



November 2024 Newsletter



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

We raised an impressive £205 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.



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.



National Awards

FOR PASTORAL CARE
IN EDUCATION 2024

Pastoral School of the Year

Finalist

Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School
Derry

Sponsored by Global Equality Collective
Organised by NAPCE

We are delighted to announce that Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School was awarded 'Finalist' from over 300 schools to the top 5 across the UK. This is in recognition of the hard work and dedication of our entire school team who go above and beyond for the children in our care. Thank you everyone for all your well wishes in the run up to the awards ceremony.



Friday 15th November 2024

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



We would like to take the opportunity to remind our school community to treat our staff with respect.

Verbal and physical abuse will not be tolerated.

We are here to help.



We are delighted to inform our school community that our new school crossing patrol person has been appointed and will begin her new post in November.

Mrs J. McQuaid will be assisting our school community when crossing the road where the kerb drops- just outside the school gates. We would like to wish her every success in her new role.



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 **reflective and personal approach** on what is such an important and magical time of year for our children and our school community.

Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 2 & Primary 3 Nativity dates...

Class	Date	Time
Primary 2 JL	Monday 16 th December	9.30am
Primary 2AD	Monday 16 TH December	11am
Primary 3 MH	Monday 16 th December	1.30pm
Nursery CK	Tuesday 17 th December	9.30am
Primary 1RC	Tuesday 17 th December	11am
Primary 3CMK	Tuesday 17 th December	1.30pm
Nursery RW	Wednesday 18 th December	9.30am
Primary 1AK	Wednesday 18 th December	11am



Anti-bullying week is being celebrated from Monday 11th November. The theme this year is 'choose respect.' **Odd socks day is on Tuesday 12th November.** Check out the link 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-2024-choose-respect/parents-and-carers>



We are delighted to inform our school community that we have secured funding from Kellogg's which will assist with our costings in running our breakfast club. We have also secured funding from the Slieve Kirk Windfarm Fund from SSE Airtricity to support the purchase of reading resources in Key Stage 1.



Thank you to TESCO for their kind donations of fruit juice to our breakfast club. Keep voting for our 'free fruit breaks' in store using the blue tokens.



SBNI

**Safeguarding Board
for Northern Ireland**

We would like to draw your attention to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland website which is packed full of resources for both children and adults on a wide range of safeguarding topics including online safety, gambling and healthy relationships. Click the link below to find our more...

- <https://onlinesafetyhub.safeguardingni.org/>
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Primary 6 are continuing to make excellent progress at their weekly swimming lesson- well done! Their last lesson will be on Wednesday 20th November.

Primary 5 Mrs Mitchell's class will begin swimming every Friday for 10 weeks on Friday 6th December. This should be paid on ParentPay.



Please ensure school dinners are paid for in advance on ParentPay. Please settle any arrears asap. Thank you!

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.



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- spaces are very limited. 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 M. 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 lists can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240220014414_63_Holiday_List_PARENTS_2024_2025.pdf

The new 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/20240926114205_14_DINNER_MENU_STARTING_MONDAY_7TH_OCTOBER_2024.pdf



Mrs A. Donnelly (Primary 2) will be beginning her maternity leave on Monday 18th November. Mrs J. Duffy will be teaching Primary 2 from this date. A thorough handover has been conducted with both teachers and also with Mrs McKinney.

We would like to wish Mrs Donnelly every blessing for the future.



FAO: Parents/Guardians of Primary 1 Children.

Our Primary 1 teachers will be holding an information afternoon in their classrooms on **Thursday 21st November at 1.30pm.**

They will be focusing on the key learning skills of:

- Phonics
- Motor Skills
- Pencil Control
- Letter Formation
- Independence skills

There will be a homework stationary goodie bag for all those in attendance. All welcome!





Friends of Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School

There will be a meeting of the Friends of Good Shepherd with Mrs Donnelly in the staff room on Thursday 7th November at 2.30pm. **New members welcome to attend!** The agenda will be for individuals to reach out to local business providers to assist with our Christmas Raffle fundraising endeavours. If you cannot make the meeting but can help, please leave any donations for our Christmas Raffle at the school office.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Important Dates in November:

Date	What's on?
Friday 1st November	School closed for the Halloween Holidays
Monday 4th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 6
Monday 4th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Tuesday 5th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 7
Wednesday 6th November	Primary 6 swimming week 8
Wednesday 6th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 6
Wednesday 6th November	Administration of Flu Vaccine by school nursing team.
Wednesday 6th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Thursday 7th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Thursday 7th November	Friends of Good Shepherd Parent Association Meeting @2.30pm in the school staffroom- new members welcome!
Friday 8th November 	Wear something Red to school as we celebrate Derry Day ahead of the Final! Good Luck to the Derry City FC team!
Friday 8th November  Class Assembly	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class assembly @9.30am. Parents/Guardians welcome to attend.
Monday 11th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 7
Monday 11th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7.
Tuesday 12th November	After School Singing lessons- NOT ON THIS WEEK
Wednesday 13th November	Primary 6 swimming week 9
Wednesday 13th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 7
Wednesday 13th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7: 3-4pm Week 7

Date	What's on?
Thursday 14th November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
<p data-bbox="140 250 513 295">Friday 15th November</p> 	<p data-bbox="587 250 1412 295">Ditch the Dark Day! Wear something bright to school!</p> 
Friday 15th November	Diwali workshops- Nursery & Primary 5
Monday 18th November	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 8- FINAL WEEK OF THIS BLOCK
Monday 18th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8 FINAL WEEK OF THIS BLOCK
Tuesday 19th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 8
Wednesday 20th November	Primary 6 swimming week 10 FINAL WEEK
Wednesday 20th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 8
Wednesday 20th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7: 3-4pm Week 8 FINAL WEEK OF THIS BLOCK
Thursday 21st November	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Thursday 21st November	Foundations of Learning: P1 Parent/Guardian information session @1.30pm with P1 teachers
Monday 25th November	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 1 of new block. Book here: https://www.r9coaching.co.uk/pages/multi-sports.php
Tuesday 26th November	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 9
Wednesday 27th November	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 9
Wednesday 27th November	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7: 3-4pm Week 1 of new block. Book here: https://www.cognitofrms.com/SkillSchoolNI/Dance
<p data-bbox="92 1653 1508 1886">Thursday 28th & Friday 29th November- school closed for all pupils. Nursery-Primary 6 Parent/Teacher meetings- individual times allocated.</p>	

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

