

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025

February School Value

Congratulations to all pupils listed below for being awarded certificates for growth in confidence in the class.

The Nest – Finley Lyness Anderson

P1 – Mia Latimer

P2-Joshua Heak

P3 – Emily willis

P4 – Evie Adamson

P5 – Christopher Green

P6 – Alfie Ferguson

P7 – Diana Jukse



World Book Day

World Book Day 2025 will take place on Thursday 6th March this year. Its theme will be Read Your Way and underlines the importance of reading to become successful in later life. Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters, princesses, and princes. £1 donation is encouraged on the day.

There will also be a preloved book and toy sale on the day. Items will range in price from 50p to £3.00. This year there will also be a small stationery stall on the day. Items will range from 50p to £2.00. the sale will be organised by the P7, and all proceeds will go towards the purchase of the new P5/6 computer. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cash For Clobber

Thank you so much for all donations for Cash for Clobber Appeal. A figure of money raised will be available in due course. We are looking forward to receiving our cheque which will be used for P5/P6 computer.



School Questionnaire

Thank you to all parents who have responded to our school questionnaire posted on class dojo on 6th February. If you have not already responded please be aware the closing date to make your response is Monday 3rd March.

School Photographs

Dandelion Studios are delighted to be visiting Gilford Primary School on 12th March. Reminder to all parents who would like their child's photograph taken **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER** by using the link as listed on class dojo on 30th January **BEFORE 9th March**. NO registrations/permissions will be accepted after this date, so it is vital to register if you wish photographs to be taken. To pre-register your child's photographs please go to <https://dandeliongotphoto.co.uk/login>. Access code – GILF1203

World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day will be celebrated this year on 21st March. The theme for 2025 is to Improve Our Support Systems. People with Down Syndrome need support to live and be included in the community like everyone else. Families also need support, as they are often supporting their family member with Down Syndrome. Support is a key human right that helps make other rights possible. We are holding a non-uniform day on 21st March and are asking for a £1 donation. All proceeds will go towards Down Syndrome UK charity. Thankyou in advance for your support.

St Patricks Day

School will be closed Monday 17th March for St Patricks Day.

Aspire (Shared Education)

We will be having a second Aspire Day on 5th March when our pupils will be taking part in art, emotional and well-being workshops alongside pupils from Milltown Primary and St Colemans Bann. Our final Aspire workshop will take place on 9th April. All pupils will travel to Newcastle on 20th June for a fun day out in Newcastle. There is no cost for this celebration day. Please keep this day free!

Easter School Holidays Reminders

Easter - school closed Monday 14th April-Friday 25th April. Re-opens Monday 28th April.



Easter Garden Competition

All pupils are encouraged to enter our Easter Garden competition this year. Why not use an old biscuit tin, pot, tray, or container and fill it with soil, sand or pebbles and create our own unique Easter Garden? When complete bring into school and display it in our front entrance hall week beginning Monday 7th April. Judging will take place Friday 11th April.

Mathletics

Please continue to encourage your child to complete all activities set on Mathletics by your child's class teacher. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to revise topics covered in class. Please let me know if you have any problems accessing the site and we can organise for your child to have time within the school day to complete set activities.

Maths Week 2025

Maths week will be celebrated in Gilford Primary and Nursery Unit Monday 24th March – Friday 28th March. World Maths Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 26th March. We will be running Guess the Number of sweets in the jar each day during the week. It will be 50p a guess or 3 guesses for £1.

Outdoor Learning Grant

We are delighted to have received £3500 to purchase out-door learning equipment. We have purchased 9 large stepping stones which will promote physical play, developing motor skills and communication and language skills. These resources will also encourage collaborative and will enhance co-ordination. We are appreciative to the Department of Education for this extra funding which has enabled us to purchase these resources.

Minister Givan

We had a lovely visit from Minister Givan on Wednesday 19th February. He was shown around the school and met with all pupils in their classrooms. His personal photographer took a selection of photos throughout the visit which were published on our school dojo and Facebook page. Please note no photographs were taken by any members of the school staff. He was extremely complimentary of the school and all the hard work of all staff, supported by a passionate Board of Governors. He was especially touched by the family atmosphere throughout the school and the very well-mannered and polite pupils.

Healthy Breaks

We would appreciate all pupils to bring healthy snacks to school each day. No fizzy drinks are to be brought into school. Thankyou.

Visit from Time Bailie

We were delighted to welcome Tom Bailie to our school on Thursday 27th February. Tom is a local author living in Larne. He was unable to visit us on World Book Day as he is hugely popular but enjoyed his day with us visiting all classrooms reading stories and giving advice how to write stories. The sessions were fun and interactive. His overall aim was to inspire pupils to be enthused about reading and writing primarily highlighting themes such as bullying, disability, asking for help, pride and racism. Some of his most popular books include, 'The Six-Legged Spider,' 'Mouse and the Moon Rocket' and 'The Proud Parakeet.' A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Mobile Library Van

The next visit for the Library Van is Wednesday 5th March. Please bring in books to be returned and exchanged.