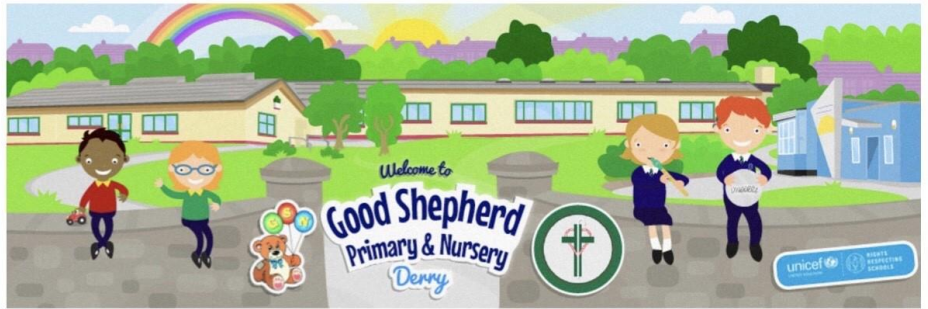




December 2024 Newsletter

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,

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 5th 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 10th 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.



Mrs Connor is returning from maternity leave on Monday 2nd 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 20th 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 20th December. Thank you for your continued support of the school.



Christmas Dinner will be served on Wednesday 11th 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 11th 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 16th 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!

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.



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.



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



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

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

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




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 2-2.50pm P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	Starting Monday 6 th January £34 for 8 weeks Book via ParentPay (20 spaces maximum for each session)
Monday	R9 Multi-Sports Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Started Monday 25 th November £40 for 8 weeks Book via www.R9Coaching.com Discount for Family Bookings
Tuesday	Singing with Clodagh McCullough	P1 & P2: 2-2.45pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm	Starting Tuesday 7 th January £42 for 10 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via Parent Pay
Tuesday	Chess Club	P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Tuesday 7 th January (20 spaces maximum) £30 for 8 weeks Book via ParentPay
Wednesday	Dance with Skills Schools Dance	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Started Wednesday 27 th November £40 for 8 weeks (discount for family bookings) Book directly here: https://www.cognitofirms.com/Skillschoolni/dance
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons with Mark	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7	Block 2 starting Wednesday 8th January- 2 places available! You will need your own guitar! £42 for 10 weeks please pay on parentpay
Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Thursday 9 th January Pay via Parent Pay £40 for 10 weeks 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?
Monday 2nd December	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Monday 2nd December	P4-P7 Children of Fatima Prayer Group visit
Tuesday 3rd December	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 10. LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Wednesday 4th December	Sustrans orienteering workshop with P5 classes
Wednesday 4th December	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Wednesday 4th December	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 10. LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Thursday 5th December	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Thursday 5th December	Admissions criteria for Nursery & Primary 1 published on the EA and school website.
Friday 6th December	Primary 5SM Class swimming WEEK 1
Monday 9th December	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3. Last week until the New Year
Tuesday 10th December	Nursery and Foundation Stage Open Afternoon 2.15pm-3.15pm
Tuesday 10th December	Lumen Christi College visit P6/P7
Wednesday 11th December	 <p>Christmas Dinner: £2.60 Please book on ParentPay To give an idea of numbers to our kitchen team please register your expression of interest here: https://forms.office.com/e/KZgmwmEGkB</p>
Wednesday 11th December	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3. Last week until the New Year
Thursday 12th December	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK
Thursday 12th December	P7 Girls visit St. Mary's College
Friday 13th December	A special visitor makes his way to Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School!



Friday 13th December	Primary 5SM Class swimming- CANCELLED THIS WEEK DUE TO POOL MAINTENANCE
Friday 13th December	Foyle College visit P6/P7 children
Monday 16th December	Christmas Jumpers/Non-uniform can be worn from today until the end of term
	
Monday 16th December	Nativity Show P2 Miss Logue's Class @9.30am
Monday 16th December	Nativity Show Primary 2 Mrs Duffy's Class @11am
Monday 16th December	Nativity Show Primary 3 Mrs Harley's Class @1.30pm
Tuesday 17th December	Nativity Show Nursery Mrs Kyle's Class @9.30am
Tuesday 17th December	Nativity Show Primary 1 Mrs Chambers' Class @11am
Tuesday 17th December	Nativity Show Primary 3 Mrs McKinney's Class @1.30pm
Tuesday 17th December	School soccer teams- Ryan McBride Winter Cup
Wednesday 18th December	Nativity Show Nursery Mrs Warne's Class @9.30am
Wednesday 18th December	Nativity Show Primary 1 Mrs Kivlehan' s Class @11am
Wednesday 18th December	Nursery finishes for Christmas at the normal time of 1.15pm
Thursday 19th December	Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service Visit Primary 5
Friday 20th December	Christmas Raffles
Friday 20th December	School Closes at 12noon

The school will be closed from 12noon on Friday 20th December for Primary 1-Primary 7 children.

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.

School reopens for all pupils on Monday 6th January 2025



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