

“Tall oaks from little acorns grow”  
at St Anne’s Primary School



# The Acorn

Newsletter

Issue No: 64  
Easter 2024

## Important Dates

### EASTER BREAK

School closes Thursday  
28th March 2024 at 12noon

School reopens for pupils  
on Monday 8th April 2024

### BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 6th May 2024  
Monday 27th May 2024

### SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Friday 3rd May 2024  
Friday 24th May 2024



St Anne’s Primary School  
and Nursery Unit

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Belfast BT10 0NE  
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Turn the page to  
read all about  
World Book Day...



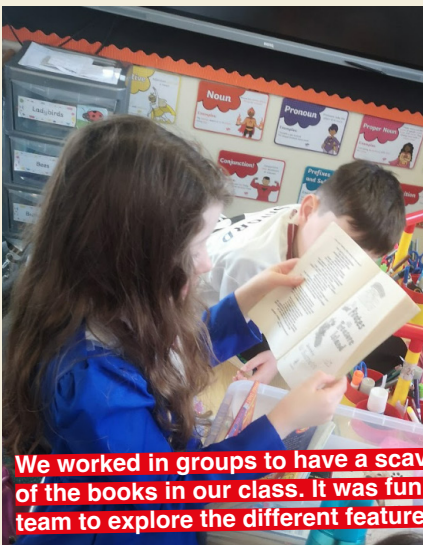
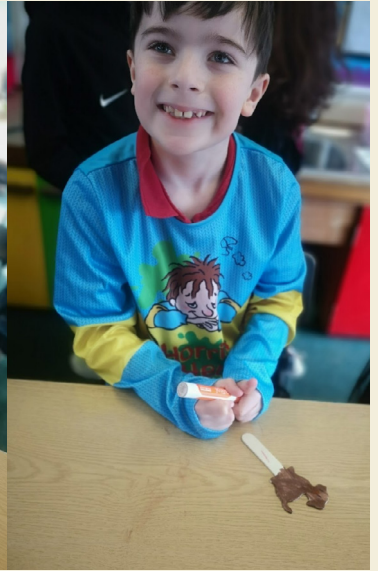
# WORLD BOOK DAY...



In P4, we dressed up as our favourite book characters.



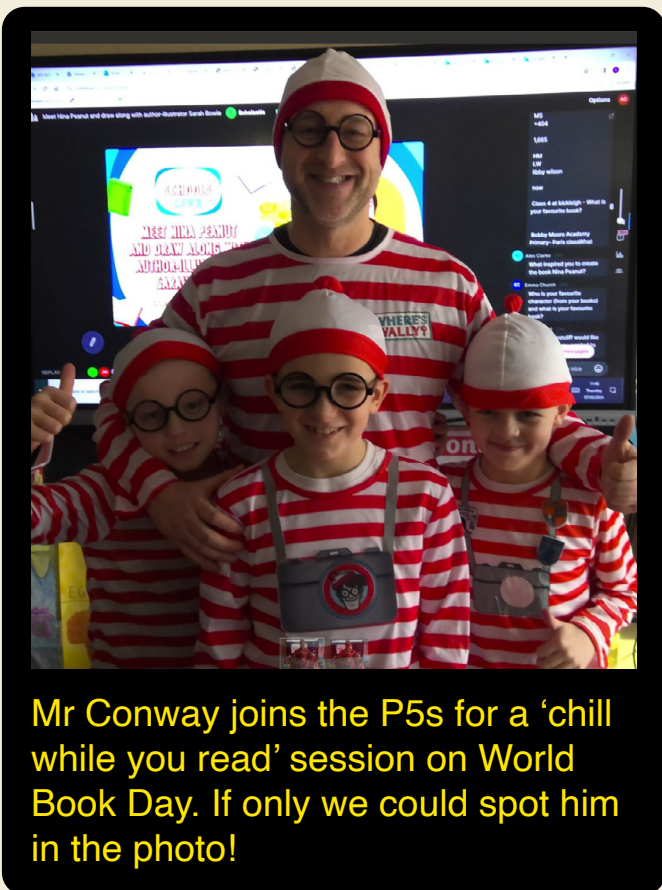
We made character puppets.



We worked in groups to have a scavenger hunt of the books in our class. It was fun working as a team to explore the different features of books.



P5 Classroom Assistants and Teachers enjoy World Book Day



Mr Conway joins the P5s for a 'chill while you read' session on World Book Day. If only we could spot him in the photo!



This year for World Book Day my friends and I decided to write our own book. I was the author, Eirinn was the illustrator and Fiadh was the artist. We made the book ourselves with pages and staples. It was about three girls having a crazy sleepover. Something magical happened but I don't want to ruin the story! We dressed up in our pyjamas and oodles because we were the characters from our story. We all really enjoyed making our first book and we were so proud because Mr Conway read our book!

By Orla



**P2 talk about the character they chose from their favourite book on World Book Day. We loved hearing all about them!**



## **World Book Day MY BEST SCHOOL EVENT**

My favourite event in school this year has to be World Book Day. It was one of the best days so far and seeing everyone dressed up including the teachers made it so much more fun. It made my day when I saw one of our teachers dressed up while I was coming into school. This year was good as we all had the choice to either dress up or wear comfy clothes and I really liked that we got to do show and tell and play games. We wrote about our own God or Goddess. We got a one pound book token which was great as we could put this towards any book of our choice. World Book Day is very memorable to me as the school atmosphere was so happy and I got to have fun and make memories with my classmates.

**By Zubeyde P5**



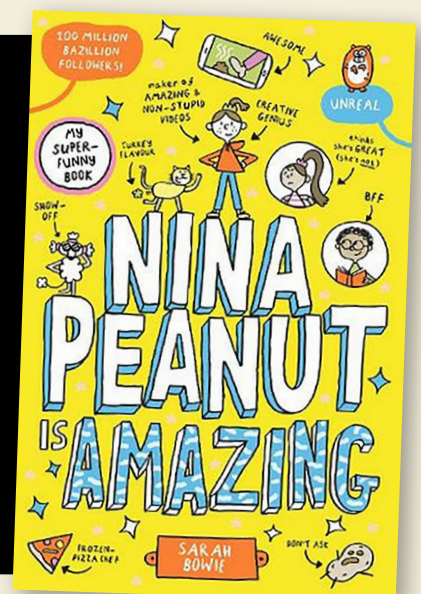
## **World Book Day was so much fun! We all dressed up in costumes, pyjamas and had a great time.**

First, we had an online meeting with Sarah Bowie the author and illustrator of Nina Peanut! We drew some pretty silly characters from Nina Peanut and then Sarah answered some questions.

Then, we did something called Hot Seat, where you would sit in the teacher's chair and people ask you questions about your character. My friends and I were The Midnight Gang. Some people dressed up as Greg Heffley, from A Diary of a Wimpy Kid and others wore their comfy reading clothes or pyjamas.

And in conclusion it was a great day.

**Evi P5**





# Eco Update



## The Big Spring Clean

My big brothers Tom and Joe, and my mum and dad and I, went along to the school litter pick. It was part of the 'Big Spring Clean', a team effort by the PTA and The Eco Agency. We picked up litter around our shared site. We collected about thirty full bags of litter which is very disgusting! It is everyone's job to put their rubbish in the bin! So please help us keep our school grounds tidy. A big thank you to all those helping hands.

**By Ben (P4 Eco-Agent)**



## Getting off their laurels!

My dad went along with other parents to help with cutting back the laurel. The laurel is not native to Ireland and grows very quickly. We wanted to create more space for other native trees. My dad worked really hard! I helped out the last time this was done. I really wanted to go with him but I had to go swimming instead.

**By Fionn (P4 Eco-Agent)**







Topping up bird feeders



Building new bird stations

## Our feathered friends

We needed more bird feeders around the school, so the P5 eco- agents had the job of building them. Working together made this easy. After deciding where to put them, we filled them with bird seed and water. The birds are loving them.....and we are busy having to top them up!

By James and Orlaith (P5 Eco-Agents)

## Feel Good Friday



It must be Feel Good Friday because I feel good just seeing the P1s! They had a brilliant time walking in nature and added their own feel good sounds!



# We Loved Feel Good Friday!

We had fun while we created Valentine's Day Cards for people we love. You could make and send a card or piece of art you've completed any day though. It's a great thing to be able to let people you love, know. It can make them...and you... feel good.



# Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week is about showing people that children's mental health is very important and for people to acknowledge it and help children if they are worried, sad, anxious, stressed or scared. Five of us, Anna, Grace, Zoe, Sophia, and Rudy, each made posters to go around the school promoting children's mental health. We each made one with bright colours so they would stand out when you walked past them in the corridors. We think that it is very important that people are aware of children's feelings and how they can be affected by what you may think are small things but really can be very hurtful. We are lucky that there are lots of people in our school that we can talk to if you are feeling upset. You can always talk to your teacher, classroom assistant, dinner supervisor, the vice principals or our principal. Remember to always be aware of what other people are feeling.

**By Anna, Zoe, Grace, Rudy and Sophia P7**







We celebrated children's mental health week in February. Our class and I went on a very peaceful walk around the school. It was very calming and relaxing being in nature. A councillor called Patrick helped teach us breathing techniques to help us when we are feeling overwhelmed allowing us to stay calm and speak up! We did some mindful colouring and discussed how looking after our mind is just as important as looking after our body!

**Anna P6**



## **Our Voice Matters!**

On Friday 9th February we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week with Feel Good Friday. We went for a rainbow walk around our school grounds. On our walk we stopped along the way and took photographs of lots of things of different colours, in the end we found 11 different colours in nature. We really enjoyed our walk even though it started to rain! In the classroom we drew swirls on paper plates and inside it we showed all of the things that matter to us.

**By Róisín and Evie P3**



Ruben and Tom were very happy to receive a sticker and new toothbrush.



### A dentist visited us in P1!

Orin's auntie Nuala, spoke to us about her job. She told us that we should :

- Brush our teeth twice a day.
- Visit the dentist twice a year
- Don't eat too many sugary foods them. Eating lots of sugary foods can cause tooth decay.
- Change your toothbrush regularly.

She gave us all a sticker and a new toothbrush! Nuala was great and we loved her visit. Nuala thought we were great listeners! Thank you, Nuala.

Aoife is very happy with her sticker and new toothbrush - thanks to Nuala.



Nuala showed us drinks that contained a lot of sugar.



Nuala showed us the sweets that are high in sugar and can cause tooth decay.

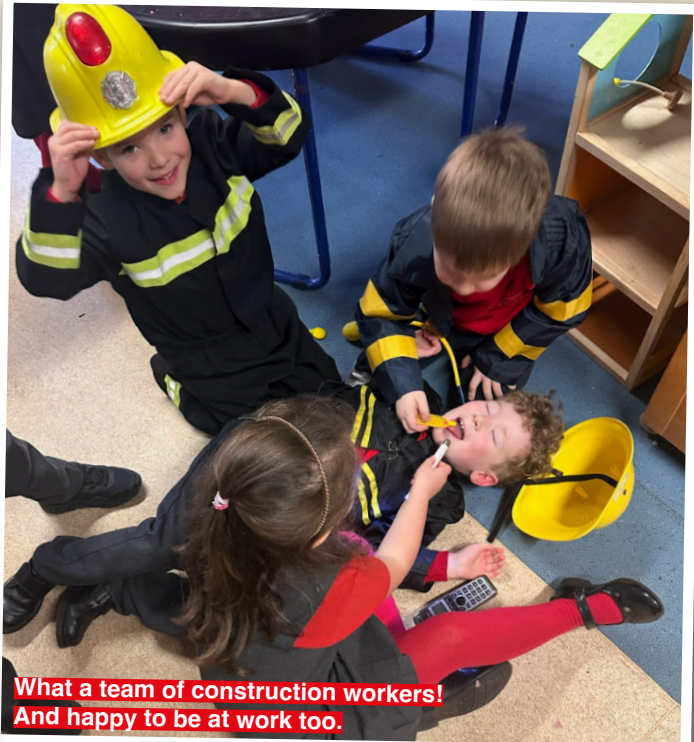


Orin helping auntie Nuala brush BIG teeth!

### The P1s were learning about 'People Who Help Us'



Thank goodness there were paramedics and a doctor close by when this fireman needed a hand!



What a team of construction workers! And happy to be at work too.





**Michael's mum told us all about her job as a Speech Therapist.**



**Joe came to tell us about his job as one of our school caretakers. We even spoke into his walkie-talkie!**

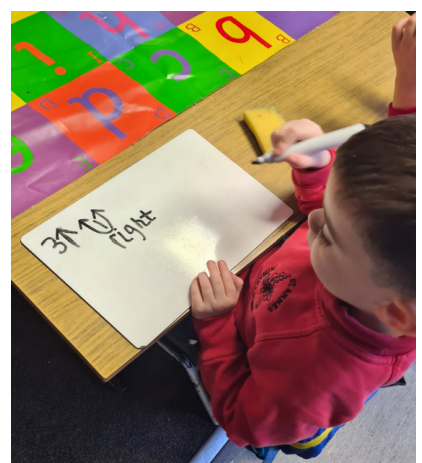
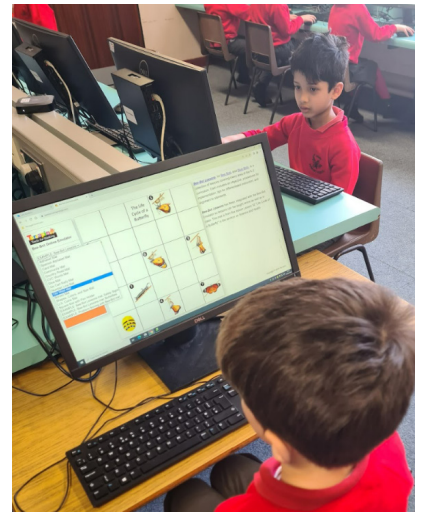
## P2 Beebots

We learned how to program a Beebot robot to move to a location on our map. We learned that the instructions we give to a robot are called 'algorithms' and that 'debugging' means fixing our mistakes!

Watch us getting it to exactly the right spot on the mat!

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ux39z7n\\_KzCnlaHrODHBgqrcWdhDWN8T](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ux39z7n_KzCnlaHrODHBgqrcWdhDWN8T)

Sometimes we used the real beebots, sometimes we used the ipads, and sometimes we used the programme in the computer suite to input our algorithms.



In February, Kate and Sharon, who helped to make us our delicious lunches with lots of love and care, sadly left us for retirement. Our favourite dinners of theirs were chicken curry and roast dinner. They are both such kind people and they loved all the children dearly. We had a celebration with all the dinner staff, Mrs Harden, Miss Irwin, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Drumm, Mrs Skeffington and Fiadh. We'd like to thank them for their many years with us and wish them all the very best for their retirement – 3 cheers for Kate and Sharon!

**Written by Jack and Hannah P7**

## Our Afterschool Club is Positive Thinkers.

Here are some things what we said about it:

- We do lots of Art and drawing and we always have fun.
- I have learned about our conscious and sub-conscious mind.
- Its calm, its kind, it's my favourite day of the week.
- I think everyone should join!
- It helps me feel happy.





## P2's World Around Us

Part of our World Around Us learning is about reversible and irreversible changes. We learned that chocolate can be melted into a liquid and turns back to solid chocolate when it is cooled. We made pizza too and found that we couldn't reverse the pizza back to the way it was before we put it in the oven! These changes are irreversible.



Melted chocolate hardens when cooled to make great Rice Krispie Buns



Our pizzas' changes were irreversible (but tasty!)



### Junk Art!

P1s created their own musical instruments using tins, plastic cups, straws, sand, feathers and anything they could get their hands on!

## P4 Music Makers

We went to a special music morning in Sacred Heart Primary School. We got to go on a bus but had to walk a little bit with all our instruments. My favourite song was 'Jack Frost' because I got to play the Indian bells. We mad a song about a train and called it 'The St. Anne's Express'. I loved the circus part because I got to do the splits and ring a bell.

By Cara p4

We went to the Music Morning on the 11th March. We got to go on a bus all the way to Sacred Heart Primary School. Whenever we got there we went into the PE hall and there was four other P4/5 classes there. We brought drums, chimebars, trumpets, cellos, bells, rainsticks, whistles and even a sound bar. Whenever we came back to school our teacher said we could have a 'wrap party' on Thursday because we were fabulous.

By Luke P4



The Music Morning was one of the best days of my life. It was so fun! We had to perform in front of four other classes from different schools. My role in our performance was to shout, 'Roll up! Roll up! Welcome to the circus. I was afraid I'd lose my job because I kept forgetting what I was supposed to say, but in the end I remembered and it all turned out ok.

By Jack p4



As part of our Music Morning we had to make up a train journey using musical instruments. For ours we journey we went to Platform 3 (the circus) and Platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  (Hogwarts). We had lots of fun using all the instruments and learning songs.

By Maitui p4





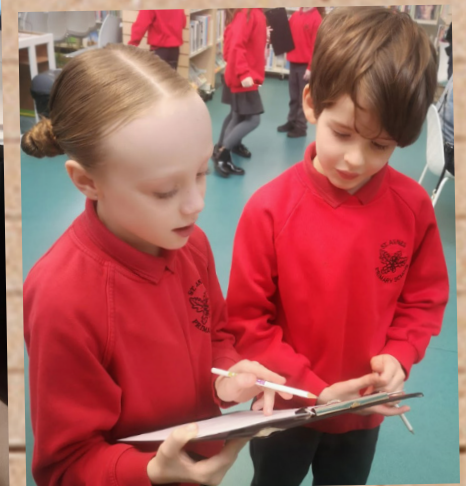
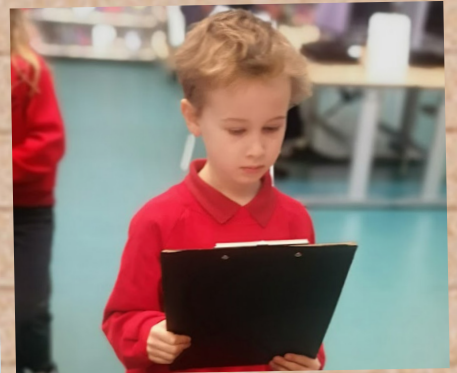
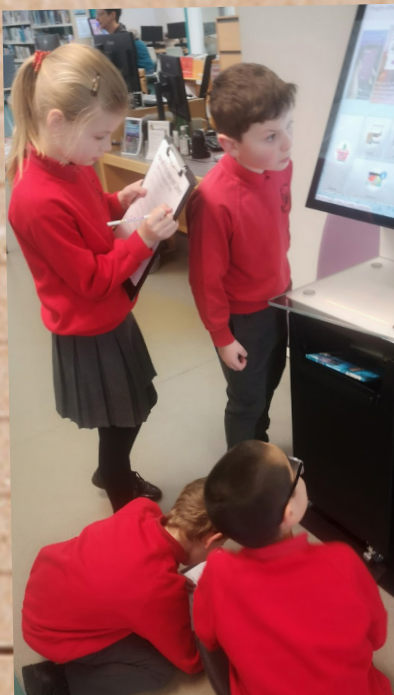
Mrs Drumm and the P4 children made fluffy pancakes on a special griddle pan. The pan belonged to Mrs McGleenan's granny and is a 100 years old! It was such fun. We all took turns to mix flour, sugar, eggs and milk. Then we spooned it into the pan. We knew it was ready when we saw lots of bubbles appear on one side. Then it was ready to be flipped over. We were so excited when they were ready. They were hot, buttery, and delicious, and we all agreed they were the best pancakes ever!

The P4s were learning about how light and shadows work. Here, they are using a torch as a light source, and their hands (which are opaque, meaning they don't let any light through) to cast shadows. Can you see what they created? They were able to make it move and make it change its face with some slight adjustments to the finger placements. You could use this skill to create a short film too!



## P4s visit Finaghy Library

We answered some questions about different events and books in the library. We listened to a story and borrowed some books.





## Primary 5 Movie Makers

Pupils in P5 worked in groups to create their own movies. We used an app called iMovie and created a storyline and exciting characters. My group chose to call our movie "Lego Avengers" and we used Lego figures as our characters. We spent a few days making the movie, then Mrs Stott played them on the board for our whole class to enjoy. We even got to have some popcorn! We loved being creative and sharing our work with each other.

By Leo



## Belfast Fire Service

On Tuesday the 27th of February, my teacher Mrs O'Brien informed us that the Belfast Fire Service was coming to our school. I was very excited about it and it was only a few minutes away. When the time came for my class and Mr McCooe's class to go outside we got to spray the hose and some people got to go in the fire truck. Once we came in the firemen tested us to see if we know what is and what isn't. We all really enjoyed the visit.

By Lorcan P5



(Mr McCooe is in there, you know!)



## Safety in Our School

Dear Drivers,

When dropping off boys and girls to school, please park in the turning circle or church car park. When cars are parked on the double yellow lines or beside our 'No Parking' signs it can make our school an unsafe place for everyone. When I am walking to school and there are cars that are parked in the wrong place it can make me feel frightened because I need space on the footpath to walk safely to school. Please park safely! Thank you.

Fiontan P5

## Touch Rugby

I love Touch Rugby, because it's great fun. Every week you get to learn new skills and everyone is able to join in. We learn how to pass the ball, catch the ball and how to play together as a team and communicate well. We get fitter and faster and I love a bit of competition....

By Harry P5



## Lent Update

This Lent, we have been raising money for Trócaire. Here's why:

Too little or too much water is a daily struggle for Malita and her family, who feature on this year's Trócaire Box. Too little water and her children have to walk for hours to fetch it with a huge impact on their ability to attend school. Crops that the family depend on to survive, wither and die. Too much water and the crops will also be destroyed. As climate change becomes increasingly dangerous and unpredictable across Malawi, causing devastating cyclones, flooding and droughts in already-vulnerable communities, Trócaire is asking the people of Ireland to donate to help Malita and her family, and others like them across the world, to build a more secure future. If you can help us to help them, please visit the school money app where donations can be made. **Many thanks.**



## SCHOOL COUNCIL Helping Hands in St Anne's

Our School Councillors received a request from Mrs Bennett and Mrs Drumm who help the children in the Breakfast Club. All sorts of activities go on, but the children there has asked if they could have additional games. This year we are trying to be a very 'green' School Council, and so we set off making an appeal.

We came together to decide on how to contact our very supportive parents. We thought an email would be great so we created a large, colourful poster requesting second hand games, and the office staff kindly emailed it to all parents.

Adam (pictured right) was one of our very kind families who answered our call out, and donated.

Here he is with some of our School Councillors and Mrs Bennett and Mrs Drumm who were delighted to have more games for the children.

We would like to thank all of the families who donated and have helped the children have even more fun in the morning.



We are so grateful for the games; it can be a really big help for breakfast club and little things like that really do make a difference. A big thanks from the St. Anne's team.

**Eli P6**

We are very grateful for all the games we kindly got donated. They'll go to great use in breakfast club. Thank you all from TEAM ST ANNE'S.

**Erin P6**



## Love for Life Workshop



In January, we had the Love for Life Workshop, which helps us to prepare for growing up. Some of us were a bit nervous when the workshop began but the leaders, Ruth and Daniel, were really welcoming and were playing lots of good music.

We were given a booklet to fill out throughout the session. They talked through all the different emotions that we experience and helped us to understand them and who we could talk to if we need help. They played lots of fun games with us. We had to make difficult decisions, COKE or PEPSI, XBOX or PLAYSTATION and chocolate or crisps! We know as we grow older that we face much more difficult decisions- but this was a fun way to know how we should consider our options and try to make our best decision. They also talked about moving to a new school and how we might feel about that. We got lots of really good ideas about how to deal with all of the new emotions we are feeling.

**Joshua, Dara, Charlie-May and Grace P7**

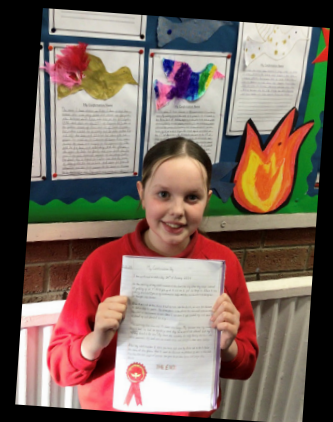
## Primary 7 Show 'The Big Reveal'

The Primary 7 show for 2024 is 'Aladdin'! All of the P7's were brought to the hall for a surprise announcement. We were all very confused and nervous. We all sat down and then the teachers revealed that we were doing a play and that it would be Aladdin! We all cheered with excitement. The next part was finding out which classes would be working together. Ms Mullan and Mrs Watson would be together and Mrs Mayne and Mr Donnelly would work together. We then sang a few songs and talked about the parts we would like to audition for. The play is going to be amazing and Hollywood better watch out!

## My Confirmation Day

I was confirmed on Wednesday 24th of January 2024. On the morning of my Confirmation it was just like any other day except instead of getting up at 7:30 I got up at 9:00 so I got to sleep in. When I was getting dressed, I put on my Confirmation badge and went downstairs to do my hair. We then got into the car. When I arrived at the church I had to rush in! We were late because we had to stop for petrol! The atmosphere in the church was nice and calm but there was a bit of excitement as well. When I sat down Miss Steen handed me my card and then we all stood up to sing. The ceremony was lovely, and Fr. Peter was funny. My sponsor was my uncle Ruairi but he had to go an event so he could not attend, but my mum stood in for him. After my Confirmation, I went into town and went for dinner. I went to Flannels to pretend I was rich!

**By Rudy**





# ST ANNE'S SPORT STARS



## St Anne's Cross Country Team

Falls Park was the place to be on March 5th, as over 100 Primary School children took part in the Belfast City Council primary schools cross country run. The weather was perfect, albeit a little cold, as the boys and girls set off on what proved to be a most challenging course. St Anne's boys coped admirably but were up against some formidable opponents from across the city. Well done to James, Calum, Joseph and Kayden who gave their all. The girls put in a great performance as well. We had two top five finishes, with Katie taking first place and Orla coming in a creditable fourth. Orla and Annie ran exceptionally well and completed our team.



## Girls' Football

Over 25 of our P5, 6 and 7 girls have taken the opportunity to avail of football coaching from Belfast Swifts, a local girls' football team. They are being coached each Thursday after school. The coaching had been lead by Mal Donaghy, a former Northern Ireland, Man Utd, Chelsea and Luton Town player. The emphasis is on having fun, a healthy lifestyle and developing new friendships.

## P5s had a brilliant time at the Basketball Blitz!

Thanks to our greatest cheerleaders, Carla (our wonderful coach) and Breda (its fabulous organiser)

Let's let the action speak for itself...





## Swim Ulster Primary Schools Cup & Championship

Here are some of our pupils who took part in the Swim Ulster Primary Schools Cup & Championships.

We had a great day, and all the children swam amazingly. For five of the swimmers, it was their first gala, and out of the 15 individual races we had 13 PBs!

We had 2 relay teams, 1 boys' and 1 girls' team. The boys came second in both their relays and won silver medals for 100 metre medley and 100 metre freestyle. The girls team came 11th in their 100 metre Freestyle.

All the boys and girls did really well within their heats and Gerard made it to the final of the 50-metre freestyle and came 8th and gained qualifying times for the Irish Minor Schools Championships for both his 50-metre freestyle and 50 metre backstroke.

Well done to all!



## Girls Gaelic Heroes!

On the 23rd January 2024 the girls' Gaelic team went to Colin Glen Dome in Blacks Road where we competed in the Girls Belfast Indoor 5s Cup. We played against three different schools in the first round. We topped the group, winning every match, and that meant we made it to the Finals on Friday 26th January. That day we played against St. Ita's PS and St. Patrick's PS, Hollywood. In the heats we beat both teams, so we advanced to the final. In the final we played St. John The Baptist PS, which we were nervous about because they are always really hard opponents. However, this time it went in our favour, and we won! We were so happy.

A massive thanks to Mr. Teague for giving up his time to come and coach us and hats off to him because he had to make a really difficult decision and had to pick nine out of our squad of fifteen to come to the tournament.

By Sophie and Orla P7

## St Brigid's Day

We celebrated the feast of St. Brigid on 2nd February because she is one of our national saints. St. Brigid is famous for many things, but especially her crosses. People usually make these with reeds, but we made ours with paper straws. First, we watched a video to show us how to make the traditional cross. We used 16 straws each. It was really tricky at first to get the straws going in the right direction, but, once we got going, we just had to fold a straw on to the other straws and then turn it 90 degrees to the left. Once we had used all our straws, we tied each of the ends with elastic bands and cut the rough ends with scissors. We really enjoyed making our crosses and were so happy with how they turned out. At the end of the day, we took them home to help bless our house for this year.

Chloe and Rochaidh P7





# Celebrating St. Patrick

We celebrated our Patron Saint Patrick, a little earlier than usual in St Anne's this year. The P1-P3 children, bedecked in green, came together for a wonderful morning of music and poetry, and their smiles spoke volumes. The KS2 children heard all about his life and sang Hail Glorious St. Patrick. They were in for a treat as they were entertained by children from all year groups with dancing, music and all things Irish. Thank you to all the children for bringing the joy to our celebration of St. Patrick, whose important teaching helps us know more about the love of God.

