



November 2023 Newsletter



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

We raised an impressive £241 from our bring and buy book sale. Thank you for your support!



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.

Attendance

Key Point

Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.

Please ensure that you contact the school office in the morning if your child is not able to attend school.



Sustrans Active Travel Programme Free Bicycle Health Check

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of the ongoing partnership between Sustrans Active School Travel Programme and Good Shepherd Primary School, we are happy to be able to offer pupils the chance to take part in a free Bicycle Health Check known as *Dr Bike!*

Donna McFeely, the school's Active Travel Officer, will be at the school on 6th November to give bikes a general health check.

A typical check involves pumping up tyres and checking brakes, handlebars, saddle and pedals. If there is time, small adjustments will be made, but this is not a substitute for a full service. A photo note will be sent to the school identifying anything on the bike that needs urgent attention.

To take part, all your child needs to do is bring their bike to school on the 6th November.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. McCafferty
School Champion

Donna McFeely
Sustrans Active Travel Officer



Dr Bike safety check for P6 & P7 on Monday 6th November. **Register your child's bike here:** <https://forms.office.com/e/P7XJARwmyr>

As part of our ongoing work with the Sustrans Active School Travel programme we are holding a Ditch the Dark day on:

Friday 10th November 2023

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





Dear Parent/Carer

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Additional NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe.

<p>Parent/Carer support Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers. www.nspcc.org.uk/parents</p>	<p>Activities to extend learning at home Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe. www.nspcc.org.uk/activities</p>
<p>Online Safety Hub For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more. www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety</p>	<p>Childline – under 12's Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content. www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7) www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)</p>
<p>Talk PANTS with your children Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.</p>	

I hope you find this information about the NSPCC and the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme helpful. Please do contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S McCafferty



Anti-bullying week is being celebrated from 13th November. **Odd socks day is on Monday 13th November.** Check out the links 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-2023-make-noise-about-bullying/parents-and-carers>
- <https://youtu.be/kfzr4e-shc8>

Getting help with parenting challenges always begins with a first step. We know it can be daunting to reach out for support especially if you are feeling unsure of which way to turn. Parentline NI are on the phone, webchat, or email to support you. You can also request a call back via their website <https://www.ci-ni.org.uk/parentline/>. Parentline are accessible, anonymous, and accepting. Call 0808 8020 400.





This year we are changing how we present our Christmas Nativity. 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 **more reflective and personal approach** on what is such an important and magical time of year for our children and our school community.

Class	Date	Time
Nursery Mrs Warne	Monday 18 th December	9.30am
Nursery Mrs Kyle	Tuesday 19 th December	9.30am
Primary 1 Mrs Kivlehan	Thursday 14 th December	9.30am
Primary 1 Mrs McKinney	Thursday 14 th December	11am
Primary 2 Mrs Donnelly	Friday 15 th December	9.30am
Primary 2 Miss Logue	Friday 15 th December	11am
Primary 3 Mrs Harley	Wednesday 13 th December	9.30am
Primary 3 Mrs McCormack	Wednesday 13 th December	11am

The Education Authority (EA) has received notification from UNISON that non-teaching members across the organisation are being called upon to take industrial action as follows:

- Action Short of Strike Monday 16th October until 20 November 2023
- **Strike Action Thursday 16th November 2023**

More information will follow regarding the strike action proposed on Thursday 16th November. **There is the possibility that the school will close on that day. More information to follow.**

Important Dates in November:

Date	What's on?
Wednesday 1st-Friday 3rd November: School Closed for Halloween Holidays	
Monday 6 th November	NO MINI PROFESSORS CLUB THIS WEEK!
Monday 6 th November	Dr Bike: safety check by Sustrans for P6 & P7 Register here: https://forms.office.com/e/P7XJARwmyr
Monday 6 th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Monday 6 th November	Nursery 3 year reviews with Health Visitor
Tuesday 7 th November	Nursery 3 year reviews with Health Visitor
Tuesday 7 th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 6
Tuesday 7 th November	Derry Schools' Football Association Good Shepherd vs St. Columba's Good Shepherd vs St. Eugene's
Wednesday 8 th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 7
Wednesday 8 th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Thursday 9 th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Friday 10 th November	Ditch the Dark Day- Non uniform Wear something bright and be seen on your way to school!
Friday 10 th November 	P5 DW Assembly @9.30am in the Assembly Hall. All Welcome to attend!
Friday 10 th November	Gaelic Blitz @ Foyle Arena
Sunday 12 th November	 Mass for Deceased Children 7pm in St. Eugene's Cathedral Celebrant: Bishop McKeown
Monday 13 th – 17 th November	 This Anti-Bullying Week, let's make a noise about bullying. MAKE A NOISE ABOUT BULLYING #ANTIBULLYINGWEEK ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023 from Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th November ODD SOCKS DAY 2023 Monday 13 th November #OddSocksDay #MakeANoise

Date	What's on?
Monday 13th November	Odd Socks Day marks the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week! Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!
Monday 13th November	Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 2 & Our Eco Council will be participating in 'The Plant and Play Roadshow' with Vikki. This event has been kindly sponsored by the construction site involved with the new youth centre; Connolly & Fee. 
Monday 13th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 6
Monday 13th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Tuesday 14th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 7
Wednesday 15th November	Last week of swimming for Primary 6
Wednesday 15th November	Student Council visit the Guildhall for Local Democracy Week
Wednesday 15th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 8
Wednesday 15th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Thursday 16th November The school may be closed on this date due to proposed strike action from UNISON. More information to follow.	
Thursday 16th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Friday 17th November 	P5 SM Assembly @9.30am in the Assembly Hall. All Welcome to attend!
Monday 20th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 7
Monday 20th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8

Date	What's on?
Tuesday 21st November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 8
Wednesday 22nd November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 9
Wednesday 22nd November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Thursday 23rd November	Administering of the Flu Mist
Thursday 23rd November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Monday 27th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 8 FINAL WEEK This club will be open for bookings again in January 2024!
Monday 27th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Tuesday 28th November	Northern Ireland Fire Service: Primary 5 Safety Visit
Tuesday 28th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 9
Wednesday 29th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Wednesday 29th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Thursday 30th November	Nursery-Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Meetings- school closed for all pupils
Friday 1st December	Nursery-Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Meetings- school closed for all pupils



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.



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.

Safeguarding Information

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. Please cross the road using the school crossing patrol. 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 list can be accessed here:

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

The 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/20230831124550_96_NEW SEPTMBER DINNER MENU 2023.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20230831124550_96_NEW_SEPTMBER_DINNER_MENU_2023.pdf)

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