

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow"
at St Anne's Primary School

The Acorn

Newsletter

Issue No: 51
Winter 2019



IMPORTANT DATES!

DECEMBER 2019

FRIDAY 20TH

School Closes at 12 noon
for the Christmas Break

JANUARY 2020

MONDAY 6TH

School re-opens for all pupils

TUESDAY 14TH

Nursery Open Day – 2.30pm

WEDNESDAY 15TH

P1 Open Day – 1.00pm

FRIDAY 24TH

Parent/Teacher Meetings –
School Closed to pupils

THURSDAY 30TH

Closing date for applications
for Nursery and Primary 1
admissions for September 2020
(Online portal closes 12 noon)

St Anne's Primary School
and Nursery Unit

50 Kingsway, Finaghy
Belfast BT10 0NE
Website: www.saintannesps.com
Email: info@stannes.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Tel: 028 9061 5414



P2 Nativity Play

More fantastic photos on pages 2&3

photocall





LET'S GO ST ANNE'S, LET'S GO!

Belfast Phoenix Basketball Club have been working with 3 local Primary Schools. Each school was linked with a team from the Junior National Basketball Association. St Anne's Primary School partnered up with LA Clippers who gave us a school set of LA Clippers Kit to wear as they headed off for a basketball blitz at Queens' PEC where we made it into both the girls. and boys final.

The boys' final was against St Teresa's Primary School. The defensive skills shown by Aidan, Matthew and Aidan C were outstanding. With Patrick and John making fast breaks down the court, Zac, John and James made super offensive plays, scoring strong baskets.

The girls' final was against Moira Primary School. Lisa, Emily and Caitlyn put up a great defence against the Moira team. Jane and Maya both had a strong eye for the basket and scored lots of hoops. Lily and Cara stole the ball from Moira and followed this up with excellent passes to their team mates.

For their second competition outing this lucky bunch took off on Tuesday 10th December to the National Basketball Arena in Dublin where they had a day of celebration and basketball with their coach Carla.

A very strong and promising start for St Anne's Basketballers.



ECO-UPDATE

We worked very hard last year and achieved our 'Silver Eco-Schools' Award'. We are delighted! A big thank you to all those who helped us. We are hoping to apply for the 'Green Flag Eco-Schools Award' this year and are feeling very optimistic.

Our targets for this year are:

- To enhance the biodiversity in our school grounds (main target)
- To continue to encourage pupils and parents to make active journeys
- To continue to reduce the amount of waste created
- To continue in our efforts to make St. Anne's and our community litter-free

So far this year, we have:

- formed our new eco-agency
- hosted an assembly to share last year's achievements with the whole school and sent an email to parents to inform them of these
- reviewed our eco-code
- completed our annual environmental review
- created a new eco-action plan
- emailed Rathmore and Hunterhouse to try and organise some joint eco-projects
- held a 'design a poster' competition for Primary 7 to encourage pupils to top up from the tap
- contacted Ulster Wildlife and RSPB

to get support with our Biodiversity target

- taken part in some active travel class sessions e.g. Be Safe Be Seen Assemblies, Road Safety, Getting Active
- organised a rota and are carrying out regular litter picks 'Tidy up Tuesdays and Thursdays, Litter Free Fridays'

We will keep you informed of our progress. If you can help us in any way, please contact the Eco-Agency. Thank you for your continued support.





WE'VE SIGNED UP FOR THE DAILY MILE

over the last number of weeks many of our classes have been involved in the daily mile workout. The children, teachers and classroom assistants are being challenged to walk or run a mile each day (weather permitting) to improve both their physical and mental well-being. children who have taken part say they feel refreshed, energised and ready for work-positive outcomes all round.



Gardening is Such Hard Work!

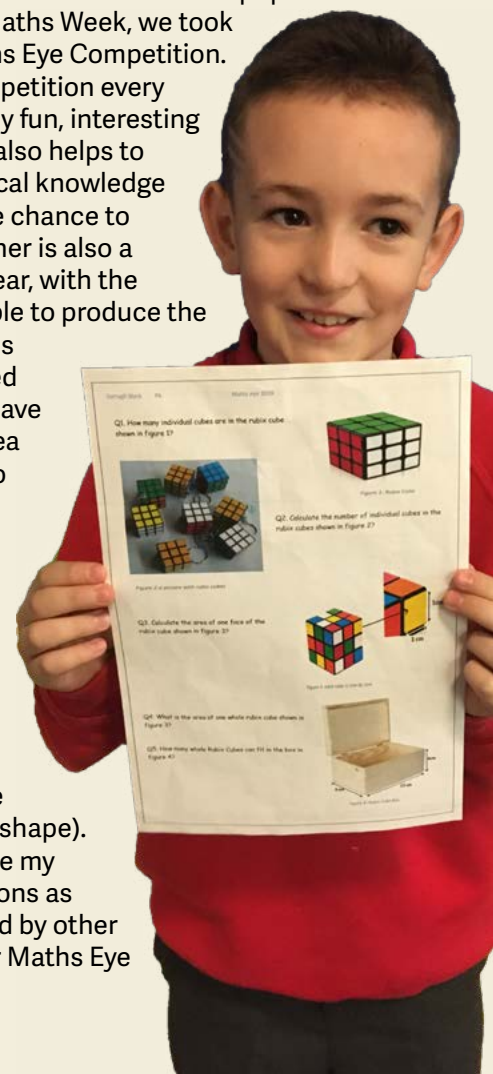
P4 pupils were very busy last year as they tended their garden. In October they picked their apples and made apple crumble. Over the next few months they planted onions, potatoes, peas, beans and cabbages. They watered regularly, weeded when necessary and battled to save their produce from snails and slugs. In June they harvested their vegetables and made their 'World War 2 Dinner' of colcannon and gooseberries with custard, which they enjoyed eating in the summer sunshine.

Maths Eye

Hi, my name is Darragh Black and I am a P6 pupil.

In October, as part of Maths Week, we took part in the School Maths Eye Competition.

I have entered this competition every year and I find it not only fun, interesting and challenging, but it also helps to develop my mathematical knowledge and understanding. The chance to win a £10 Smyth's voucher is also a factor of course! This year, with the help of my dad, I was able to produce the winning entry. My Maths Eye challenge was based on the rubix cube. We have been learning about area and volume this year, so I thought I would relate it to this topic. I posed several questions about the surface area of each face and the overall area of the six faces. I also asked questions about the volume of the cube and how many could be stored in a box (cuboid shape). It was great to challenge my class with these questions as well as being challenged by other class members on their Maths Eye entries.





The day the Poet came to St Anne's

We had a very special Monday morning lesson for Literacy. We met a poet called Paul Cookson. He was really funny. He read lots of poems that rhymed. He even told us a poem about the teachers who don't talk in the staffroom because they are too busy eating cake! We heard lots of really funny poems and we had to do dinosaur actions to them. He turned my friend Ava into the Avasoursrex. The best part was when Paul read out the disgusting rhyme poems, he made all our teachers and us laugh. We got to buy some of his poetry books and he even signed them. It was the best Literacy time yet.

Grace Mrs Donnelly's P3

Over 400 of St Anne's pupils had the opportunity to meet the Poet, Paul Cookson, this term and according to Thomas from Ms Mallon's P6 he was AMAZING. 'We were all so excited. He writes funny, slightly silly books. He has written a lot of good poetry books. One of his most famous poems is called 'Let no one steal your dreams.' Paul signed the books that people bought. He was a really nice kind guy.



P4 Music Morning

by Ryan and James P4 Mrs Scullin

On Tuesday 12th November 2019 our class went to a Music Morning at the Belfast School of Music. Our Mums came too. We sang songs and played instruments with five other schools. We had to make our own piece of music. We called it the Homework Machine. Our friends Camilla, Lucy, Harry and Cillian made the Homework Machine. In the afternoon we didn't have to do much work at all. Our families came to our concert in the Assembly Hall. We loved singing and playing for them. Then we got to speak to our friends. Our favourite parts of the day were going on the bus, singing, playing instruments and having our Mummies and friends there too.



Blooming Lovely

When we came back to school in September the garden was full of flowers. There were lots of bees, hoverflies and butterflies. The plants were soon cut down and dug into the ground to feed the soil. We picked our apples and made apple crumble. It was delicious! I couldn't stop eating it.

In October we planted flower bulbs, peas, garlic and beans. We went to the Nursery and around the playground in groups of 3 to collect brushed up leaves for composting. It was rainy but brilliant. Wearing the gloves and getting your hands dirty was the best part. The leaves will not be used for another 2 years.

Alice, Mattia and Mark P4 Mrs Scullin



P5 Young Enterprise



I really enjoyed working with Young Enterprise. We got to create and design our own restaurant. As a team we had to think of a name for our business, what it would look like and what type of food we were going to sell. It was important to think about what type of customer we were trying to sell to. Our business was aimed at families and we had a special offer: 'children under 5 ate for free'. I learnt a lot about the important features that make up our city and keep our industry growing. I also learnt about the key skills I need to develop in school to help me to be successful in the world of work later on in my life.

Mia. Mrs Cullen's P5



We started the day looking at a giant map of our city. We then had to create the different buildings you find within a city, such as a hospital, shops, houses, restaurants and a library, and decide where it would be best to put them. There would be no point in putting a hospital in the country side because it needs to be easy for people to get to quickly if they are in an emergency situation! We then got to design our own restaurant and had to think about the best location for that restaurant. My team decided that the city centre would be the best location. We also had to think about prices for our food-too dear and no one will come to it but too cheap and we won't make any money! I had a brilliant day!

Ruairi. Mrs Cullen's P5

P7's make their own ice cream!

We have been very lucky to have two student teachers, Jonathan and Karen, come and teach us every week about Science. We have built boats and bridges and tested them for strength and durability. Our favourite lesson was when we learnt that Victorians were the inventors of the first ice-cream machine. We got to make – and eat – our own ice-cream!

INGREDIENTS: ½ cup salt | 3 cups of ice | 1 cup of cream | 5ml vanilla extract | half cup of sugar | thermometer | spoons | 2 zip-loc bags (a small bag and a bigger bag)

METHOD: Gather ingredients and equipment. Pour cream, sugar and vanilla extract into the small bag and seal it tightly. Put smaller bag into the bigger bag and fill bigger bag with ice so that it surrounds but doesn't mix with your ice-cream mixture. Work the ice around the mixture with your hands for ten minutes. Just like we did, you'll find the mixture didn't freeze properly. However, by adding salt to the bag with ice we discovered that the mixture started to freeze! Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water, allowing the mixture to change to a frozen state rather than a liquid one.

We scraped the ice-cream onto a plate and began to enjoy eating it. Some groups appeared to have created ice-cream



soup! On review we agreed that by adding more salt and more sugar we could have improved the quality and flavour of our ice-cream. We had a lot of fun though. We might try it at home when the weather gets a bit warmer!

By: Hannah and Amruta Mrs Mayne's P7

Check out this website and have an 'e-safe' Christmas

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Parent Info is a website for parents, covering all of the issues amplified by the internet. It is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA CEOP and provides support, advice and help in relation to young people and families in a digital world.

Other websites that offer practical straightforward advice on how to keep your child safe online and provide answers in relation to new technologies and apps are www.getsafeonline.org, www.nspcc.org/shareaware, www.net-aware.org.uk and www.childnet.com

Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential. It supports their learning and the development of friendships. Attending school regularly also enhances your child's self-esteem whilst promoting their personal and social development. You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not talking holidays during term time so they do not miss out on important learning and fall behind in their school work. Holiday taken during term time are categorised as an unauthorised absence by the Department of Education.

P5 – The Fire Service

On Thursday the 28th November, The Fire Safety Team from Cadogan Fire Station visited our school.

The Primary Five classes went and they told us about Stub the ashtray, Wickman the candle, and Flint and Scratch the lighter and matches. Then they introduced us to Steamy and Sizzle who were a chip pan and oven, and Arc the plug. We learnt about how all of these things can be a danger in our houses, if we don't use them with care.

Next we found out about Beep the smoke alarm, (don't forget to give him a birthday so that you can change his battery at the same time every year!) and Plan Man who always had an escape plan.

They said we were really good at listening and answering their questions and gave us a night of no homework! Our teachers are still recovering.

Jack Bakewell P5 MW





Things we like about P1



I have made so many new friends. **Niall**

I love learning about numbers. **Ronan**

I like learning our sounds. **Annie**

The Play Area is lots of fun! **Eibhin**

Playing is lots of fun! **Amelie**

Playing shop is lots of fun.

I get to use money. **Leah**

I like learning new things! **Jonah**

Mrs Heagney's and Mrs Murphy's P1 Class



GAELIC BLITZ

Today Mrs Donnelly's class took part in a P3 Gaelic football tournament at Woodlands as part of a Gaelfast organised blitz. Under the watchful eye of our assigned school coach, Sean, the girls and boys enjoyed a fun-filled and skill-packed Gaelic football extravaganza. We scored some goals and points. It was a great afternoon and even the sun shone brightly. We travelled to the blitz in our school mini bus so a special thank you goes out to Paul our caretaker for getting all 22 players to the match. We cannot wait for the next blitz.

"It was easy to kick the ball really high and tackle the other teams." **Grace**

"The hardest part was getting the ball past the other children." **Christopher**

"It was great fun playing a match and getting the ball around the other players. I scored eight goals in 3 matches." **Matthew**

"I liked playing football that Sean had taught us." **Eric**

"It was fun playing matched against other schools" **Ronan**

Music Mornings

Jingle bells, Jingle bells, Jingle all the way...

This familiar Christmas song could be heard bubbling up from the Assembly Hall last Wednesday.

The Primary 1 and Primary 3 pupils had gathered to have their annual Christmas Music Morning and St Anne's Nursery pupils had come across to join them. The atmosphere was electric! We had a variety of songs and poems all relating to Christmas and the current year group curricular themes. The 'Elf' was there looking down on all children, keeping them on their toes!!! The Traditional Group added to the atmosphere playing two tunes, 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' and 'Silent Night'. It was festive, full of cheer and enjoyed by all. Only 6 more sleeps to Santa!

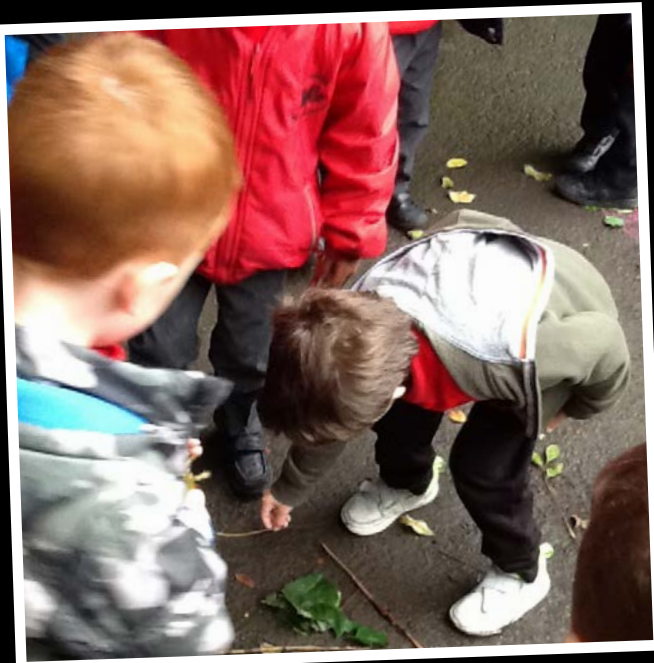


NURSERY NEWS



Nursery Are Giving It Some Welly!

The nursery boys and girls had fun "Up-cycling" some old wellington boots into planters as part of our Eco Schools work. We had lots of fun drilling holes and filling the boots with compost before planting beautiful Winter primroses and pansies. Thank you to our 2018-2019 pupils for their welly boot donations!



P1 Maths Trail

During 'Maths week' we went to the playground to complete lots of maths challenges. There were cards all around the playground asking us questions and we worked in teams to answer them. Some of the things we did was make triangles using twigs, we found and counted stones, we were counting bricks and flowers and lots more. All of the activities helped us with our numbers and shapes and we had so much fun!

Mrs McAteer's P1 Class



#ChangeStartsWithUs



Bully Busters at Work!

St Anne's Bully Busters' Team had a busy week during Anti-Bullying Week. This year's theme was 'Change Starts With Us'. By making small, simple changes we can create a safer school for everyone, where everyone is happier. The team ran a campaign involving all pupils from Nursery through to P7. The challenge was for each person to pledge to make one small positive change that will make a difference and help promote St Anne's strong anti-bullying ethos. Bully Busters spoke at assemblies, held class sessions and visited the children in younger classes to get them involved in the campaign. Younger pupils drew pictures to represent some of the changes they were going to make. These included smiling at people, saying hello and asking people to join in their games. Some of the pledges made by older pupils included working and playing together, respecting difference and diversity, paying compliments and saying encouraging things to each other and being a role model for younger pupils. We celebrated a very busy week with #WearYellowForRespect Day on the Friday. Bully Busters also ran a class poster and creative competition, based on this year's theme. They will help their teacher to choose some of these to enter into NIABF Anti-Bullying Week Creative Competition. Fingers crossed, we are hoping for a fifth winner in a row! Read on to hear more about what was going on in classes during that busy week.



Ice-Cream Kindness

On the Friday of Anti-Bullying Week all of Ms McDonald's P4 class enjoyed eating a vanilla ice-cream cone in the company of friends. You might be wondering what ice-cream has to do with bullying. Earlier in the week the class had looked at all the variety of flavours of ice-cream and discovered that everyone appreciates different flavours. They each designed their own ice cream flavour that describes and highlights what makes them special. These were all placed together in one big display board to symbolise that they are all different but are all part of the same class and will therefore treat each other equally.



'All ice-cream flavours are different just like everyone in the world' commented Veronica and Eabha as they enjoyed their ice-cream! There is one thing that is important that we all have in common. It is how we treat each other, no matter whether people are similar to us or different to us.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



The Investiture Ceremony

Reflections of P7 councillors

It was quite scary on Election Day, going up against all the other pupils from our class who wanted to be elected as School Councillors – the competition was strong. We felt very thankful when we got elected.

The Investiture Ceremony was fun, as our class came to support us when we got our badges.

I (Natasha) performed my campaign speech/poem at the Investiture Ceremony. It was a bit frightening performing in front of a large audience of classes, invited parents and special guests of honour.

The Lord Mayor presented us with our badges and we had a photo opportunity with him. All 56 school councillors and their parents went and had some refreshments in the Dinner Hall.

We would like to thank everyone who helped arrange the special event.

**By Natasha and Orlaith P7
Mrs. Watson's class.**



P6 School Councillors attend Creative Workshop



A group of our P6 school councillors and their peers were invited to attend a creative workshop event as part of Beyond Skin's #ArtsDialogue & #Youth4Peace initiatives. During the workshop, participants met guests from Middle Eastern countries and Mrs Lapin, a parent of pupils here in St Anne's, who spent time in Afghanistan working as Humanitarian. She told the pupils what life was like there for people, particularly young children. The councillors explored some of the culturally significant items used in Afghani homes, their traditional dress and Middle Eastern Music and Song.

Read on to hear more about this from Beth, Susie and Eoin from Ms O Boyle's class

We met Una who has been to Afghanistan. We traced her journey on a large floor map and discovered it is nearly 30,000 miles away. Una had brought a few different items to show us. In Afghanistan the ladies sew the carpets and the men make beautiful objects out of metal. We had fun trying on some of the clothes they wear. After this we met Luna, a middle eastern musician. She explained her life in music. She also taught us how to do a bit of rhythm with our body such as clapping, dooming, hitting our knees and stomping our feet on the ground. We also convinced her to play a piece of music in Arabic for us. It was beautiful. It was about a person asking Luna about her parents and her life when she was younger.



Susie, Eoin and Orla, a school council subcommittee, joined St Anne's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). They were there to provide an update on one of their current projects and to seek the team's feedback. The school council are working on compiling a set of agreed dinner hall rules. After sharing their action plan and presenting a draft set of rules to the SLT, they turned to Mr Keenan to 'talk money'. They are proposing to run a school competition asking pupils to design a poster to display the final agreed rules. The winner of this competition will get to work with a graphic designer to create a 'St Anne's Dinner Hall Rules' poster. Dig deep into those pockets Mr Keenan!

'Buddying' up. School Council Buddies at Work

We are the school council buddies for Mrs McAteer's P1 class this year and had our first visit with them during Anti-Bullying Week. We chatted to them about the 'Change Starts With Us' school campaign and told them about the anti-bullying poster competition. We talked about what bullying can look like in our playgrounds and shared some stories about people who were bullied. We asked them to be kind to people in their class. They had some great ideas about how they could let other people join in the fantastic games that they play in their playground. Mrs. McAteer's class were brilliant listeners and were very creative with their stories and ideas. We are looking forward to our next visit to their class

By Niamh and Ewan (Mrs. Mayne's P7)



Getting Elected

On Friday the 16th of September Mrs. Mayne's class council elections were in full flow. We had eleven candidates in total going forward for the position of Class Councillor. They were Eve, Ewan, Hannah, Grace, Patrick, Patryk, Emma, Jack, John, Eoghan and Niamh. All the candidates' speeches and PowerPoint presentations were really good and the competition was stiff. It came down to a tied vote between Hannah, Patryk and us (Ewan and Niamh). It was so nerve-racking as votes continued to be cast. Finally, Mrs. Mayne announced that Ewan and Niamh were the newly elected class councillors. We would advise anyone who wants to go for school councillor to be brave, go for it and remain confident and calm.

Niamh and Ewan, P7

P5 reflections

On Thursday 10th October, the newly elected school Councillors got their new badges presented to them by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, John Finnuan. Some children read their election speeches and manifestos to the audience. After everyone got their badges, we went to the canteen for some refreshments. We also got to wear the Lord Mayor's chain! It was a great experience and everyone enjoyed it.

Ellie and Dylan P5 Mrs Woods

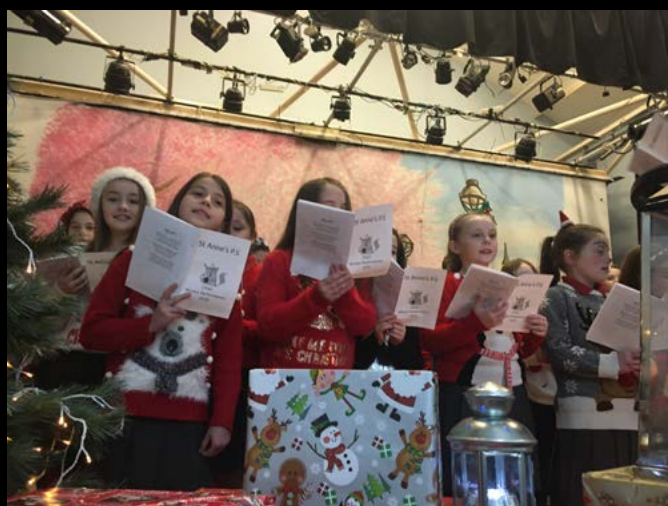
We had an amazing day. Our parents were extremely proud and it was lovely to be able to share this day with them

Charlie and Eva Mrs Cullen



PTA

What a busy term it has been for St Anne's Parent Teacher Association. Starting off with a spooky Halloween coffee morning to welcome new members, through to a very busy Christmas Fair where St Anne's School Choir added to the festive atmosphere. They have been baking cakes, selling raffle tickets, designing Christmas cards and organising a range of After-School Clubs. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 8pm in the Staff Room in Block D and we'd love to see you there.



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BOOK FAIR

Our school are holding a Book Fair this week. We are looking forward to this great experience. Some of our class will be helping out with the Book Fair on both side of the school. We will be on hand to help the younger pupils pick the best book. We will also take on the role of shop keepers, working with money, providing change, taking book orders and stocktaking.

The Book Fair runs for 3 days and is open before and after school also. This gives plenty of time for St Anne's pupils to pick their favourite books. Have a great Book Fair.

Hollie and Aoife P6 Mrs Mallon

