

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow"



IN THE LOOP

December EDITION 2022

Date for your Diary

The school will close on 21st December at 12 noon for the Christmas Holidays (No Breakfast or dinners) and will reopen on Thursday 5th January for all pupils.

P4 – P7 CAROL SERVICE

The school P4 – P7 Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 20th December at 2pm. All children from P4-P7 will attend and we extend a warm invitation to all our parents and grandparents.

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



ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Nursery Open Days

Tuesday 13th December 2022, 2.30 - 3.30pm

Tuesday 10th January 2023, 2.30 - 3.30pm

Principal's address at 2.45pm

Primary 1 Open Days

Wednesday 14th December 2022, 1.00 - 2.00pm

Wednesday 11th January 2023, 1.00 - 2.00pm

Tour begins at 1.00pm, Principal's address at 1.45pm



www.saintannesps.com

50 Kingway, Finaghy, Belfast, BT10 0NE Telephone: 028 90615414

IN THE LOOP

Book Fair Returns in December

The Book Fair raises valuable revenue for the school and helps us to replenish our store of reading materials for the children. We are very grateful for all your support.

The Book Fair will be returning to our school from Monday 5th December to Wednesday 7th December. Each class will be timetabled for an initial visit with their class teacher and a follow-up visit on Day 2 or 3. The Book Fairs will be located in the Infant Library and the Senior Library.

Parents are invited to visit after school, Monday to Wednesday. Parent sessions are held in the Junior Library 2.10 – 2.50 pm and in the Senior Library sessions from 3.00 – 3.50pm. Access to the Senior Library will be via the Dining Hall door.

Payment for books can be made in cash or via a preloaded app from:
www.travellingbooks.co.uk/parents

Christmas Dinners

Christmas Dinners will be served on 3 different days:

- Nursery 7th December
- P1 – P3 8th December
- P4 – P7 16th December

The cost is £2.60 per child. Could we please ask that you order before **Thursday 2nd December**. You can do so via School Money.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

For those who would like to take part, Christmas Jumper Day will be held on Friday 16th December. The children should wear their uniform and put their Christmas jumper on. Alternatively, they can attach a Christmas Bauble or tinsel to their school jumper.

Certificates for the Month of December

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 Excellent Manners**
- **Wonderful Homework**

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.*

Swimming

Term 1 swimming will finish on Tuesday 6th December.

Term 2 will begin on Monday 9th January and run until 10th April 2023.

Classes involved in swimming will receive an email mid-December.

Christmas Light Switch On

Farrans Construction have invited some of our Primary 4 pupils to attend the switching on of their crane's Christmas lights on Thursday 1st December 2022 at approximately 4.00 pm.

Pupils will be escorted across on foot to Farrans Construction by members of staff at 2.30 pm. On arrival, they will be given some snacks before having the opportunity to complete several fun STEM activities. Santa will then lead them up to the crane for the official switching on of lights.

P2 Nativity Shows

It's nearly time for the Primary 2 Nativity Shows!

Mr Teague's and Mrs McGleenan/Mrs Murphy's class – Tuesday 6th December

Miss O'Boyle's and Mrs Collins' Class – Friday 9th December

Performances on both days will begin at 10.45 am, with doors opening at 10.30am. All parents will enter via the main doors at the school office.

The children may go home early with the adult on the day of the performance.

We wish them all well!

Parents will have the opportunity to purchase a recording and or photograph of this event.

IN THE LOOP

Cumman na mbunscol Football League Semi-Final

On Wednesday 16th November, our Primary 6/7 Boy's Gaelic Football squad made the short trip across to Musgrave for the Semi-Final of the Cumman na mbunscol football league. On a bright and dry day, the boys of St. Anne's arrived focused and prepared for their game against St. John the Baptist.

The boys came out of the changing room and went straight into their warmup to prepare for their game. Before we knew it, it was time to go. St Anne's took to the field and had a blistering start to the game, scoring 3 goals in quick succession whilst adding a few points to their tally. St. John the Baptist fought their way back into the game by playing good spells of football and taking some fine scores. However, the St. Anne's boys answered back in the second half with a surge of great scores along with some super passages of play. All credit to St. John the Baptist who battled right to the end and continued to work St. Anne's hard until the end of the game. St. Anne's had made it to the final with a score line of 8-8 to 0-4. Well done, boys, on a great game of Gaelic Football!

Cumman na mbunscol Football League Final

In the final, the boys would once again come up against a well organised and energetic St. Bride's team. The St Anne's squad started the stronger of the two teams by hitting St Bride's with a quick and well taken goal. St Anne's continued to tick over the scoreboard with a number of frees falling between the two posts. Just before the end of the first half St. Bride's scored a quick succession of points to put St. Anne's under a bit of pressure for the second half. St Bride's started the second half very well by testing the St. Anne's goalkeeper, who made a number of fantastic saves to keep his team in the game. Like the end of the first half, St. Bride's continued to take their points, eventually overtaking St. Anne's on the scoreboard. St. Anne's hit with an attack approaching the end of the game which resulted in a goal, to lead by 1 point with a few minutes remaining. But it was to be St. Bride's who kept their cool in the last minute of the game and took a point to send the game into extra time. St. Bride's would battle hard against a resilient St. Anne's team to take the win in extra time by 3 points. A super showing from both teams who displayed how Gaelic football should be played on the day. Overall, it was a fantastic day for the football squad who once again proved their credit to the school. Mr Rea, Mr Teague and the rest of the staff in St. Anne's could not be any prouder of this squad. Well done, Boys!

P4 – P7 Panto

This year we are very excited about our return to the Panto at the Lyric. Our P4 – P7 pupils will be visiting the Lyric for their fabulous new production of **The Snow Queen**. The pupils can bring along the all-important treats to the theatre. We recommend two small, individual treats and a bottle of juice with screw top lid. **Please be aware of food allergies and our school policy on food allergens.**

All performances are in the morning, so the children will come to school in uniform and at the normal start time. The performances will not be over in time for the children to be back in school for lunch time so we ask that pupils **bring in a packed lunch** that day. Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

The dates for our visits are as follows:

P4 & P5 Thursday 8th December

P6 & P7 Friday 9th December

Habitat explorers

P5 classes will be exploring the natural environment around our school site, deepening their knowledge and understanding of the different species, food chains and eco-systems that exist. They will also discuss what they can do to increase the local biodiversity and try to act on these.

IN THE LOOP

PTA Santa Run

The PTA are having a Christmas Fun Run on **Sunday 11th Dec @ 1pm** around the school grounds (approx. 2km). Festive dress is a must!!

You can dress up as Santa, an elf, a reindeer, a Christmas pudding or wear your Christmas jumper.

You will also be able to buy antlers and Santa hats before the race, to make the event extra special. The event is open to all, so bring along all the family, friends, and neighbours. You can run, jog, walk or push a pram/wheelchair.

All children finishers will receive a medal. We will have some refreshments to purchase after the race. Look out for more details.

PTA Christmas Ballot

The PTA need ballot prizes.

Thank you to everyone who has sourced or donated ballot prizes. To ensure the ballot is a success the PTA need more prizes. Please help. Can you source or donate vouchers for shops, hotels, restaurants or beauty, or source or donate tickets, a tv, a game console, cash prizes, hampers, turkey, cases of wine? If you are able to donate, please let the PTA know or drop it into the school office.

Passport Applications

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

P1 Christmas Morning

The Primary Ones are very busy getting ready for their Christmas show for the P1 parents.

The children will be performing on the following days:

Mrs Heagney & Mrs McAteer/Miss Collins' class Friday 16th December at 9.30am in Block D in the assembly hall.

Mrs Walsh & Mrs McCluskey's class Monday 19th December at 9.30am in Block D in the assembly hall.

Children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers.

Eco Agency

We would like to thank the volunteers who turned up on Sunday 27th November to cut back the non-native laurel plant from around the school site. What was accomplished in the time was amazing. We look forward to making greater use of this green space in the future.

Our friend the Robin

P4 classes will learn more about the robin from wildlife expert, Aidan Crean. After their 'walk and talk', the P4 eco-agents will build robin bird boxes which will be put up around the site. This is extremely important as lots of bird species are on the decline.

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.

