



May 2026 Newsletter



We would like to wish our amazing Primary 4 children every blessing as they make their First Holy Communion on Friday 15th May 2026. 11.30am P4BD/RD, 1pm P4RC. A photographer will be available before, during and after the ceremonies. All parents/guardians welcome to attend. The ceremonies will also be streamed on the Parish Webcam which can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WatersideParish>.

All Primary 4 children and their siblings will be marked 'R' as religious observance on their attendance record for that day.



In May we Remember Our Lady. Children are welcome to bring in flowers to adorn our May Altar in school. The Children of Fatima Prayer group will be in school on Monday 11th May to lead P4-P7 in a May Procession.



Dates for the Diary:

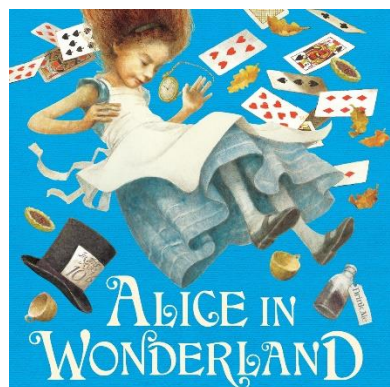
- Sports Day for P1-P7 will be held on Tuesday 9th June (weather permitting). Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend. More information to follow...

The school will be closed for all pupils on the following dates in May:

- Monday 4th May 2026
- Tuesday 5th May 2026
- Monday 25th May 2026
- Tuesday 26th May 2026

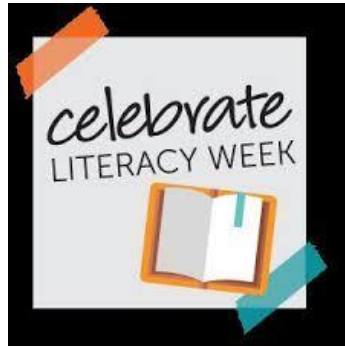


The **Nursery** will finish after their graduation ceremonies on Friday 19th June.
P1-P7: The school will close on Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 12noon for the Summer Holidays.



We are delighted to welcome back M&M Theatrical Productions again to Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School on Wednesday 20th May to perform 'Alice in Wonderland' to our Primary 3, Primary 4, Primary 5 & Primary 6 children. This is a wonderful experience of a live show with fabulous drama, dance, costume, stage and song. Cost is £5 per pupil and is available to pay via ParentPay.

Literacy Week Celebrations



Monday 11th May- Friday 15th May 2026

- Scolastic Book Fair in school all week- if you wish your child to purchase a book please send in money in an envelope with their name marked on it.
- **Sales also open from 2pm-3pm Monday-Wednesday** if you wish to accompany your child to choose a book- please call into the school office first.
- **Thursday 14th May-** dress up as a book character
- **Get creative-** create a model of your favourite book character using a potato. All entries to be in by **Monday 18th May. Please label your entry with your name and class!**



- **Thursday 14th May-** Mr Tom Sweeney the Music Man will be in to lead the children in song and rhyme. Please bring in £1 donation/ £2 per family.

Friends' of Good Shepherd School Disco

Our School Disco will take place on

Thursday 28th May

5.30pm-6.15pm P1-P4

6.30pm-7.30pm P5-P7

£3 Entry & Tuck Shop Available



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.

Sun Safety Reminder:



We would encourage Parents/Guardians to apply sun cream on their child before they start school each day if the weather indicates a risk. Children can bring a

sunhat to school (please label with their name). We would also encourage the children to bring water each day to stay hydrated. Summer uniform can be worn anytime in the third term. Boys may wish to wear plain navy shorts and a short sleeve white shirt, while girls may wish to wear blue/navy gingham summer dress.

Our Sun Safety Policy can be accessed here:

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/embed.aspx?src=https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassets/swd/475/docletter/20210325024627_80_Good_shepherd_care_in_the_sun.docx

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. Due to choking hazards we ask that children do not bring food containing bones for lunch.



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. 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 Donnelly/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/>



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.

Date	What's on?
Friday 1st May 	Wear Red for Ryan £1 donation per family for the Ryan McBride Foundation. 
Friday 1st May	Foyle College Jazz Festival workshop for small group of Primary 6 Pupils.
Friday 1st May	Primary 5SM Swimming
Monday 4th May & Tuesday 5th May School Closed for Pupils	
Wednesday 6th May	Families Connect Parent/Guardian Workshop
Wednesday 6th May	Primary 7 swimming
Wednesday 6th May	After School Guitar P5, P6 & P7 Week 3
Wednesday 6th May	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm NEW BLOCK BOOK HERE: https://skillschool.classforkids.io/
Thursday 7th May	PIRLS Assessment with Primary 6
Thursday 7th May	Primary 7 Cricket Blitz @Foyle College
Thursday 7th May	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4
Thursday 7th May	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Friday 8th May	Primary 5SM swimming
Monday 11th May- Friday 22nd May Primary 4- Primary 7 Assessment Weeks We would ask that children arrive to school promptly on these days to allow for assessments to begin. Primary 3 have already completed their assessments.	
Monday 11th-Friday 15th May Literacy Week Celebrations	
Monday 11th May	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 4
Monday 11th May	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm LAST WEEK OF FINAL BLOCK
Tuesday 12th May	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 4
Tuesday 12th May	Chess Club Week 7
Tuesday 12th May	Girls Football @Bay Road Soccer 1-4pm
Wednesday 13th May	Families Connect Parent/Guardian Workshop
Wednesday 13th May	Nursery Stay & Play Sessions for new pupils starting September 2026

Wednesday 13th May	Primary 7 swimming
Wednesday 13th May	After School Guitar P5, P6 & P7 Week 4
Wednesday 13th May	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 2
Thursday 14th May	Dress up as a book character
Thursday 14th May	Tom Sweeney visit. £1 per child/£2 per family donation
Thursday 14th May	Nursery Stay & Play Sessions for new pupils starting September 2026
Thursday 14th May	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Thursday 14th May	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 4
Friday 15th May	First Holy Communion 11.30am Mr Doherty/Mrs Anderson's class 1pm Mrs Connor/Mrs Duffy's class
Friday 15th May	Primary 5SM swimming
Friday 15th May	Cricket Finals Day@ Bready Cricket Club 10 Primary 7 Pupils
Monday 18th May	Final entries to create a model of your favourite book character from a potato
Monday 18th May	After School Mini Professors NOT ON THIS WEEK!
Monday 18th May	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 1 NEW BLOCK BOOK HERE: https://www.r9coaching.co.uk/pages/multi-sports.php
Tuesday 19th May	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 5
Tuesday 19th May	Chess Club Week 8 LAST WEEK
Wednesday 20th May	Primary 7 swimming
Wednesday 20th May	Families Connect Parent/Guardian Workshop
Wednesday 20th May	M&M Productions 'Alice in Wonderland' Primary 3, Primary 4, Primary 5 & Primary 6. £5 ticket fee available to pay on ParentPay
	
Wednesday 20th May	After School Guitar P5, P6 & P7 Week 5
Wednesday 20th May	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 3
Thursday 21st May	LMC Cookery Demonstration with Primary 7MF
Thursday 21st May	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6

Thursday 21st May	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Friday 22nd May	Primary 6 Visit to Magilligan Field Centre
Friday 22nd May	Primary 5SM swimming
Monday 25th May & Tuesday 26th May School Closed for Pupils	
Wednesday 27th May	Last week of 'Families Connect' Parent/Guardian workshops
Wednesday 27th May	Primary 7 swimming
Wednesday 27th May	After School Guitar P5, P6 & P7 Week 6
Wednesday 27th May	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 4
Thursday 28th May	LMC Cookery Demonstration with Primary 7DH
Thursday 28th May	 School Disco! 5.30pm-6.15pm P1-P4 6.30pm-7.30pm P5-P7 £3 Entry & Tuck Shop Available
Thursday 28th May	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Thursday 28th May	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Friday 29th May	Meet the Lifeguard- water safety information sessions
Friday 29th May	Parent/Guardian Induction Meetings New to Nursery September 2026@ 2pm New to Primary 1 September 2026@2.45pm
Friday 29th May	Primary 5SM swimming

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