



## December 2023 Newsletter

### Admissions for September 2024



**Nursery & P1 Foundation Stage  
Open Afternoon  
Tuesday 12th December  
2.15pm-3.15pm ✨  
All Welcome!**



- Children born between 2nd July 2019 and 1st July 2020 will be due to start Primary 1 in September 2024.
- Children born between 2nd July 2020 and 1st July 2021 will be due to start Nursery in September 2024.
- Please refer to the full published admissions criteria for full details\*

The EA admissions 'portal' can be found at:

[www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions),

It will be open for applications for both Good Shepherd Nursery and Good Shepherd Primary School (Primary 1) from Tuesday 9th January 2024- Friday 26th January 2024. If you require help or assistance with the application process please get in touch with the school office on Tel: 02871348446.

Our admissions criteria will be published on the Education Authority website on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

We are delighted to welcome you to our open afternoon to be held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 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.

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



### Friends of Good Shepherd Christmas Fundraising

The school will hold 2 fund raising endeavours. Winners will be announced on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> of December or during the Nursery-Primary 3 Christmas Nativity Plays- prizes to be announced...

Both fundraising draws will be pulled on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Thank you for your continued support of the school.



*Merry Christmas*

*Let's Eat*  
ea catering

**FROM EVERYONE AT EA CATERING**

## **CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU**

### **MAIN COURSE**

ROAST TURKEY AND STUFFING

COCKTAIL SAUSAGES

PEAS

BRUSSEL SPROUTS

BATON CARROTS

MASHED & OVEN POTATOES

### **DESSERT**

DECORATED CHRISTMAS BISCUIT

### **TO DRINK**

CARTON OF 125ML RANDOR JUICE

**COST    £2.60**

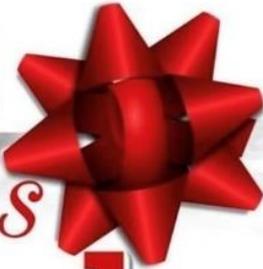


**Christmas Dinner will be served on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

All children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers/festive clothing or non-uniform to school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> December until the end of term.

# Top of The Hill Christmas Appeal



Once again this year Hillcrest Trust and Hillcrest Youth Club in conjunction with Waterside parish will be supporting families and individuals over the Christmas period. We are asking if you can donate no matter how small, it will be much appreciated.

Items we need include the following:

- \*Non perishable Goods; Tins, Cans, Jars and Dried Foods
- \*Tins of Biscuits, Sweets or Selection Packs
- \*Toiletries or Gift Sets
- \*New - Children's Toys/Clothing (all sizes)

Please leave donations to An Chroí, Trench Road by Friday 8th December

Thank you for your ongoing support!



## Staff Gifts

Whilst we, as staff really appreciate your gifts at Christmas, this year we would like you instead to either contribute to a local charity, perhaps donate to 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 are delighted to welcome Ballymoor Football Club each Thursday to Primary 3 for fundamental soccer skills coaching.

**Friends of Good Shepherd- next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December @2.15pm in the staffroom. New members welcome!**



**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.

\*Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Year Group &amp; Time</b>	<b>Book/Pay</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mini-Professors Science Club</b>	P1-P2 2-2.50pm  P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	<b>Starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b> £34 for 8 weeks Book via <b>ParentPay</b> (20 spaces maximum for each session)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>R9 Multi-Sports Club</b>	P1-P2 2-3pm  P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	<b>Starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b> £50 for 10 weeks Book via <a href="http://www.R9Coaching.com">www.R9Coaching.com</a> <b>Discount for Family Bookings</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Singing with Clodagh McCullough</b>	P1 & P2: 2-2.45pm  P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm	<b>Starting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b> £42 for 10 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via <b>Parent Pay</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Chess Club</b>	P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	<b>Starting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b> (20 spaces maximum) £30 for 10 weeks Book via ParentPay
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dance with Skills Schools Dance</b>	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	<b>Starting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b> £40 for 10 weeks (discount for family bookings) Book directly here: <a href="https://www.cognitofrms.com/Skillschoolni/dance">https://www.cognitofrms.com/Skillschoolni/dance</a>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Guitar Lessons with Mark</b>	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7	<b>Block 2 starting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December- fully booked!</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Maiden City Soccer</b>	P1-P2 2-3pm  P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	<b>Starting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Pay via Parent Pay</b> <b>£27 for 9 weeks</b> Book via ParentPay

**Important Dates in December:** Please note the individual dates for school clubs as we navigate a busy time in school.

<b>Date</b>	<b>What's on?</b>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery-Primary 6 Parent/Teacher Meetings- school closed for all pupils
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm LAST WEEK FOR CURRENT BLOCK. New block to start Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 Book here: <a href="http://www.R9Coaching.co.uk">www.R9Coaching.co.uk</a> £50 for 10 weeks, 10% discount for family bookings.
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Formal homework is paused for the remainder of the school year to allow families time to enjoy festive activities together.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 New block to begin Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 20 spaces per club. £42 for 10 weeks. Please book via ParentPay
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 1 Mrs Kivlehan's class visit the Secret Santa Experience at the Richmond Centre
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 1 of BLOCK 2
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK New block to begin Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 Book here: <a href="http://www.skillschoolni.com">www.skillschoolni.com</a> £40 for 10 weeks 10% discount for family bookings
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Friends of Good Shepherd meeting @2.15pm in the staffroom
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8 (due to strike/school closure)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Cross Country event at Templemore Sports Complex
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 5 Mrs Mitchell's Class Swimming Week 1
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu Mist 'Mop Up' Session
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2 Open Afternoon for all prospective Parents/Guardians and Children 2.15pm-3.15pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery & P1 Admissions Criteria Published
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 2 of BLOCK 2 (lessons will pause now until after Christmas)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 3 Mrs Harley's Class Nativity @9.30am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 3 Mrs McCormack's Class Nativity @11am

Date	What's On?
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 1 Mrs Kivlehan's Class Nativity @9.30am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 1 Mrs McKinney's Class Nativity @11am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9 (lessons will pause now until after Christmas). Week 10 to be held on 11/1/24
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Classes visit Le Petite Village
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 2 Mrs Donnelly's Class Nativity @9.30am
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 2 Miss Logue's Class Nativity @11am
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary 5 Mrs Mitchell's Class Swimming Week 2
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumpers/festive clothing or non-uniform for the remainder of the school term
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Sentinus STEM workshops Primary 1 & Primary 2
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Nativity Mrs Warne's Class @9.30am
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Nativity Mrs Kyle's Class @9.30am
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Finish for the Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	A special visitor arrives to the school- Ho Ho Ho!
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School Closed from 12noon for Primary 1-Primary 7 <b>School dinners will be available for those entitled to free school meals only. If your child normally has a packed lunch they shouldn't bring one to school as they will be leaving at 12noon</b>
<p style="color: magenta;">School Reopens for All Pupils on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 Have a Wonderful Christmas and New Year!</p>	



Mrs Connor will begin her maternity leave on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We would like to wish her every blessing for the next few weeks ahead. We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs J. Duffy who will be covering this class until the new year. A thorough handover has been carried out and Mrs Duffy is looking forward to teaching all the boys and girls in this class.



**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.



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