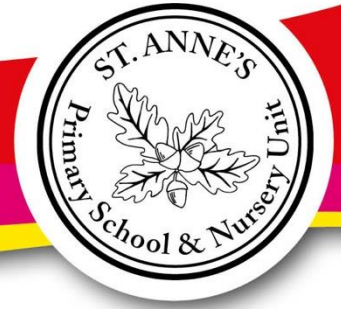


“Tall oaks from little acorns grow”



IN THE LOOP

SEPTEMBER EDITION 2022

Welcome Back

Good luck to all our new pupils who have joined us, from Nursery to P1 and all those children from other schools and countries – we are delighted you are here.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start the new academic year, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone in our school community for last year. Over the course of 2021-2022, we have;

- Focused on Health and Wellbeing,
- Facilitated our Engage Programme,
- Built our outdoor play areas,
- Enhanced the connectivity in the school,
- Held all our Sports Days,
- Participated in a number of Sporting Events and competitions,
- Reintroduced school trips,
- Introduced our Monthly Newsletter, *In the Loop* and
- Reopened our Breakfast Club, School Meals and After School Programme.

These and so many other activities add to the life of St Anne's Primary School and Nursery Unit and provide special opportunities for our children to grow and develop.

To all the staff: from the office staff, building supervisor and caretaker, canteen staff, lunchtime supervisors, cleaners, classroom assistants and teachers; a huge thank you for everything that you do for the children in our care. You go over and above to support the children. I have witnessed first-hand your duty of care and dedication towards the children and it is a pleasure to be part of such a great team.

On behalf of the school, thank you also to the members of our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) who have given their time so generously to raise funds. The £6,000 raised from the Summer Fair will be spent on Interactive Smart Boards for the classrooms. Not only do they raise much-needed funds for the school, they help to develop the sense of community for the children, parents and carers. A special mention must go to Mrs. O'Hare who is leaving us this year as the Chairperson of the PTA. She has been outstanding in her fundraising endeavours and support for the school. We look forward to hearing what the PTA have planned for this year and welcome the new Chairperson, Michael Crawford.

I would like to extend my thanks to Fr. Peter for the children's spiritual guidance, Masses and the Sacramental Services. Thanks also to our Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr Morgan, along with all of the Governors, for their leadership and guidance.

It takes a huge team of dedicated, caring and motivated professionals to make St. Anne's PS and Nursery Unit a success. Included in this team are you, the parents and carers, who work in close partnership with the school to ensure that we are doing all we can for the children in helping them achieve their best. In the coming months we will start the process of developing a new three-year School Development Plan. I would ask that you click on the link below and complete the questionnaire. Your views will help us shape the future for all our pupils - [Parental Questionnaire School Development Plan Sept 2022](#)

On behalf of all the school staff, I wish you and the pupils, a healthy, happy, successful year. 'Tall oaks from little acorns grow.'

Ciarán Conway (Principal)

IN THE LOOP

Healthy Break Policy

Mid-morning breaks should consist of fresh fruit/vegetables and/or bread-based snacks with a sugar-free filling. Milk or water are the only drinks permitted during break and lunch. Water can be consumed throughout the day.

Special dietary needs – allergies
(Please be mindful when packing your child's break/lunch)

Eco-school – support our efforts: reusable water bottle (refill in school) /reusable lunch boxes/bags (avoid single use plastics)

School Dinners

- You will be able to register and pay for school dinners via School Money - £2.60 per day.

- We would encourage you to register and pay for school dinners a week in advance. The menu is available on the school website <https://saintannesps.com/parents>

- P2 – P7 dinners will be available from Thursday 1st September.

- P1 dinners will be available from Monday 12th September.

- Nursery dinners will be available from Monday 19th September.

P7 Reminder

23rd September:

- GL/PPTC registration closes 2pm
- AQE registration closes 4pm

School Council

We look forward to establishing our new School Council for this year and working through their ideas on how to make St Anne's even better. Further updates to follow.

School Uniform

School uniform promotes pride, identity, belonging and equality. Please support us by ensuring that your child wears their full uniform every day.

Black shoes (no trainers) and no jewellery for health and safety reasons.

P.E. Uniform In order to keep the cost of the school P.E. uniform to a minimum could I ask parents/ carers to adhere to the following;

Normal school polo shirt,
Plain black tracksuit bottoms,
Black plimsolls/ Black trainers.

These may be purchased in Tesco, Primark, Dunnes etc. Children **should not** wear branded clothing such as Nike, Adidas etc.

Message from the PTA Committee

At the moment we are a very small group who are trying to organise events and raise money for the school. We need more people to help us!

We welcome parents, carers and grandparents. In return we promise you will have fun, meet new friends and help your child and school community. If you are available to help please contact the school office.

The PTA meet at the Junior side of the school once a month. A text/email will be sent out when a meeting is scheduled. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th September. We hope to see as many people there as possible.

Certificates for the Month of September

To celebrate the children's great work and to encourage good behaviour in St Anne's we have a range of awards that are presented each month. This month's certificates will be awarded for:

- **Showing Kindness and Respect for Others**
- **Looking after School Property**
- **Making a Fantastic Effort in Class**
- **Showing Excellent Manners**

We wish all the children well in their efforts. *It would be great if you would also discuss these with your child and encourage them to do their best.*

URGENT—Contact details

If your address, telephone number or email address has changed please inform the office to ensure we have up-to-date information should we need to contact you.

info@stannesps.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Holiday List

The Holiday List for 2022 2023 is available on the school website. <https://saintannesps.com/parents>

School closed Friday 30th September - Staff Development Day

IN THE LOOP

Parking

In the interests of the safety of our pupils, and the safety of all using the school site, I would ask everyone to park with due care and attention. Please **DO NOT** park on the coned areas along the laneway. Parking beside, in between, or on the cones, should not happen.

I would also point out that the spaces at the bottom of the church car park are for Blue Badge holders.



Northern Ireland Outreach Opera

Our lucky P5 pupils will be attending a singing and dance workshop in the Opera House during September. This is a great opportunity for them and we wish them well.

P5, 6 & 7 Swimming Programme

Our swimming programme starts on 12th September and will run until 6th December for our P5 pupils and two P6 classes. Our P7 and two P6 classes will follow in term two.

Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is absent, please email the school giving a reason for their absence, or send in a note with your child on their return.

If your child has an appointment during the school day, they should be signed out at the school office **before** you collect them.

Arriving to school on time gives your child the best start to the day. Pupils who join the class after 9.10am, will have a late recorded against their name.

Attendance and punctuality are monitored by the school's Education Welfare Officer who carries out attendance audits at various points during the school year.

Please do not arrange family holidays during term time. The school does not provide work for pupils who are on holiday during term-time.

Please visit our website to access a copy of our Attendance Policy.

Parent Curriculum Meetings

You are warmly welcomed to attend our annual Curriculum Meetings. These are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and for specific information regarding your child's class and year group. General routines and procedures will also be shared with you.

The dates of these are as follows:

- P5 Curriculum Meeting - 15th September: 9.10 -9.40 am
- P7 Curriculum Meeting - 16th September: 9.10 -9.40 am (followed by Principal's information session from 9.45-10.15 in the assembly hall)
- P6 Curriculum Meeting - 19th September: 9.10 -9.40 am (followed by Principal's information session from 9.45-10.15 in the assembly hall)
- P4 Curriculum Meeting - 20th September: 9.10 -9.40 am
- P2 Curriculum Meeting - 22nd September: 9.10 -9.40 am
- P3 Curriculum Meeting - 23rd September: 9.10 -9.40 am

To facilitate these sessions, children will line up in their designated positions where they will be met and supervised by the Vice Principals and other staff. You should proceed directly into your child's classroom.

IN THE LOOP

Eco-Agency

Eco-agents will conduct their beginning of year annual audit and from this, identify our school's targets for the coming year. We are excited to build on the work that has already been accomplished and very much welcome your support with our future endeavours.

Online Parental Forms

Parents are asked to complete both the **Special Requirements form** and **Excursion and Image Permissions Form** using the online links that will be shared week beginning 5th September.

Given the nature of these forms, we would appreciate if you would complete and submit these as soon as possible.

Gaelic Football Coaching

P1, P2 and P3 classes will each participate in a fundamentals programme led by Coach Sean from Antrim GAA.

P5 Basketball

All four classes in Primary 5 will have the opportunity to participate in the Cleveland Basketball Programme beginning on the 16th September. This will involve weekly coaching sessions with Coach Carla and a Blitz with other participating primary schools.

CBSM

Music lessons will resume for P5-P7 pupils on Monday 5th September.

Healthy Happy Minds

The Department of Education has committed to continue funding the Healthy Happy Minds pilot scheme for Primary schools up to December 2022. This pilot provides the opportunity for some pupils to engage with an art and play-based therapeutic counsellor.

The Paws B programme which the Primary 6's took part in during term 3 last year, will be run with our new P6 pupils in term 1 of this new academic year. This programme, which was designed by the Mindfulness in Schools Project, is delivered for 1 hour per week for 6 weeks. Throughout the duration of the programme the children will explore a number of themes including: how to grow happiness, gratitude, sleep better, steadying themselves in times of uncertainty, tools for dealing with conflict and how to deal with strong emotions.

The lessons are fun and interactive with a balance between group and partner discussion and activities and mindfulness practices.

PTA After School Programme

The After School schedule will go out by email this week with details of registration.

The programme will begin for P2-P7 from Monday 12th September.

The programme for Primary 1's will commence after the mid-term break.

New Outdoor Play Areas

Our new outdoor play areas in the P1 – P3 playground and the P4 – P7 playground are now finished. This is a really exciting opportunity for the children to play, problem solve, create and develop new friendships.

Along with these new spaces we also have two new outdoor classrooms, to further enhance what is being taught in the school. We look forward to using these and seeing how creative the children can be.

