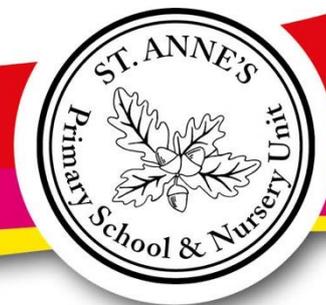


“Tall oaks from little acorns grow”



IN THE LOOP

November EDITION 2022

Date for your Diary

Advent begins on
Sunday 27th
November

Reminder

PPTC Transfer Test Transfer Test
Date: 12th November 2022

AQE Transfer Test
Dates: 19th, 26th November, and
3rd December 2022

Open Days

Open Days for prospective
Nursery and P1 pupils for
September 2023 will be held on:

Nursery	13 th Dec 2022
	10 th Jan 2023 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Primary 1	14 th Dec 2022
	11 th Jan 2023 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Anti-Bullying Week

Dear Parents and Carers,

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 takes place from 14th – 18th November. This is always an important week in the life of our school, when we can build on the strong anti-bullying culture we foster within St Anne's.

This year's theme is 'Reach Out'. Through class-based activities and at year group assemblies, the children will explore the many ways bullying can happen and the feelings associated with being bullied. They will also identify who they can reach out to in relation to bullying behaviours. Pupils will look at the ways in which they can be 'upstanders' and explore how they can set positive examples to create kinder communities.

On Monday 14th November, 'Odd Socks Day' will mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week. To take part, all you have to do is wear odd socks. It could not be simpler!

On Friday 18th we will mark the end of the week with a 'Crazy Hair Day'. (More information will be shared closer to the date).

Both events are a chance for everyone to express themselves and their individuality and to celebrate what makes us unique.

Click on the following links to access further information advice in relation to bullying.

<http://www.endbullying.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NIABF-Parent-Carer-Toolkit.pdf>

School Council News

The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Christina Black, will be guest of honour at the School Council Investiture Ceremony due to take place on Thursday 24th of November. She will present council members with their badge of office and celebrate the work they do in trying to make St Anne's a better place for all.

The councillors will have a busy November. In their role as St. Anne's Bully Busters, they will be visiting classes during Anti-Bullying Week to encourage pupils to enter the Anti-Bullying Week Creative Competition and to take part in Odd Socks Day. This is an opportunity for everyone to get creative while spreading the anti-bullying message.

IN THE LOOP

Litter – we need your help!

If you see any about the site, could you please lift it and put in the bins that are placed around the school. Thank you!

Dates For December

Further details to follow

6 th December	P2 Nativity Play @11am
8 th December	P1 – P3 Christmas Dinner
	P4/P5 Trip to the Panto
9 th December	P2 Nativity Play @ 11am P6/P7 trip to the Panto
13 th December	Elf Visiting the Nursery
15 th December	Nursery Nativity @ 11am
16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day for all pupils
	P4 – P7 Christmas Dinner

Housekeeping

During autumn, would you please ensure that your child brings a coat each day? They will need these for wet mornings and for when there may be a light shower during break and lunchtime outdoor play.

May we also remind you that there is no morning supervision in the playgrounds before 9am. The school will be open to children at 9am. However, if you need to drop your child to school earlier than that, please use the Breakfast Club. This can be booked via School Money.

Join the PTA

If you feel that you can help us, have an idea, a donation or just want to find out more, then please get in touch by contacting a member of the PTA or via stannesparentsassoc@gmail.com. The PTA meet at the junior side of the school once a month. **The next PTA meeting is 8th November at 6.30pm.**

PTA Voluntary Subscriptions

Hopefully you will have received the PTA voluntary subscription letter emailed from the school. This replaces the annual envelopes that would've gone out. If you can help, we are suggesting a donation of £10 per child, but any donation would be amazing. The money raised will buy necessary resources for the school. The link for donating is: <https://gofund.me/38bfc341>.

There are also envelopes available in the school office if you would prefer not to donate online.

Certificates for the Month of November

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:

- **Fabulous Friendship Award**
- **Showing Kindness and Respect to Others**
- **Looking After School Property**
- **Making a Fantastic Effort in Class**

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.*

The Lord Mayor's Visit

Pupils have been busy writing their manifestos for the position of school councillor and will be voting shortly.

An Investiture Ceremony, led by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, will take place on Thursday 24th November at 10am in the School Dining Hall for those pupils elected and their parents. Light refreshments will be available after the ceremony.

Eco-Agency

The laurel plant is a non-native and extremely invasive species which has taken over areas of our school site. We hope to cut back the laurel to allow native plants to thrive which will also have a positive impact on our native wildlife, improving the biodiversity. We will also need to explore methods of how to manage this in the future.

A variety of bulbs will be planted in our flower beds. These will bring colour and beauty, attracting pollinators in spring and summer.

Please remember to donate any unwanted clothing items to our 'Cash for Clobber' bank located across from the parish centre.

Eire Og

We continue to develop our links with Eire Og GAA, St. Anne's parish club. Nineteen children from P6 to P7 have signed up to partake in six-week blocks of football coaching on Mondays from 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm. This is for those pupils who are not affiliated with any other GAA club.

Other year groups will be given the opportunity to participate at different stages throughout the year.

P6/7 Girls' Gaelic Football

Our newly formed P6/7 Girls' Gaelic Football team were in action at the Cumann na mBunscol football league. The girls' played their heart out and got off to a fantastic start, beating Bunscoil Phobal Feirste in great style. The energy and intensity that they brought to the game was to be admired.

Next, the girls came up against a well organised Holy Child team. The girls fought for every ball and the game proved to be a great spectacle for neutral supporters. Unfortunately, Holy Child managed to hold on to their lead and see the game out.

However, the girls didn't let that dampen their spirits, as they put on a masterclass performance to overcome a strong St. Teresa's side, scoring points from impossible angles and rattling the back of the St. Teresa's goal.

It all hung in the balance as they approached their final game against St. John the Baptist. This would decide who progressed to the finals. Both teams battled valiantly but it just wasn't to be for our girls, as they were narrowly beaten by one single point.

Passport Applications

We are introducing a small charge of £5 for the completion of passport forms. This money will be donated to school funds.

P6/P7 Boys Gaelic Football

On Wednesday 19th October, our Primary 6/7 Boys' Gaelic Football squad travelled to Woodlands for the first round of the Cumann na mBunscol football league. With the weather being wet and miserable, this didn't affect the mood of the squad as the boys played St. Ita's in the first game and hit the ground running. With a dominant display, the boys finished comfortable winners at the end of this game.

The second game was against St. Michael's P.S. which turned out to be a much more difficult test for St Anne's. The weather played a huge part in the game, where goals were the difference between the two teams. St. Anne's came out on top by two goals to gain their second win.

In our final game we came up against a well organised St. Bride's team who, like St. Anne's, had won both of their two previous games. The game was end to end from the first throw in, with both teams taking some great scores whilst playing excellent passages of football. The game finished 1-3 to 0-4 to St. Bride's with the goal being the decisive score.

The St. Anne's squad had a brilliant day of Gaelic Football and were a huge credit to their school on the day.

IN THE LOOP

Nursery Big Bedtime Read 2022

The nursery Big Bedtime Read begins on Monday 7th November and will continue for six weeks, finishing on Thursday 15th December. The Big Bedtime Read focuses on supporting parents to read regularly to their children and aims to encourage good bedtime routines. Each Monday, pupils will receive a red book bag with five books for story time each Monday – Thursday night. We hope that the nursery boys and girls will enjoy their nightly bedtime stories.

Nursery Autumn Farm Visit

Our work on Autumn and harvest will conclude with a special visit from Blackberry Farm on Friday 18th November. We are looking forward to meeting Farmer Claire and her animals, as well as finding out about the Autumn jobs on the farm!

Jump, Jiggle and Jive

The nursery pupils will have their dance shoes at the ready as we begin our six-week dance programme called Jump, Jiggle and Jive! The first class is on Wednesday 9th November and the programme will run until Wednesday 14th December.

Eco-Schools

Captain Clean Up will make a special visit to the nursery on Monday 14th November as part of our work on recycling and litter prevention.

Music

The St Anne's Traditional Music Group, consisting of pupils from P6 and P7, has been re-established following a 2 year break due to Covid. It is hoped the children will play at different school events throughout the school year.

Music Mornings

Following Covid, the Nursery - P3 Music Mornings will start again this year. These music mornings take place at the end of every 6 weeks, and it is a lovely opportunity for the year groups to come together in the assembly hall and sing and perform. The nursery children also have an opportunity to see what it's like in the big school!

Parentline NI

Parentline would like to remind parents, carers, and family members we are here and **#inyourcorner**.

Whatever you are facing as a parent today, Parentline are here to listen, support and guide you. We have no waiting lists and are here for your call.

You can reach us on the phone, webchat, email or request us to call you back via our website

<https://www.ci-ni.org.uk/parentline/>

View the animation below to see how Parentline can support YOU

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tXybXfxlokZbmn4gz2kY0f-RdSfynrFD/view?usp=sharing>

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@stannes.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance

The application process for free school meals/uniform allowance remains open. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals/uniform allowance, you can apply now.

Please note that entitlement to free school meals will attract funding to the school's budget.

Whether your child wishes to partake of a meal is down to individual choice. We would really encourage parents who fall into this category to please make an application as soon as possible for the present academic year. Applications may be made via the Education Authority website –

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Scan the QR code below to go directly to the school website.

