



## January 2024 Newsletter

We would like to wish our entire school community a very Happy New Year!



Sunday, 21 January–Saturday, 27 January



## Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities

Catholic Schools will take place from Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 on the theme of Catholic Schools as Communities of Service.

Christian service puts faith into action. In Catholic schools, as we study and look to Jesus Christ as our role model and Teacher, we come to a greater

understanding of the depth of Christian service. Jesus served every person regardless of creed, background, faith, social status or age. He put faith into action by showing all those around him how our Heavenly Father is compassionate, courageous and forgiving. Jesus didn't just talk about His faith; He lived it.

We are called by faith to go into the world to share the love of God with all those we meet. Each person, at every age, is called to become Christ for another by serving every person with a humble heart and with a generous spirit.

For Catholic Schools Week, we will contemplate our schools as communities of service under the following themes:

- Service in Our Community of Friends
- Service in Our School Community
- Service in Our Family Community
- Service in Our Local Community
- Service in Our Faith Community



We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Grandparents on Wednesday 24th January 9.30am-11am to enjoy activities with their grandchildren and some light refreshments



Catholic Schools Week 2024  
Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

As part of Catholic Schools Week 2024 we are delighted to inform you that we are extending a warm welcome to all our Grandparents to visit the children in school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. There will be an opportunity for them to visit the children's classrooms; interact in a few activities and then enjoy refreshments in the canteen. If a child is unable to be visited by a Grandparent-a Parent or Guardian may wish to attend in their place. This is open to the nursery as well as the primary school. **Please note that we are expecting very large numbers to this event which runs from 9.30am- 11am.**

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## **Admissions for Nursery and Primary 1 for September 2024:**

**If you require any help or assistance please contact the school office. We will be happy to help. If you missed our open afternoon and would like to visit our school please contact the school office on 02871348446 or [smccafferty143@c2kni.net](mailto:smccafferty143@c2kni.net) to make an appointment.**

Online applications will open at 12 noon on Tuesday 9 January 2024 and will close at 12 noon on Friday 26 January 2024.

Before starting your child's application you should:

- Read carefully the [admissions criteria](#) for each Pre-school Nursery and Primary School that you wish to nominate as a preference.
- All pre-school settings will require the birth certificate to verify a child's name and date of birth. Either a full (long) or short birth certificate may be used or an amended birth certificate or an adoption certificate, where appropriate, is acceptable. If you do not have a copy of your child's birth certificate, please contact the pre-school settings you wish to nominate to see what other documents they may accept.
- You should refer to the admissions criteria to find out if other supporting documents are required by each of the pre-school settings you have chosen e.g. proof of address.
- You can scan or take a photo of the documents you require for each pre-school setting and save them on the device you will be using to make your Pre-school Application. Make sure the photos or scans are clear and legible.
- For GDPR purposes you should remove personal/sensitive/private information from your documents before uploading e.g. financial details in bank statements.
- You will require an email address to be able to register on EA Connect to submit an application.

## Admissions Timeline:

Date	Activity
Tuesday 12 December 2023	Admissions criteria for Pre-schools published on the EA website.
Tuesday 9 January 2024 – at 12 noon	EA Connect opens for online applications for pre-school, submitting verification/supporting documents.
Friday 26 January 2024 – at 12 noon	EA Connect closes for online punctual applications for pre-school.
Wednesday 31 January 2024 – by 4pm	Deadline for submitting verification/supporting documents via EA Connect. Final date for late applications.
Thursday 25 April 2024	Notification of (Stage 1) outcome for Target Age application via email where one is held or by letter.
Tuesday 11 June 2024	Notification of (Stage 2) outcome (includes Underage application) via email where one is held or by letter.

## Admissions Helpdesk

If additional information is required or any difficulty is experienced, parents can contact the Education Authority admissions helpdesk:

**028 9598 559**



**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.

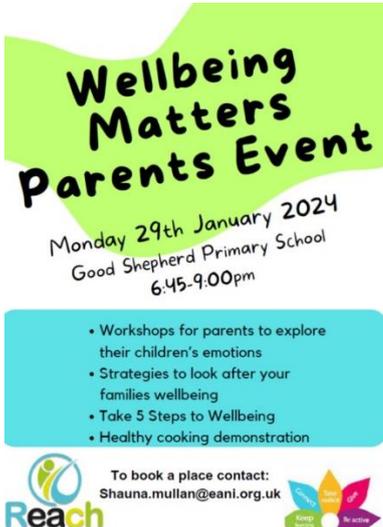
<b>Day</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Year Group &amp; Time</b>	<b>Book/Pay</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mini-Professors Science Club</b>	P1-P2 2-2.50pm  P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	<b>Starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b> £34 for 8 weeks Book via <b>ParentPay</b> (20 spaces maximum for each session)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>R9 Multi-Sports 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>Block 2 Starting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Pay via Parent Pay</b> <b>£27 for 9 weeks</b>



We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Duffy who began cover for P4 Mrs Connor's class. Mrs R. Chambers will now continue teaching in this class until the remainder of the school year. A thorough handover has taken place and Mrs Chambers is looking forward to getting to know all the boys and girls.

### What's on in January 2024 @Good Shepherd PS:

Date	What's on?
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	School Reopens for all children
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. WEEK 1 Book here: <a href="http://www.R9Coaching.co.uk">www.R9Coaching.co.uk</a> £50 for 10 weeks, 10% discount for family bookings.
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	St. Josphe's Boys School visit
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 1
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Nursery and Primary 1 Portal Opens
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 1
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	3-4pm Chess Club P5, P6 & P7 Week 1
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	St. Cecilia's College visit
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 1 Book here: <a href="http://www.skillschoolni.com">www.skillschoolni.com</a> £40 for 10 weeks 10% discount for family bookings
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 3
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 (last week of first block).
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Primary 5 Mrs Mitchell's Class Swimming Week 2
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. WEEK 2
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 2
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Catholic Schools Week Mass

Date	What's on?
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7 Week 2
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 2
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	NI Road Safety Quiz @The Guildhall, Derry
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 4
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Proposed strike of Teaching/Principal's Unions across Northern Ireland- full day school closure- more information to follow
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Cross Country @Oakgrove College
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Primary 5 Mrs Mitchell's Class Swimming Week 3
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Catholic Schools Week
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. WEEK 3
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 3
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 3
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	3-4pm Chess Club P5, P6 & P7 Week 3
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Grandparents Day 9.30-11am
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 5
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 1 (first week of new block).
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Derry City & Strabane Council Fitness Workshop with P5
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions Portal Closes at 12noon
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Primary 5 Mrs Mitchell's Class Swimming Week 4
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<p>REACH Parent/Guardian Event 6.45pm-9pm</p>  <p>The poster for the 'Wellbeing Matters Parents Event' is set against a light green background. At the top, the title 'Wellbeing Matters Parents Event' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the title, the date and location are listed: 'Monday 29th January 2024' and 'Good Shepherd Primary School'. The time '6.45-9.00pm' is also included. A blue box contains a list of activities: 'Workshops for parents to explore their children's emotions', 'Strategies to look after your families wellbeing', 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing', and 'Healthy cooking demonstration'. At the bottom, there is contact information: 'To book a place contact: Shauna.mullan@eani.org.uk'. The 'Reach' logo is at the bottom left, and a colorful logo with the words 'Reach', 'Learn', 'Grow', and 'Be active' is at the bottom right.</p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>What's on?</b>
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. WEEK 4
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 4
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 4
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	3-4pm Chess Club P5, P6 & P7 Week 4
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Primary1 Health Visitor Update
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Nursery & primary 1 admissions deadline for supporting documents
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Primary1 Health Visitor Update
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 6
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4



We are delighted to welcome Miss M. McDermott, Miss O. Divin and Miss S. Kelly on teaching practice from St. Mary's University, Belfast.

Miss M. McDermott will be under the supervision of Miss J. Logue in P2, Miss O. Divin will be working alongside Mrs D. Wilson P5, while Miss S. Kelly will be teaching alongside Ms M. Forbes in Primary 7.



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.



**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.

### PHA Information quick reference guide

 Do I need to keep my child off school?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhea &amp; /or Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Respiratory Illness</b> (e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>German Measles (Rubella)</b> 5 days from onset of rash
<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

## 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.**

## 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.