

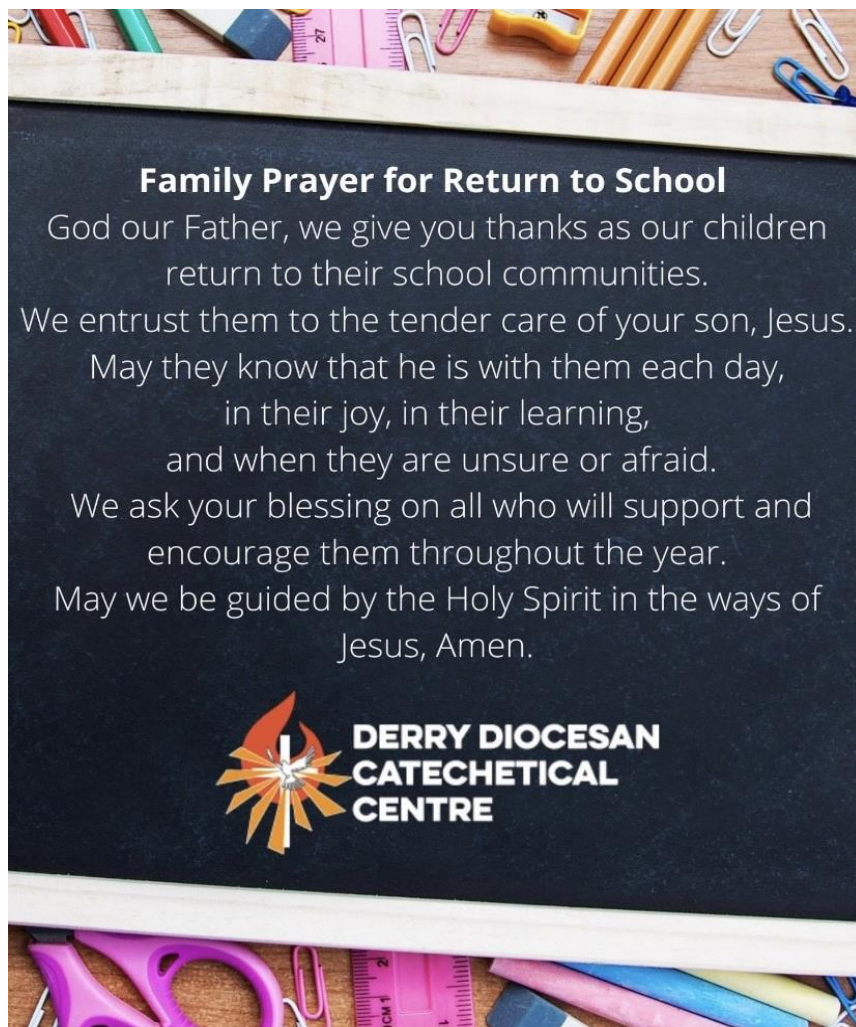


September 2025 Newsletter



We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children and families as they return to school this September. We would also like to welcome all our new members of staff and new pupils who have joined our Nursery, Primary 1 and other primary classes throughout the school.

Also joining our school this year are our two cuddly mascots. We look forward to our school community helping us name our new friends who aim to help us in the promotion of our school vision and values.





We are delighted to announce that Miss Logue is joining our team this year as a permanent member of staff. We wish her every blessing for her future here at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School.



**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	Starting Monday 22nd September £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	Starting Monday 23rd September £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	Starting Tuesday 23rd September £42 for 10 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via Parent Pay
Tuesday 	Young Authors and book publishing	P4-P7 3-4pm	Starting Tuesday 23rd September £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	Starting Wednesday 24th September £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	Starting Wednesday 24th September <u>Children will need their own guitar</u> £42 for 10 weeks Book via parent pay 12 places maximum

Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Thursday 25 th September 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	Starting Thursday 25 th September £42 for 10 weeks 20 places maximum Book via Parent Pay

AFTERSCHOOLS SPORTS CLUB




WHERE: Good Shepherd PS, Derry

WHEN: Monday 22nd September

WHAT: Multisports

TIME: P1-P2 @ 2:00pm - 3:00pm
P3-P7 @ 3:00pm - 4:00pm

COST: £40 for 8 Week Block

HOW TO BOOK: Book Online Via www.r9coaching.co.uk
10% Family Discount Code: **"SAVE10"**
(For Booking 2 Or More Children)
Or leave money and reply slip enclosed in an envelope into the office.



MULTISPORTS



FUN FOR ALL!

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PROVIDING FUN,
PROFESSIONAL
AND INCLUSIVE COACHING
FOR CHILDREN OF ALL
ABILITIES

SKILL SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

Experience modern dance in a Fun and Professional environment with a range of styles including hip hop, street, disco, jive and many more.

Our dance team hold 1st place championship titles at all Ireland, European and World level. Sessions are inclusive of all ages and abilities from beginner to elite so come along and express yourself.

See our intro to Skill School for primary schools by scanning the QR code;



Where:	GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL
When:	WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2025
What:	DANCE
Time:	P1+P2 2PM - 3PM P3-P7 3PM - 4PM
Cost:	£36 FOR AN 8 WEEK COURSE. 10% FAMILY DISCOUNT
How to Book:	ONLINE AT SKILLSCHOOLNI.COM/BOOKINGS
Other Info:	

028 7122 3515 info@skillschoolni.com skillschoolni @skillschoolni



Swimming starts for both Primary 6 classes each Wednesday from the 10th September for 10 weeks. Children will need to bring with them their swimming gear and a waterproof coat with a hood each week as they will walk to and from the Foyle Arena.

Please pay £20 via ParentPay.



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.

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. Children arriving after 9am must enter the school via the school office. Thank you!



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.

The school holiday lists can be accessed [here](#):

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/holiday-list/>

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

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



We are delighted to share that our Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 classes will participate in the Musical Pathways to Learning Programme (MPL) every Friday. These music lessons are facilitated by a musical specialist: Mrs H. O'Hare.

The Musical Pathways to Learning Programme focuses on the main elements of music (beat, pulse, and rhythm) but it also focuses on creativity and expression. Therefore, the children involved in the project have access to consistent, high quality music provision which will provide an excellent foundation to instrumental learning or further studies in music. It also provides an opportunity for the children to explore communication skills and of course have fun!

The MPL programme has been shown to:

- help children find their singing voice.
- develop intellect and character
- develop imagination
- build self-esteem
- help children acquire self-discipline, awareness and tolerance
- develop social and communication skills



**Brothers and Sisters after school provision (2-3pm)
for Primary 1 & 2 children.**

In order to support our school community, we will be offering afterschool supervision for children in Primary 2 (from Monday 1st September) and Primary 1 (from Monday 29th September) **who has an older sibling in Primary 3-7 currently at the school.** This will allow for 1 family pick up. Children staying should pack a healthy snack for this time. Please let your child's class teacher know if you want to avail of this service. Children should be collected by an adult **only**, from the canteen door (beside front reception area) at 3pm if they are attending. Book your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/e/qkUi7yT7xr>



- Breakfast club will commence on Monday 1st September for Primary 1-7 children, and then on Monday 22nd September for Nursery children also.
- Breakfast club is open from 8.10am-8.30am. Children cannot attend breakfast club after 8.30am.
- **Please only send your child if they are independent when eating to ensure their wellbeing.**
- Children should be accompanied by an adult to the canteen door.
- Please enter the **school grounds via the upper nursery gate** and directly into the canteen via the steps located beside the school reception area.
- The cost of this will be £1 per day, per child. This should be paid in cash each day to breakfast club supervisory staff. This charge covers the cost of food, cleaning supplies and staff.
- Children will have a choice of toast, cereals, fruit juice and milk each day.

Our Vision

Our Vision at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School, is for the outstanding provision for each and every child and their family in order for them to reach their full potential. This is delivered through an inclusive, child-centred Catholic ethos. Our vision is to utilise the strengths of our staff and wider local community to ensure the holistic needs of our children are catered for. The happiness, safety and wellbeing of our school community is at the heart of all we do.

School Aims

Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School, promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with children to:

Learn:

- Promote life long learning amongst our school community
- Meeting the individual learning needs of all pupils
- Inclusion at the heart of all we do
- Promotion of continuous staff development and wellbeing

Believe:

- To provide a caring, sharing environment based on Christian values
- To become an extension of the Catholic home
- To celebrate their self-worth and realise their abilities, achievements, strengths, and personal preferences in order to have a high level of self-esteem
- To promote each child's awareness of his/her identity and heritage and have respect for other traditions

Respect:

- To promote equality and inclusion
- To develop a sense of fairness, tolerance, respect and responsibility towards ourselves and others
- To promote an awareness of the need for rules and regulations within the school environment and to encourage respect for them
- To take ownership of their environment both locally and globally

Achieve:

- To provide each child with a broad, balance curriculum allowing each child to achieve his/her potential
- To develop the academic, physical, social, moral and emotional abilities of each child
- To always strive for better

- To develop enquiring minds and a sense of curiosity

We ensure that each child will achieve success through experiencing:

- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- A safe, welcoming and stimulating learning environment
- A varied programme of extra-curricular activities and school visits
- An ethos that is supportive, encouraging and friendly
- An effective partnership between school, home and the wider community
- A variety of teaching approaches and strategies to meet the needs and learning styles of pupils
- Access to a range of varied and up-to-date resources

We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:

- Ongoing self-evaluation to ensure our vision is achieved
- Working collaboratively with all our stakeholders

Important Dates in September:

Date	What's on?
Monday 1st September	School starts for all P2-P7 children. Nursery & Primary 1 children have individual start dates. Primary 1 children go home at 12noon.
Wednesday 3rd September	Stringed instrument tuition restarts for specific P5-P7 children
Monday 8th September	'Children of Fatima' prayers with P4-P7
Wednesday 10th September	P6 Swimming Week 1
Friday 12th September	Reading Champions Day- more information to follow
Wednesday 17th September	P6 Swimming Week 2
Monday 22nd September	Primary 1 children go home at 1pm after dinnertime
Monday 22nd September	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 1
Monday 22nd September	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 1
Tuesday 23rd September	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 1
Tuesday 23rd September	Young Authors and book publishing afterschool club. Week 1 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7. Week 1
Wednesday 24th September	P6 Swimming Week 3
Wednesday 24th September	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 1 3pm-3.30pm & 3.30pm-4pm
Wednesday 24th September	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 1
Thursday 25th September	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 1
Thursday 25th September	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 1
Friday 26th September	10am Beginning of the year Mass in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road.
Monday 29th September	Primary 1 children go home at 2pm

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