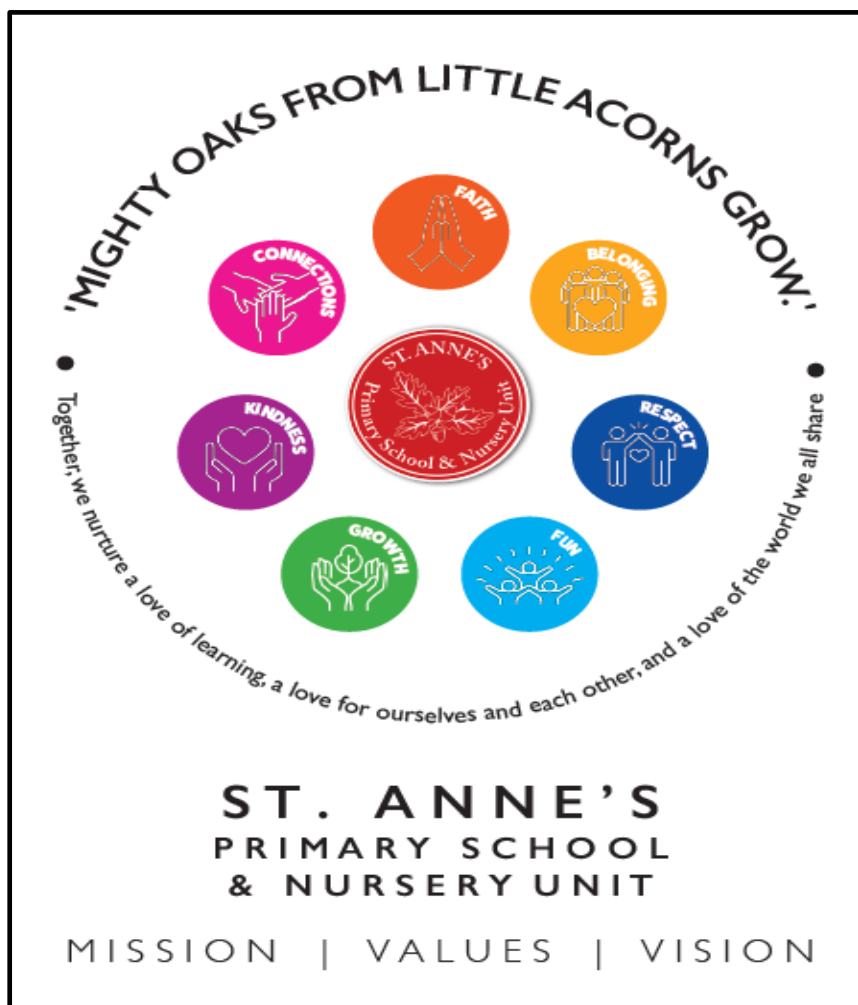


In the Loop

www.saintannesps.com

SEPTEMBER 2025



A Fond Farewell and a Warm Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome Father Martin as our new parish priest at St Anne's. We look forward to working closely with him as he joins our school and parish community, bringing fresh energy and guidance to our shared journey.

At the same time, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Father Peter as he begins his well-earned retirement. His support, kindness, and presence over the years have been deeply appreciated by staff, pupils, and families alike.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share with you an exciting development in our school's journey.

Over the past year, we have been working collaboratively to refresh our vision and mission statements and to establish a clear set of school values that will guide everything we do.

This work has been shaped by the voices of our entire school community. Through a series of focus groups and consultations, we gathered input from staff, pupils, parents, and governors to ensure that our new statements and values truly reflect the aspirations and ethos of our school.

Our revised vision and mission are designed to provide a clear and inspiring direction for the future. They articulate what we stand for, what we aim to achieve, and how we will support every child to thrive. The newly defined school values will serve as the foundation for our culture, helping to foster a positive, inclusive, and respectful environment for learning and growth.

You will begin to see these reflected in our classrooms, communications and school activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

' MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW '



Welcome to Our Nursery and Primary 1 Families

A warm welcome to all our new Nursery and Primary 1 pupils and their families. We're so pleased to have you join our school community and look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Our phased induction programme is now underway, designed to support a smooth and positive transition for our youngest learners as they settle into school life.

For more details, please refer to our Nursery and P1 Welcome and Induction Booklets, available on the school website. If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff—we are always here to help.

PTA After School Programme

We are excited to launch our After School Programme for Primary 2 to Primary 7 pupils, starting on Monday 8th September. Registration details and the full schedule have already been shared with families.

Primary 1 pupils will be welcomed into the programme after the mid-term break, giving them time to settle into school routines.

All club leaders will take part in an orientation and safeguarding session before their clubs begin, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all children.

A Chance to Connect

We welcome all parents and carers to attend our annual Curriculum Meetings, a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher and gain insight into their class and year group.

During these sessions, you'll receive key information about classroom routines, learning expectations, and how you can support your child's progress throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make this school year a successful one!

The dates of these are as follows:

- Tues 9th Sept – P6
- Wed 10th Sept - P7
- Thurs 11th Sept - P5
- Mon 15th Sept – P4
- Tues 16th Sept – P2
- Wed 17th Sept – P3
- Fri 19th Sept – P1

Curriculum meetings for all year groups will take place from 9.10-9.40am. To help facilitate these meetings children will line up in their designated positions where they will be met and supervised by the Vice Principals and other staff. Parents/carers should proceed directly to their child's classroom for the meeting.

Reminder for P7 parents and carers

Registration for the SEAG Entrance Assessment will close at 11:59pm on Friday 19th September 2025.

Visit <https://seagni.co.uk/>

Nursery News

Starting Monday 22nd, our nursery pupils will begin a fun-filled five-week journey with Jo Jingles! These engaging sessions, led by Miss Nicola, bring music, singing, and movement together in a lively and structured way.

Designed especially for young learners, Jo Jingles helps develop key skills such as attention and listening, language, motor coordination, balance, and social interaction—all through joyful, interactive activities.

We're looking forward to welcoming Jo Jingles into our nursery and watching our children learn and grow through the magic of music!

Education Authority Music Service (EANI)

We are delighted to announce that music lessons for Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils will begin during the week commencing 1st September. To ensure pupils are fully prepared, please remind your child to bring their instrument to school on the appropriate day. We look forward to a term filled with creativity, rhythm, and musical growth.



To visit our school website, scan the QR code.



Celebrating Success at St Anne's

At St Anne's, we love to recognise and celebrate the fantastic efforts and positive behaviour of our pupils. Each month, a range of special awards and certificates are presented to highlight the children's kindness hard work, and achievements.

This month, 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 are proud of all our pupils and look forward to celebrating their successes together!

Action Required

Parents and carers of Primary 2 to Primary 7 pupils are kindly asked to complete the online Special Requirements Form using the links already shared.

Given the importance of these forms in supporting your child's needs, we would greatly appreciate it if you could complete and submit them as soon as possible.

Please note: The deadline for submission is Friday 5th September 2025. Thank you for your continued support!

Join Our PTA – Make a Difference!

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers who work hard to raise vital funds for our school and help build a strong sense of community. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or completely new, your support is always welcome—and needed!

The PTA meets once a month in the Birch Building, with each meeting lasting around an hour. You'll receive a reminder via text or email ahead of each session.

Our first meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday 2nd September at 6:00pm. It's a great chance to get involved, share ideas, and connect with other parents and staff.

We'd love to see you there and work together to make this school year the best it can be!

Kicking Off

Primary 6 pupils are set to kick off an exciting coaching programme with Gaelfast, starting on the 9th of September. This initiative promises to be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their skills, build confidence, and enjoy active learning through sport.

Making a Splash!

We are excited to announce that our swimming programme for all Primary 5 classes and two Primary 6 classes will begin on 15th and 16th September, running through to 15th and 16th December. Pupils will attend weekly sessions at Olympia Leisure Centre, where they'll build confidence, develop essential swimming skills, and enjoy being active in a safe and supportive environment.

Each class will receive detailed information about their session times, along with a request for parent volunteers to assist with the safe transportation of pupils to and from the leisure centre.

Primary 7 pupils and the remaining two Primary 6 classes will begin their swimming block in Term Two.

Bouncing into Basketball

All four Primary 5 classes are gearing up to take part in the exciting Cleveland Basketball Programme, commencing on Friday, 12th September. Led by Coach Carla, pupils will enjoy weekly coaching sessions that build skills, teamwork, and confidence—culminating in a thrilling Blitz event alongside other local primary schools!



Gaelic Football

Following the initial trials held in June, our Girls' and Boys' Teams will take part in further trials on Tuesday 9th September. These sessions will help finalise team selections and give pupils another opportunity to showcase their skills and enthusiasm for the sport.

Coaches will share all relevant information with pupils ahead of the trials. We're looking forward to another exciting season of teamwork, dedication, and sporting spirit!

The Eco-Agency

Eco-elections for pupils in P4 to P7 will take place throughout September. This is a valuable opportunity for children to use their voice to bring about positive change in our school community.

Newly elected Eco-Agents will begin their roles in October, while last year's agents will continue their duties in the meantime. One of their first tasks will be conducting the annual environmental audit, which helps identify our sustainability goals for the year ahead.

We're proud to continue building on the progress we've made as a Green Flag school, and we welcome your support as we work together to promote environmental responsibility.

Our Eco Code remains: Mission Possible because every pupil has the power to make a difference!

Supporting Your Child – Who to Contact

At St. Anne's, we believe strong communication between home and school is key to supporting every child's wellbeing and learning journey. If you have any concerns about your child, your first point of contact should be their class teacher, who knows your child best and can offer guidance and support.

For additional support, you can reach out to the Head of Key Stage for your child's year group:

- Nursery: Mrs D Hamill
- Foundation Stage: Mrs L McGlone
- Key Stage One: Mrs J O' Neill
- Key Stage Two: Miss A O' Neill

Child Protection (CP) and Safeguarding

The welfare of our pupils is our highest priority. If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of your child or another pupil, please contact a member of our Child Protection and Safeguarding Team:

- Designated Teacher for CP: Mrs S Hunter
- Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs L McGlone
- Deputy Designated Teacher for Nursery: Mrs D Hamill
- Safeguarding Teachers: Mrs A Stott/Miss A O Neill
- Principal: Mr C Conway
- Designated Governor for CP: Mrs B Niblock

Contact can be made through the school office, and all concerns will be handled with care, confidentiality and professionalism.

Speak Out Stay Safe Week

Pupils will be taking part in the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Week, beginning 29th September. This important programme helps children understand how to stay safe, speak out about worries, and know who to turn to for help.

Pupils will be involved in assemblies and engaging activities to reinforce key messages.

We are proud to support this initiative as part of our commitment to safeguarding and well-being.

Pupil Voice in Action

This year marks an exciting School Council election, taking place during the week of 15th–19th September for pupils in P5 to P7.

We encourage all eligible pupils to consider putting themselves forward as candidates. Being part of the School Council is a fantastic opportunity for children to have their voices heard and to be actively involved in decision-making that helps shape our school community.

We look forward to seeing our young leaders step up and share their ideas!

School Calendar

The Holiday List for 2025-2026 is available on the school website. Reminder: school is closed to pupils on Monday 29th September.



Tune in

Our school choir will soon begin its weekly practice sessions, and we're delighted to welcome new voices!

Auditions for Primary 5 pupils will be held over the coming weeks and will be conducted by Mrs Collins. Information will be shared regarding the auditioning process. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their musical talents, build confidence, and be part of a creative and collaborative group.

School Dinners

School dinners can be booked and paid for via SchoolMoney at a daily rate of £2.60 for P1-P7 and £2.50 for Nursery pupils. We encourage families to register and pay a week in advance.

You can view the current menu on our website: saintannesps.com/parents

Start Dates:

- P2-P7: Available from Monday 1st September
- P1: Available from Monday 15th September
- Nursery: Available from Monday 22nd September

Please note: A new dinner menu will be introduced in October. Further details will be shared closer to the time via the school website and parent communications.

Exploring STEM

We are delighted to share that St. Anne's Primary School and Nursery Unit has successfully enrolled in the Dream Space Ambassador Programme for 2025/26.

This innovative programme offers pupils exciting opportunities to explore STEM learning, creativity, and digital skills through engaging experiences and resources. We look forward to the positive impact this will have on our school community and the learning journey of our pupils.

Stay tuned for updates as we begin our Dream Space adventure!

Image Permissions: Reminder

Permissions previously granted for the use of your child's image (photographs or video) will continue into this academic year.

If you would like to update these permissions or have any questions, please contact the school office at info@stannesps.belfast.ni.sch.uk.

Contact Details



Saint Anne's Primary School 50 Kingsway
Finaghy Belfast BT10 0NE



028 9061 5414



info@stannes.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for your child's learning and wellbeing. Please take note of the following reminders:

Reporting Absences: If your child is absent, please email the school with the reason for their absence or send a written note when they return.

Appointments During School Hours: If your child has an appointment during the school day, they must be signed out at the school office before being collected.

Punctuality Matters: Arriving on time helps your child start the day calmly and confidently. Pupils arriving after 9:20am will be marked as late.

Monitoring: Attendance and punctuality are monitored by the school's Education Welfare Officer, who conducts audits throughout the year.

Term-Time Holidays: Please avoid booking family holidays during term time. The school does not provide work for pupils who are absent due to holidays.

For more details, please visit our website to view the full Attendance Policy.



Wedderburn Walking Bus

We're excited to announce that the Wedderburn Walking Bus is set to return this year following its great success last year!

You will soon receive information on how to volunteer or submit an expression of interest if you'd like to get involved.

We are also hoping to launch a new walking bus route to serve a different area, as part of our ongoing efforts to encourage pupils to actively travel to school.

Walking buses help reduce traffic congestion, promote healthier lifestyles, and give children a positive, social start to their day. Thank you for your continued support in making this initiative a success!

School Transport

Translink school bus services will be operational from Monday 1st September.

Details about bus procedures and routes are available on the school website.

Parking Safely: A Shared Responsibility

To help keep everyone safe on and around the school grounds, we kindly ask all parents and carers to use only the designated parking areas—the turning circle and the church car park—when dropping off or collecting children.

Please avoid parking on pavements, as this blocks pathways for pedestrians, especially those with prams or young children.

We understand that parking can be difficult during busy times. If possible, consider using the Park and Ride facility on Black's Road and walking your child to school. This helps reduce congestion and adds a healthy dose of physical activity to your morning routine.

By following these guidelines, we can all contribute to a safer, more respectful environment for our children and the wider school community.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club for P2-P7 will run daily from 8:15am to 9:00am at a cost of £2.20 per child, payable via SchoolMoney.

Please note:

- Last admission is at 8:45am P1 pupils will be able to join from Monday 6th October P1-P3 Breakfast Club is held in the Dining Hall of the Birch Building
- P4-P7 Breakfast Club takes place in the Dining Hall of the Rowan Building

Breakfast Club is a great way for children to enjoy a healthy start to their day in a relaxed and social environment.

Healthy Break

We encourage pupils to bring a healthy mid-morning snack, such as fresh fruit, vegetables, or bread-based items with sugar-free fillings.

Only milk and water are permitted during break and lunch, with water available throughout the day.

Please be mindful of allergies when packing your child's snack or lunch.

As part of our Eco-School commitment, we ask families to support us by using reusable water bottles, lunch boxes, and bags, and avoiding single-use plastics.

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

DEAR SAINT ANNE,
HELP US TO BE THANKFUL.
WATCH OVER US WITH CARE.
INSPIRE US TO TRY OUR BEST,
TO LOVE, LEARN AND SHARE.
ST. ANNE, MOTHER OF MARY
AND GRANDMOTHER OF JESUS,
PRAY FOR US.
AMEN.

