

In the Loop

SAINTANNESPS.COM

FEBRUARY 2026



Gentle Reminder:

Mid term Break: 9th February –
Friday 13th February

Children's Mental Health Week: Monday 2nd – Friday 6th February

'This is my Place' celebrates the people, spaces, and communities where children feel safe, supported, and able to thrive. When children experience positive connections, with family, friends, and trusted adults, it strengthens their mental health and overall sense of wellbeing.

Throughout the week the pupils will be involved in a variety of activities including:

- School Councillors will visit classes to promote 'Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies'.
- All pupils will explore the theme 'This is my place' within their class.
- Safer internet Assemblies 'Being AI Aware: Safe, Smart and In Control' will be led by our pupil Dream Space Ambassadors.
- Digital Wellbeing Day – Pupil in class activities and Parent Homework (information shared via email).
- Feel Good Friday: 'Dress to Express' – children

are invited to wear their favourite-coloured sweatshirt or jumper to school on this day, instead of their usual red school sweatshirt.

This is a lovely opportunity for pupils to express how they're feeling and celebrate what makes them unique. If they prefer, they can simply brighten their uniform with a small pop of colour — such as a hair accessory, scarf, hat, socks, or any other little touch that feels right for them.

For further information please visit:
<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>



'MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW'



Stepping forward in Faith

Congratulations to all our P3, P4 and P7 pupils who have enrolled for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. This is a very special milestone in their faith journey, and we are incredibly proud of the reverence and enthusiasm they have shown.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Father Martin for leading our enrolment services with such energy, warmth and thought-provoking messages. His engagement with our pupils and their parents has been greatly appreciated and has helped make these moments truly meaningful for our school community.

We look forward to supporting our young people and their families as they continue to prepare for these important Sacraments in the months ahead.

Gathering as a Parish Family

Classes timetabled to attend mass:

4th February: P4LB/SH and P7AON to be rescheduled

18th February: Ash Wednesday

25th February: P5-LM/DD and P4 NF/CH

Growing in Spirit

Our Primary 7 pupils will be taking part in their Confirmation Retreats at the De La Salle Pastoral Centre. This meaningful experience will give pupils time to reflect on the Sacrament of Confirmation, explore its significance, and deepen their understanding as they prepare for this important step in their faith journey.

Each class will attend on a different day, as shown below:

- Monday 2nd: 7KD
- Tuesday 3rd: 7CW
- Wednesday 4th: 7CM
- Thursday 5th: 7AON

Pupils should bring a packed lunch on their allocated retreat day.

We look forward to these reflective and enriching sessions and appreciate your support in helping our P7 pupils prepare for this special stage in their Sacramental journey.

Service of Light

Our Primary 7 pupils and their parents/carers are warmly invited to attend the Service of Light in preparation for Confirmation. The service will take place in St Anne's Church on Thursday 5th February at 7.00pm

To ensure everyone is settled before the service begins, we kindly ask families to be seated by 6.45pm. Pupils should attend in their full school uniform.

Please note that sponsors are not required to attend this particular service.

Peace Proms

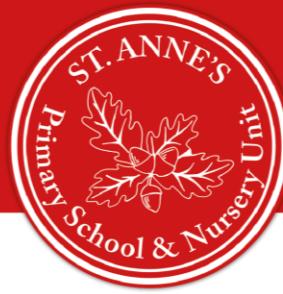
We would like to give a quick reminder that our P5 pupils will be performing at the Peace Proms in the SSE Arena on Sunday 1st March. This is always a fantastic event celebrating music, unity and the hard work of our young people.

After the midterm break, an email will be sent to all parents in the year group with full details of the day.

Road Safe N.I.

We are incredibly proud of our team of four Primary 7 pupils who took part in the Belfast Heat of the NI Primary School Road Safety Quiz 2026. After a fantastic performance, the team finished in first place, securing their spot in the Northern Ireland Final. The NI Final will take place at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown, on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.00pm. We wish our P7 team every success as they represent our school at the next stage.





Engineering Clean Water

Farrans will be visiting our school to deliver a Clean Water Workshop for all Primary 3 classes. As part of their Safe and Sound topic, pupils will be learning about the importance of clean water and how filtration systems work.

This interactive session will help pupils understand where clean water comes from, why it matters, and how engineering plays a role in keeping communities healthy.

We are looking forward to an engaging and educational experience for all our P3 pupils, and we are grateful to Farrans for supporting our learning in such a practical and exciting way.

The Book Fair is Back!

The Travelling Book Fair will be visiting our school from Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th February 2026. This is always a wonderful event that helps inspire a love of reading across our school community.

Venue: Assembly Hall, Elm Building

Opening Times:

- Morning: 8:30am – 9:10am
- Afternoon: 2:15pm – 4:00pm

Please enter via the double doors at the PE Hall through the playground. Clear signage will be in place, and our fantastic St Anne's Monitors (SAMs) will be on hand each day to assist families.

Every class will have a scheduled time during the school day to browse and purchase a book if they so wish.

The Book Fair is a brilliant opportunity to encourage reading for pleasure while also helping us raise funds to purchase new reading materials for our school.

Post-Primary Applications

A reminder that EA Connect will close for online applications for Post-Primary (Year 8) at 12 noon on 19th February. Families can access full guidance at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

If you need support, you can contact the Admissions Helpdesk, Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm:

- Telephone: 028 9047 0177
- Email: postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

Medical Assessments

P1 assessments will take place in the Medical Room during the weeks beginning 16th February and 23rd February.

Dream Space Ambassadors

Our Dream Space Ambassadors took part in their latest training session on Safer Internet Day, with a special focus on Artificial Intelligence. The pupils engaged brilliantly and are developing strong digital leadership skills that will benefit the whole school community.

Their next training Session 'Older Wiser Learner' (OWL) will take place on Tuesday 24th February

We are proud of how confidently our ambassadors are stepping into their roles and look forward to seeing their skills continue to grow.

Coaching in Action

Our training programmes continue:

- P5 Gaelic with St. Mary's C.B.G.S.
- P7 Basketball with Cleveland
- P6/P7 swimming at the Olympia



In the Loop

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



Two days, One Goal!

Our talented Indoor Girls' Gaelic team will be taking part in this year's Indoor Girls' Gaelic Championships at The Dome. The competition will take place over two days:

- Thursday 5th February – Qualifiers
- Friday 6th February – Finals

Our girls have been training with fantastic dedication and team spirit. As last year's champions, the girls are heading into the tournament full of determination as they aim to retain the title. We know they will give their very best and represent our school with pride and sportsmanship.

We wish the girls every success in both the qualifiers and finals.

Growing Resilient Minds

On Wednesday 18th February, our Primary 6 year group will take part in a Red Cross workshop titled 'Coping with Challenges'. This valuable, classroom-based session will support pupils in developing resilience, emotional awareness, and practical strategies for managing difficult situations.

On Friday 20th February, our Primary 7 pupils will take part in the Red Cross workshop, 'Coping with Challenges'. This workshop will guide pupils in developing positive coping tools, building confidence, and learning how to manage everyday pressures as they prepare for the transition to post-primary school.

Tunes and Togetherness

On Friday 6th February, we will be hosting our Mid-Term Music Mornings, filled with creativity, musicality and lots of fun for our Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes. We are also delighted to welcome our invited guests—the Nursery pupils—who will join in the excitement.

These sessions offer our youngest learners a wonderful opportunity to explore rhythm, movement and sound in a joyful and interactive way. It is a fantastic chance for the children to express themselves, build confidence and enjoy music-making together. We look forward to a joyful morning of music and celebration as we begin our mid-term break on a high note!

Library Visits

Our visits to Finaghy Library continue for our P4 and P6 classes.

Make a Sound

On Tuesday 4th February, the Make A Sound team will visit our Nursery classes. They will be joined by Barbour Nursery as part of the Aspire Programme, giving the children a fun and engaging musical experience.

Big Questions, Bright Minds

We were delighted to host our first Science Fair in collaboration with the Stranmillis University Science Department, providing a fantastic opportunity for both teaching students and our pupils to showcase the work they have been developing throughout the first term. The event highlighted our shared commitment to playful, inquiry-based learning, which continues to be a key focus across the school.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed moving between year-group displays, discovering what everyone had been exploring, asking questions, and taking part in hands-on activities.

We extend our sincere thanks to Stranmillis University for their ongoing support, expertise, and the mutually beneficial partnership that enriches learning for both their students and ours.





Let the Music Begin!

Our P5 classes are delighted to be taking part in the School Singing Project, led by St Peter's Cathedral. This wonderful initiative is designed to encourage, develop, and celebrate singing in primary schools.

The first two workshop sessions will take place on 5th and 26th February.

At the end of the project, pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a Showcase Concert at St Peter's Cathedral. Further details and confirmed dates will be shared with families once available.

Big Jobs: Little Learners

Our P1 classes will be welcoming a range of parents into school as part of their topic 'Jobs People Do'. These visits will help the children learn about different occupations in a fun, meaningful way and give them the chance to ask questions and explore the world of work.

It's wonderful to work in such strong partnership with our parents as we support the children's learning together.

Freckle Update

Our pupils have been busy on Freckle, with 36.4K minutes of learning completed across the whole school. A special well done to the classes who recorded the highest usage this month:

- P2 – Mrs Murphy
- P3 – Mrs Donnelly
- P4 – Ms Fitzpatrick/Ms Houten
- P5 – Mrs Cavanagh
- P6 – Mr Gribben
- P7 – Ms Mullan

In addition, January certificates were awarded to pupils who achieved the greatest accuracy in their Freckle activities.

Let us keep the momentum going — pupils are encouraged to stay active on Freckle and continue building their skills each week.

Eco Update

The Big Schools' Bird Watch

Our pupils will be out and about counting the different species of birds around our school. They will then submit their results to the RSPB.

Waste Not, Want Not

Some of our KS2 classes will attend The Disposables Show, delivered by Belfast City Council, on Friday 6th February. The session will run from 9.30–10.15am in the Assembly Hall (Elm Building).

This interactive show supports pupils' understanding of waste, recycling, and environmental responsibility in a fun and engaging way.

Wedderburn Walking Bus Returns

The Wedderburn Walking Bus is due to commence during the week beginning 23rd February.

We are making a final call for parental volunteers and for any additional pupils who would like to join the walking bus.

If you would like to take part, please submit your details using the form links below:

[Walking Bus Parental Volunteer Sign Up Form 2026](#)

[Wedderburn Walking Bus: Pupil Expression of Interest 2026](#)

This is a great way to promote active travel, build independence, and start the school day positively.



In the Loop

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



EXTRA DATE
ADDED



Worry to Wonder

Tuesday 17th February, 7pm-8.30pm

Online via ZOOM

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

CALL NOW TO BOOK

YOUR PLACE

0808 8020 400

