



## **December 2024 Newsletter**

### **Admissions for September 2025**



**Nursery & P1 Foundation Stage  
Open Afternoon  
Tuesday 10th December  
2.15pm-3.15pm ✨  
All Welcome!**



### **For Nursery & primary 1 applications:**

The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 will be treated as a late application.

- 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),

If you require help or assistance with the application process please get in touch with the school office on Tel: 02871348446.

\*Our P1 and Nursery admissions criteria will be published on the Education Authority website on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. It will also be available on our school website.

We are delighted to welcome you to our open afternoon to be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 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. We look forward to welcoming your family to the Good Shepherd School Community.

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

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Mrs Connor is returning from maternity leave on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Miss J. Gillespie for all her dedication to the children and continued hard work.





## Friends of Good Shepherd Christmas Fundraising

The school will hold 2 fund raising endeavours. Winners will be announced on Friday 20<sup>th</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 2nd of December or during the Nursery-Primary 3 Christmas Nativity Plays- prizes to be announced...

Both fundraising draws will be pulled on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you for your continued support of the school.

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**Christmas Dinner will be served on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

To give an idea of numbers to our kitchen team please register your expression of interest here for each child: <https://forms.office.com/e/KZgmwmEGkB>

All children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers/festive clothing or non-uniform to school on Wednesday 11<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 16<sup>th</sup> December until the end of term.



### **Free Fruit Breaks are Back!**

We are delighted to share with our school community that we have secured funding to offer again; a piece of fruit to our children for their break. We will have bananas, apples and easy peel oranges available. This will begin from Monday 2nd December and will continue to the end of January 2025. We are hoping to secure further funding to allow this initiative to continue after this from Tesco- so keep voting using your blue tokens in stores!

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### **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.

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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.

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**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.

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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...**

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



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

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### 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. If you are a blue badge holder and you avail of parking within the school grounds; **please wait to exit the school grounds until**

**the large crowds have dispersed.** If crossing the road outside the school gates please cross with our school crossing patrol lady, Mrs McQuaid at the dropped kerb.

**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](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](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240926114205_14_DINNER_MENU_STARTING_MONDAY_7TH_OCTOBER_2024.pdf)

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**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.



| Day       | Club                              | Year Group & Time   | Book/Pay  |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday    | Mini-Professors Science Club      | P1-P2<br>2-2.50pm<br><br>P3, P4 & P5<br>3-3.50pm          | <b>Starting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b><br>£34 for 8 weeks<br>Book via <b>ParentPay</b><br>(20 spaces maximum for each session)   |
| Monday    | R9 Multi-Sports Club              | P1-P2 2-3pm<br><br>P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm              | <b>Started Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>£40 for 8 weeks<br>Book via <a href="http://www.R9Coaching.com">www.R9Coaching.com</a><br><b>Discount for Family Bookings</b>   |
| Tuesday   | Singing with Clodagh McCullough   | P1 & P2:<br>2-2.45pm<br><br>P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm | <b>Starting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b><br>£42 for 10 weeks<br>(20 spaces maximum for each session)<br>Book via <b>Parent Pay</b>  |
| Tuesday   | Chess Club                        | P5, P6 & P7<br>3-4pm                                      | <b>Starting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b><br>(20 spaces maximum)<br>£30 for 8 weeks<br>Book via ParentPay  |
| Wednesday | Dance with Skills Schools Dance   | P1-P2 2-3pm<br>P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm                  | <b>Started Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>£40 for 8 weeks (discount for family bookings)<br>Book directly here:<br><a href="https://www.cognitoforms.com/Skillschoolni/dance">https://www.cognitoforms.com/Skillschoolni/dance</a> |
| Wednesday | Tri-Golf with Foyle Golf Club Pro | P5, P6 & P7<br>3-4pm                                      | <b>Starting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b><br><b>10 weeks @£55</b><br><b>Book on ParentPay</b><br><b>18 places available</b>   |
| Wednesday | Guitar Lessons with Mark          | Primary 5,<br>Primary 6 &<br>Primary 7                    | <b>Block 2 starting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January- 2 places available!</b> You will need your own guitar!<br><b>£42 for 10 weeks please pay on parentpay</b>   |
| Thursday  | Maiden City Soccer                | P1-P2 2-3pm<br><br>P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm              | <b>Starting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b><br><b>Pay via Parent Pay</b><br><b>£40 for 10 weeks</b><br>Book via ParentPay   |



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

| Date                                      | What's on?   |
|---|--|
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>     | After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2  |
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>     | P4-P7 Children of Fatima Prayer Group visit  |
| <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>    | After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 10. LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK  |
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Sustrans orienteering workshop with P5 classes   |
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2  |
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 10. LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK  |
| <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9   |
| <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Admissions criteria for Nursery & Primary 1 published on the EA and school website.  |
| <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>     | Primary 5SM Class swimming WEEK 1  |
| <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>     | After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3. Last week until the New Year  |
| <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Nursery and Foundation Stage Open Afternoon 2.15pm-3.15pm  |
| <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Lumen Christi College visit P6/P7  |
| <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> |  <p>Christmas Dinner: £2.60 Please book on ParentPay<br/>To give an idea of numbers to our kitchen team please register your expression of interest here:<br/><a href="https://forms.office.com/e/KZgmwmEGkB">https://forms.office.com/e/KZgmwmEGkB</a></p> |
| <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> | After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3. Last week until the New Year  |
| <b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK   |
| <b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | P7 Girls visit St. Mary's College  |
| <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>    | A special visitor makes his way to Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School!   |



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| <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Primary 5SM Class swimming- CANCELLED THIS WEEK DUE TO POOL MAINTENANCE    |
| <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Foyle College visit P6/P7 children   |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>    | Christmas Jumpers/Non-uniform can be worn from today until the end of term |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Nativity Show P2 Miss Logue's Class @9.30am                                |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Nativity Show Primary 2 Mrs Duffy's Class @11am                            |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Nativity Show Primary 3 Mrs Harley's Class @1.30pm                         |
| <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Nativity Show Nursery Mrs Kyle's Class @9.30am                             |
| <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Nativity Show Primary 1 Mrs Chambers' Class @11am                          |
| <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Nativity Show Primary 3 Mrs McKinney's Class @1.30pm                       |
| <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | School soccer teams- Ryan McBride Winter Cup                               |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Nativity Show Nursery Mrs Warne's Class @9.30am                            |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Nativity Show Primary 1 Mrs Kivlehan' s Class @11am                        |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Nursery finishes for Christmas at the normal time of 1.15pm                |
| <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service Visit Primary 5                       |
| <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Christmas Raffles  |
| <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | School Closes at 12noon  |
| <p>The school will be closed from 12noon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December for Primary 1-Primary 7 children.</p> <p><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> |  |
| <p style="color: #ff00ff; text-align: center;">School reopens for all pupils on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>   |  |

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*