Classes
Thursday 6 th November	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Thursday 6 th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Friday 7 th November	
 The banner features a dark blue background with yellow and white text. On the left, it says 'ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025' in yellow, followed by 'POWER FOR GOOD' in large white letters with a sunburst effect, and '#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK' below it. On the right, it says 'Monday 10th to Friday 14th November' in white, followed by 'ODD SOCKS DAY 2025' in white inside a blue rounded rectangle, and 'Monday 10th November' below it. At the bottom, it includes the hashtags '#OddSocksDay' and '#PowerForGood'. There are also yellow lightning bolt and arrow graphics.	
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day
 The logo shows a pair of colorful socks (one yellow with red stripes, one purple with yellow stripes) next to the text 'odd socks day' in a playful, rounded font.	
Monday 10 th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm,

	P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 8 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Monday 10th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 6
Tuesday 11th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 6
Tuesday 11th November	Schools' Soccer League @ Shared Village
Wednesday 12th November	P6 Swimming Week 9
Wednesday 12th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Wednesday 12th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 7 3pm-3.30pm & 3.30pm-4pm
Wednesday 12th November	Primary 7 Mandarin Classes
Thursday 13th November	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Thursday 13th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Friday 14th November 	 Children are invited to wear their brightest clothing to school and make an effort to either walk, cycle or scoot to school!
Friday 14th November	Anti-bullying poster competition deadline
Saturday 15th November	SEAG Test 1
Monday 17th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 7 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Monday 17th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 1 OF NEW BLOCK
Tuesday 18th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 7
Wednesday 19th November	P6 Swimming Week 10
Wednesday 19th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Wednesday 19th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 8 3pm-3.30pm & 3.30pm-4pm
Wednesday 19th November	Primary 7 Mandarin Classes
Thursday 20th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm,

	P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Thursday 20th November	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Friday 21th November	
Saturday 22nd November	SEAG Test 2
Monday 24th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 2
Tuesday 25th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 8
Wednesday 26th November	P6 Swimming Make up lesson for week swimming pool was closed
Wednesday 26th November	Primary 7 Mandarin Classes
Wednesday 26th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 9 3pm-3.30pm & 3.30pm-4pm
Thursday 27th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Thursday 27th November	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Friday 28th November	

Thank you to our entire school community for your continued support of the school.