



**School Reopens for P2-P7 children on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>  
September 2025**

**Nursery & Primary 1 children have individual start times.**

## **School Uniform**

- **School Uniforms can be purchased from a wide range of stockists including Select Kidz on Spencer Road. The only piece of uniform which requires an embroidered logo are jumpers/cardigans. A plain navy jumper/cardigan can be bought and embroidered at classic crests on Spencer Road also.**
- **Please label all pieces of uniform with your child's name.**
- **All children require a rainproof coat, as we will be completing the Daily Mile each day. Hoodies should not be worn as a coat.**
- **Long hair should be tied back.**
- **Due to health and safety: only stud earrings and a wrist watch should be worn.**

### **Nursery**

Choice of coloured jumpers with crest (red, navy or teal) and  
Polo-shirts (red, yellow or navy) plain or with the nursery crest  
Navy jogging bottoms with elastic waist  
Velcro shoes

### **Girls**

Navy skirt/pinafore/school trousers  
Navy V-neck jumper/cardigan with school crest

**White Polo shirt (P1, P2, P3 & P4)**

**White shirt and green/navy tie (Primary 5-Primary 7)**

Navy socks or tights

Black shoes

## Boys

Navy trousers

Navy V-neck jumper with school crest

**White Polo shirt (Primary 1, P2, P3 & P4)**

**White shirt and green/navy tie (Primary 5-Primary 7)**

Navy socks

Black shoes

- In warm weather the girls are welcome to wear a blue/navy gingham summer dress or navy shorts and a white polo top.
- Boys can wear navy shorts and short sleeve shirt.

## PE uniform:

- P1/2: plimsolls to be left in school.
- P3-P7: **Plain** navy bottoms, plain white polo shirt/t-shirt and school jumper or plain navy zip up/jumper/hoodie and trainers. Individual class teachers will inform your child on what day they will have PE.
- Children in Primary 5, 6 & 7 will need a school bag.
- Children in Primary 1-4 will not require a school bag as they will use a school book bag/folder.



- Primary 1 & Primary 2 children will require puddle suits and Wellington boots for outdoor play



September 2025: Restart Information

**If you think your child is entitled to free school meals or uniform clothing assistance, please contact the Education Authority on tel: 028 82 411411 or on the following links:**

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/frequently-asked-questions-free-school-mealsuniform>

If additional information is required or any difficulty is experienced, parents can contact the Meals and Uniform Service.

Contact Monday – Friday 9am – 4.00pm by:

Telephone: 028 9047 0233

Email: [mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk](mailto:mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk)

## Emergency Medication








If your child requires any emergency medication such as their blue reliever inhaler or EpiPen; please bring them into school on the first day in a clearly labelled bag/box. Your child's teacher will issue a form to be completed and returned to school. Those with an EpiPen must have a care plan also. Please note any expiry dates on the medication and replace when necessary.


## Healthy breaks for schools





At this school,  
we are committed  
to healthy eating


At break time we enjoy healthy snacks because they help us grow properly, do our best in school and make us healthy and happy in the future.




 <p><b>Milk</b> All whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed unflavoured milk</p>	 <p><b>Water</b> Tap water or unflavoured, still, bottled water</p>	 <p><b>Fruit and vegetables</b> All fresh fruit and vegetables</p>	 <p><b>Bread based snacks</b> White or wholemeal breads spread thinly with a little low-fat spread, plain breadsticks or toast</p>
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**HSC** Public Health Agency  
Public Health Agency  
12-13 Lifford Street, Belfast BT2 8BS  
Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rates)  
www.publichealth.hscni.net  
Find us on:  
   



**school food**



Department of Education  
www.education.gov.uk

61/2025

Please ensure your child has a healthy break with them each day as well as a bottle of water.

Canteen Dinner costs (P1-P7 £2.60) (Nursery £2.50) per day and can be paid via parent pay **before dinner is taken that day**. The dinner menu can be found on the school website in the parent section. **If dinner money is not paid after 2 weeks, parents/guardians will be asked to provide a packed lunch until arrears are settled.**

If your child is entitled to free school meals, it is important that you apply for this **each year**. Information on this can also be found on the EA link above.

**Afterschool clubs** will commence again from Monday 22nd September 2025. More information to follow.



**HSC** Public Health Agency

# 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.



Sleep is an important part of your child's routine, health and wellbeing. Information on the best advice for sleep routines for your child can be found here:

<https://healthwell.eani.org.uk/news/family-health/sleep-advice-children>



## Attendance Matters!

As you are already aware it is essential that your child attends school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow children to fulfil their potential. Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

In school we have an obligation to monitor children's attendance very closely and to report attendance percentages to the Education Welfare Officer on a regular basis.

Punctuality is essential as each time a child is late to school they are marked late and when they arrive after registration has closed (09:00am)- this impacts on their attendance.

If your child's attendance is causing concern, we will follow the agreed procedures in school:

- The class teacher will inform you of your child's attendance percentage (below 90%)
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will receive a letter from DTCP in school
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will be invited to a pre-referral meeting in school. Our EWO Mrs Aine Hudson may be in attendance
- If your child's attendance is 85% or below/causing concern, we are obliged to make a referral to EWS.

It should be noted that holidays must **not** be arranged during the school terms. Sufficient notice of school holiday dates is given to parents/guardians in order for holidays to be arranged during these times.

The school holiday list for 2025-26 can be found here:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20250501113044\\_31\\_Holiday\\_List\\_PARENTS\\_2025-26.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20250501113044_31_Holiday_List_PARENTS_2025-26.pdf)

We as a school, want to help support you in improving your child's attendance in order for them to reach their full potential.

If you need to discuss any issues surrounding absences or support strategies that can be put in place to improve attendance, during the school year, please contact Mrs McCafferty or Mrs Harley at the school.

Information on the importance of good attendance from the Department of Education can be found below:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20201110092825\\_28\\_a\\_parents\\_guide\\_to\\_attendance.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20201110092825_28_a_parents_guide_to_attendance.pdf)

## Communication

We communicate using the following platforms:



Please download the schools NI app and ensure notifications are switched on- click on the question mark and follow the prompts to activate.



- Mobile phones
- Photographic devices
- Smart watches with cameras or messaging facilities

In compliance with our safeguarding policies, these items are strictly forbidden in school for use by children at all times.

If your child needs access too a mobile phone afterschool it must be left at the school office before school and can be collected at hometime.



## Start/End of the school day

- Nursery and Primary 1 children all have their own individual start dates. They finish early as part of their settling in period. These details will be in their induction packs given out in June. Class teachers will keep parents/guardians informed.
- **All Primary 2-7 children start school on Monday 1st September 2025.**
- School doors open at 8.45am. Please do not leave your child unaccompanied at the school gates. Children should be in class to start learning at 9am. Finish times are:
- 1pm-1.15pm for Nursery children.
- 2pm for Primary 1 & 2 children.
- 3pm for Primary 3-Primary 7 children.
- Nursery, Primary 1 & Primary 2 children should be escorted to their allocated door with a parent/guardian each day. **The school drop off and collection policy can be found on the school website in the policy section, under 'our school.'**
- Children are encouraged to cycle, walk and scoot to school each day. Children should park all scooters and bicycles at our bike shelter situated at the front of the school. Children should wear a helmet if cycling or scooting. **Electric scooters are not permitted.**





**Brothers and Sisters after school provision (2-3pm)  
for Primary 1 & 2 children.**

In order to support our school community, we will be offering afterschool supervision for children in Primary 1 (from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September) and Primary 2 (from Monday 1st September) **who has an older sibling in Primary 3-7 currently at the school.** This will allow for 1 family pick up. Children staying should pack a healthy snack for this time. Please let your child's class teacher know if you want to avail of this service. Children should be collected by an adult **only**, from the foundation stage or canteen door (beside front reception area) at 3pm if they are attending.

Book your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/e/qkUi7yT7xr>



- Breakfast club will commence on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September for Primary 1-7 children, and then on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October for Nursery children also.
- Breakfast club is open from 8.10am-8.30am.
- **Please only send your child if they are independent when eating to ensure their wellbeing.**
- Children should be accompanied by an adult to the canteen door.
- Please enter the **school grounds via the upper nursery gate** and directly into the canteen via the steps located beside the school reception area.
- The cost of this will be £1 per day, per child. This should be paid in cash each day to breakfast club supervisory staff. This charge covers the cost of food, cleaning supplies and staff.
- Children will have a choice of toast, cereals, fruit juice and milk each day.

**Children are not permitted in the school grounds before 8.45am unless attending the breakfast club as there will be no supervision. Children should not be left unsupervised at the school gates.**

**Class Allocations 2025-26- This information is also detailed in  
your child's end of year report**

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
P1AK	P2JL
P1RC	P2AD
P2JL	P3MH/JD
P2AD	P3CMK
P3MH	P4RC/JD
P3CMK	P4BD/JG
P4RC	P5DW
P4BD/RD	P5SM
P5DW	P6MG
P5SM	P6PH/RD
P6PH	P7DH
P6MG	P7MF

## Drop off and Pick Up Information:

CLASS & TEACHER	DROP OFF/PICKUP TIMES	DROP OFF POINT	PICK UP POINT
<b>Nursery</b>	8.45am-9am 1pm-1.15pm	Specific Nursery classroom door	Specific Nursery classroom door
<b>Primary 1 &amp; Primary 2</b>	8:45am – 9:00am – Pupils to classroom 2:00pm – Home Time	Foundation Stage Door	Inside the school gates
<b>Primary 3</b>	8:45am – 9:00am – Pupils to classroom 3pm – Home Time	Side door below nursery	Inside school gates via top gate (near nursery entrance)
<b>Primary 4</b>	8:45am – 9:00am – Pupils to classroom 3pm – Home Time	Side door below nursery	Inside school gates via top gate (near nursery entrance)
<b>Primary 5</b>	8:45am – 9:00am – Pupils to classroom 3pm – Home Time	Right side door as before above the canteen	Main Gate
<b>Primary 6</b>	8:45am – 9:00am – Pupils to classroom 3pm – Home Time	Same door as before-shared area at back of school	Main Gate
<b>Primary 7</b>	8:45am – 9:00am – Pupils to classroom 3pm – Home Time	Right side top door as before	Main Gate

## 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. 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 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 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.”

Accordingly, please see below the normal operating hours where the school office is contactable:

- Monday 8.45am-4.30pm
- Tuesday 8.45am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 8.45am-4.00pm
- Thursday 8.45am-4.00pm
- Friday 8.45am-3.15pm

Should you need to contact the school please email [info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk](mailto: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.**

# Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

*As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.*

## Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



## Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – “it’s completely fine to feel like that at the moment” or ‘I can really understand why you would feel like that’



## Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



## Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



## Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



## Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your ‘goodbye’ routine and create a ‘hello’ greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.



## Our Vision

Our Vision at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School, is for the outstanding provision for each and every child and their family in order for them to reach their full potential. This is delivered through an inclusive, child-centred Catholic ethos. Our vision is to utilise the strengths of our staff and wider local community to ensure the holistic needs of our children are catered for. The happiness, safety and wellbeing of our school community is at the heart of all we do.

## School Aims

Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School, promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with children to:

### **Learn:**

- Promote lifelong learning amongst our school community
- Meeting the individual learning needs of all pupils
- Inclusion at the heart of all we do
- Promotion of continuous staff development and wellbeing

### **Believe:**

- To provide a caring, sharing environment based on Christian values
- To become an extension of the Catholic home
- To celebrate their self-worth and realise their abilities, achievements, strengths, and personal preferences in order to have a high level of self-esteem
- To promote each child's awareness of his/her identity and heritage and have respect for other traditions

### **Respect:**

- To promote equality and inclusion
- To develop a sense of fairness, tolerance, respect and responsibility towards ourselves and others
- To promote an awareness of the need for rules and regulations within the school environment and to encourage respect for them
- To take ownership of their environment both locally and globally

**Achieve:**

- To provide each child with a broad, balance curriculum allowing each child to achieve his/her potential
- To develop the academic, physical, social, moral and emotional abilities of each child
- To always strive for better
- To develop enquiring minds and a sense of curiosity

We ensure that each child will achieve success through experiencing:

- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- A safe, welcoming and stimulating learning environment
- A varied programme of extra-curricular activities and school visits
- An ethos that is supportive, encouraging and friendly
- An effective partnership between school, home and the wider community
- A variety of teaching approaches and strategies to meet the needs and learning styles of pupils
- Access to a range of varied and up-to-date resources

We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:

- Ongoing self-evaluation to ensure our vision is achieved
- Working collaboratively with all our stakeholders



## A Prayer for the New School Year

Heavenly Father

At the start of a new school year, we give you thanks for the work of all schools (and particularly .... in our own parish).

We pray for all children starting at new schools, and for those returning. Help them to explore what they can achieve, and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.

We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen



I would like to thank our entire school community for their support to date. We as a school look forward to working with all those who care for the children to enable them to reach their full potential, ensuring they have a happy and safe school year ahead.

***Mrs S. McCafferty***