

In the Loop

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DECEMBER 2025



ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Nursery Open Days

Tuesday 9th December 2025: 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Wednesday 7th January 2026: 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Primary 1 Open Days

Wednesday 10th December 2025: 1pm - 2pm

Thursday 8th January 2026: 1pm - 2pm

A proud tradition of serving children from our parish and beyond.



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

P1 Festive Sing-Along

Primary One pupils are busily preparing their Festive Sing-Along to delight mums and dads.

Thursday 4th December:
Classes of Mrs Heagney/Ms Mc Allister and Mrs Mc Cluskey

Friday 5th December: Classes of Ms Crossan and Miss Maxwell

Both performances will take place in the assembly hall in Birch Building, beginning at 9.30am. Parents should enter via the doors at the main reception. Children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers for their performances.

P5 bring the cheer!

On 18th December, Mr. Murphy's P5 class will be bringing Christmas cheer to the residents of Railway Lodge Care Home. The children will perform a variety of festive acts, sharing music, stories, and seasonal fun to brighten the day and spread joy.



' MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW '



Nursery Nativity Play

We are looking forward to the Nursery Nativity Show on **Friday 12th December at 11.00am**. Doors will open at 10:50am. As space is limited within the nursery building, we would kindly ask that a maximum of two adults per child attend the performance.

Primary 2 Nativity Performances!

Tuesday 16th December:
Classes of Mrs Collins/Murphy and Miss Kenny

Friday 19th December:
Classes of Mrs Murray/Murphy and Miss O Boyle

Nativity plays on both days will begin at 10.45am, with doors opening at 10.30am. All parents will enter via the main doors at the school office. Parents will also be treated to performances by our strings' orchestra, traditional group, and school choir.

You will have the opportunity to purchase a recording of your child's Nativity Play and photographs of them on stage.

For both the Nursery and P2, the children may go home early with a trusted adult on the day of the performances. We look forward to revisiting the beautiful story of the Nativity through the talents and efforts of our wonderful children.

Off to the Waterfront

Our pupils are looking forward to a festive theatre outing to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Waterfront:

- **Thursday 4th December:** P4/P5
- **Friday 5th December:** P6/P7

Children will be leaving at 9.30am and should come to school in their full uniform. The pupils can bring along the all-important treats to the performance. We recommend two small, individual treats and a bottle of juice with a screw top lid. Please be mindful of food allergies. All P4-P7 pupils will require a pack lunch on this day as they will not return in time for dinners. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, a pack lunch can be ordered via the school office.

This promises to be a magical experience, full of fun and laughter to get everyone into the Christmas spirit!

Inquiry Based Learning

We are continuing our partnership with Stranmillis University, focusing on investigative science. Children, teaching students, and staff are all thoroughly enjoying the experience, which is helping to spark curiosity and deepen understanding of scientific concepts.

Christmas Dinners

Christmas Dinners will be served on three different days:

- Nursery: 3rd December
- P1 – P3: 4th December
- P4 – P7: 11th December

The cost is: Nursery: £2.50 and P1-P7: £2.60 per child. We kindly ask that you pre-order as soon as possible via School Money.

Festive Fair Triumph!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair. Whether through donations, sponsorship, or simply attending, your generosity was truly remarkable.

We are especially grateful to the PTA and all the wonderful volunteers whose hard work made the event such a success.

We are delighted to share that the fair has raised an impressive **£5,500** so far — and there's still time to purchase ballot tickets! Please follow the link below:

Klubfunder - StAnnesPTA - St Anne's Christmas Raffle 2025 <https://hub.klubfunder.com/StAnnesPTA/payit/ticketsale/st-anne-s-christmas-raffle-2025/detail>

Ballot closes on Friday 19th December.





Nursery News

A Festive Library Visit: Tuesday 2nd December

We are delighted that Miss Barbara, Librarian from Finaghy Library, will be joining us once again. She will share a wonderful selection of Christmas stories and rhymes, sure to bring plenty of festive cheer to the nursery boys and girls.

Final Gathering Drums Session: Thursday 4th December

We are looking forward to welcoming Joe for his final visit with the Gathering Drums. The theme for this special session is *"Walking through the Jungle"*, where children will explore rhythm, beat, tempo, and dynamics in music. Alongside the musical fun, the activities will also help to strengthen those all-important listening and attention skills.

Magical Christmas Treat: Friday 5th December

We are excited to share that Santa Claus has arranged a very special visit from one of his elves! Children will enjoy hearing the latest news from Santa's Grotto at the North Pole, and take part in festive fun with music, movement, and Christmas stories. It promises to be a joyful occasion full of sparkle and magic!

Sharing our Faith

Our pupils continue to take part in weekly Mass at the parish church.

- **Wednesday 10th December, 10am:** All P7 classes will attend Mass.

These occasions are a valued part of school life, offering moments of reflection and community for pupils across the year groups.

The Story of Christmas

The Christmas Service will take place on 17th December at 2.00pm. All children from P4-P7 will attend and we extend a warm invitation to our parents and grandparents.

Christmas Jumper Day

For those who would like to take part, Christmas Jumper Day will be held on Thursday 11th December. The children should wear their uniform, replacing their school jumper with a Christmas jumper. Alternatively, they can attach a Christmas Bauble or tinsel to their school jumper.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close on **22nd December at 12.00pm**. There will be no breakfast club or buses operating on this day. School will reopen for all pupils on **Tuesday 6^h January 2026**.

Festive Music Mornings

P3 classes will get together to showcase a selection of festive songs and poems for their half termly 'music morning' on 11th December.

Choir Collaboration: Thursday 11th December

We are delighted that our school choir will once again join forces with the junior choir from Rathmore for a special concert. This musical partnership promises to be a real treat for our P4-P7 pupils who have been invited to attend, offering them the chance to enjoy festive performances and shared song.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for the P5 Year Group and two of our P6 classes will finish on 15th and 16th December.





Certificates for December

At St. Anne's, we love to celebrate the children's achievements and encourage positive behaviour. Each month, special certificates are awarded to recognise their efforts.

For December, certificates will be presented for:

- **Excellent Manners**
- **Outstanding Homework**

We wish every child success in working towards these awards. We encourage you to talk with your child about them and support them in doing their very best.

Camogie Team Update

A big thank you to all the girls who attended the recent camogie trials. We are delighted to announce that our school team will now take part in the first round of the Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Championships on Wednesday 3rd December at Colin Park Dome. On the day, they will face teams from Holy Child and St Joseph's, Carryduff.

We wish them every success as they represent our school with skill and determination!

School Council

School councillors have had a busy First Term!

Fundraising

The councillors collected organic apples from the trees within the grounds of St Anne's PS and NU. They washed the apples, dipped them in chocolate and sprinkles and sold them at the PTA Coffee morning raising a total of £72! They showed excellent entrepreneurship, team working skills and peer mentorship!

Anti-bullying Week

The School Council led Antibullying Week activities throughout all year groups from Nursery to Primary 7. Councillors presented the Antibullying Leaflet to their class and buddy class. They provided every class with new 'Think & Wits' posters and encouraged all pupils to participate in Odd Socks Day, Crazy Hair Day and World Kindness Day!

School Councillors secret 'Random Act of Kindness Mission' was complete with many inspiring stories of kindness across the school being shared and celebrated!

During next term the Council will be exploring Road Safety around the school and organising some fun activities for Children's Mental Health Week in February.

Understanding others and growing together

As part of our preventative curriculum, the Red Cross will deliver Empathy Workshops to our P6 and P7 pupils on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th December. During these sessions, children will explore how empathy helps us connect with others, build positive relationships, and create a more caring school community.

Eco Update

The **Walking Bus** will begin in the new year! A big thank you to all the parents who have kindly volunteered to help make this possible. An expression of interest for pupils who would like to take part will be sent out again soon. This is a wonderful way for children to enjoy a healthy, sociable start to the day while promoting road safety and independence.

We will be participating in a '**Ditch the Dark**' Day on Wednesday 17th December to promote safe and active means of active travel. On this day, we encourage our pupils, parents and carers to ditch their car, and walk, cycle or scoot, accessorizing their uniform/ bicycle/scooter with 'bright and colourful items.





Embracing Diversity Through Sport

P6AL will continue participating in the Plus Sport Basketball Programme in the Parish Hall throughout December.

- 5th December: Resilience
- 12th December: Respect
- 19th December – Twinning with Knockbreda: Celebration

The purpose of this programme is to reinforce the positive effects of embracing diversity among school children. Basketball provides the perfect platform for teamwork, communication, and mutual understanding, helping children build resilience and empathy while celebrating differences.

Weather Watching

Louise Small, well-known weather presenter, will be visiting our Primary 4 pupils on Monday 8th December. Her visit will complement their WAU topic on weather, giving pupils the chance to learn from her expertise and gain fascinating behind-the-scenes insights into forecasting and broadcasting.

Exciting News

We are delighted to announce that the St Anne's Monitors (SAMs) are back! Starting Monday, 1st December, our Primary 7 pupils will take on their monitor duties in the playground during break and lunch times.

This initiative gives our P7 pupils a fantastic opportunity to develop important life skills such as leadership, responsibility, communication, and teamwork. By supporting and assisting our younger pupils during playtime, they will learn how to problem-solve, show empathy, and act as positive role models. The SAMs programme also helps to strengthen connections across year groups, fostering a sense of community and care within our school. We are proud of our P7 pupils for stepping into this role and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make!

Eire Og

Primary 3 pupils are continuing their weekly sessions with Coach John, where they are developing their Gaelic football skills. These sessions not only help pupils improve their coordination and fitness but also encourage teamwork, confidence, and a love for sport.

Building Skills Inside and Outside the Classroom

We are thrilled to share the incredible progress our pupils have made using **Freckle** this term!

- **September:** Pupils spent 7,598 minutes practising on Freckle.
- **October:** A huge leap to 25,900 minutes!
- **November:** An impressive 22,400 minutes of practice.

By practising regularly—both in school and at home—children strengthen their understanding, build confidence, and develop problem-solving skills at their own pace. This consistent engagement helps close learning gaps and encourages independent learning.

At our award assemblies this month, we proudly recognised pupils who spent the most time practising in November and celebrated the classes that topped the Freckle Leaderboard. Their dedication shows how effort and persistence lead to success!

Thank you for encouraging your child to use Freckle at home—it truly makes a difference.

