



May 2023 Newsletter



We would like to wish our amazing Primary 4 children every blessing as they make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 13th May.



We would like to express a massive thank you to our friends of Good Shepherd and our entire school community on our Easter fundraising endeavours. Our Easter raffle raised £240.10, while our split the pot draw raised £792.60, with £396.30 being won by a Primary 4 child. Well done!

Dates for the Diary:



- Sports Day for P1-P7 will be held on Friday 2nd June (weather permitting). Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend. More information to follow...
- 'Star Warts' our end of year show starring our Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7 children will be performed on Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th June. More information to follow...

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

- Monday 1st May 2023
- Monday 8th May 2023
- Thursday 18th May 2023
- Monday 29th May 2023
- Tuesday 30th May 2023



The school will close on Friday 30th June at 12noon for the Summer Holidays.



We are delighted to be welcoming Ardmore Cricket Club into school for P7 cricket coaching. This will be each Tuesday. The club will also be hosting a schools day on Monday 22nd May at Ardmore cricket grounds.

Date	What's on?
1/5/23	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
2/5/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 5 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
3/5/23	Dance Club- WEEK 3 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
3/5/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 3
3/5/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 3
3/5/23	Meet the Lifeguard: water safety assembly for all children P1-P7
4/5/23	Maiden City Soccer, NEW BLOCK WEEK 2 P1 & P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm
4/5/23	P1 Mrs C. McKinney's class assembly at 9.30am, parents/guardians welcome to attend
5/5/23	P1 Mrs A. Kivlehan's class assembly at 9.30am, parents/guardians welcome to attend
5/5/23	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class Swimming Week 3

Date	What's on?
8/5/23	School Closed for the Coronation
9/5/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 6 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
10/5/23	Dance Club- WEEK 4 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
10/5/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 4
10/5/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 5
11/5/23	Maiden City Soccer, NEW BLOCK WEEK 3 P1 & P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm
12/5/23	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class Swimming Week 4
13/5/23	Primary 4 First Holy Communion P4 Mrs Connor's class at 11am P4 Mr Doherty/Miss Gillespie's class at 1pm
15/5/23	Lego Engineers Club Primary 1 & Primary 2: 2-3pm WEEK 6 Coding & Minecraft Club P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm WEEK 6
16/5/23	P4 Class trip to Sperrin Fun Farm
16/5/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 7 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
17/5/23	Dance Club- WEEK 5 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
17/5/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 5
17/5/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 6
18/5/23	School Closed for the local elections
19/5/23	Boys Gaelic championship final day
19/5/23	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class Swimming Week 5
Monday 22nd- Friday 26th May 2023 Literacy Week Celebrations	
22-25/5/23	Travelling Book Fair in school- more details on times of sales to follow
22-24/5/23	Literacy week homework activity for P1-P7 create a scene from a book in a shoebox. Final date for submission Wednesday 24th May
22-26/5/23	Primary 7 reading buddy initiative with foundation stage children
22/5/23	Ardmore Cricket Club Schools Day P7
22/5/23	P5 Class trip to Sperrin Fun Farm
22/5/23	Lego Engineers Club Primary 1 & Primary 2: 2-3pm WEEK 7 Coding & Minecraft Club P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm WEEK 7
23/5/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 8 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
24/5/23	Dance Club- WEEK 6 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
24/5/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 6
24/5/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 7

Date	What's on?
25/5/23	Maiden City Soccer, WEEK 4 FINAL WEEK P1 & P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm
26/5/23	Parents/Guardians welcome to view the children's creations 'scene from a book in a shoebox' Between 9.30am-10.30am & 1pm-3pm
26/5/23	Dress up as your favourite book character Nursery-Primary 7
26/5/23	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class Swimming Week 6
29&30/5/23	School Closed for Bank Holiday
31/5/23	Dance Club- WEEK 7 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
31/5/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 7
31/5/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 8 FINAL WEEK

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.



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. Nursery-Primary 7 are welcome to attend. Please enter the school grounds via the Nursery pedestrian gate.**

COMMUNICATION

The Department of Education, employing authorities, sectoral support bodies and teacher unions have written to schools stating that:

“It is recognised that school-based staff are working within a demanding environment. In order to assist with workload demands, schools should notify parents of the normal operating hours of the school and when and how parents may contact staff within the school.”

School staff are not expected or required to contact, or respond to contact from, parents or anyone else outside of the normal operating hours of the school day unless there is a critical incident.

Accordingly, please see below the normal operating hours of Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School:

- Monday 8.45am-4.30pm
- Tuesday 8.45am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 8.45am-4.30pm
- Thursday 8.45am-4.30pm
- Friday 8.45am-3.15pm

Should you need to contact the school please email info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk or telephone 02871348446.

Should you need to speak to your child's teacher please contact the school office to request an appointment.



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.

Safeguarding Information



I 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!

In the interests of health a safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch.

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)

The Vice Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr N. Sproule)

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 F Desmond, Mrs M Mc Cormack & 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.

