

# In the Loop

SAINTANNESPS.COM

MARCH 2026



## County Champions once again!

We are thrilled to announce that our girls' Gaelic football team have been crowned Cumann na mBunscol Antrim Indoor County Champions for the second consecutive year. This remarkable achievement highlights the consistency, determination, and exceptional talent of the players who continue to perform at the highest level.

During the county finals, the girls played superbly, defeating St Joseph's, Dunloy, and Millquarter, securing the county title and showcasing outstanding teamwork and resilience.

A heartfelt thank you goes to their dedicated coaches, Miss Lavery and Mr Teague, whose guidance, expertise, and encouragement have played a crucial role in preparing the team so effectively.

We are incredibly proud of the team for this outstanding achievement and for representing our school with such pride and determination. They continue to be wonderful ambassadors and role models for their peers.

Well done, girls — county champions once again!

## SEAG Information Session

Thank you to all parents/carers who were able to attend the SEAG Transfer Tests Parent Information Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March in the Senior Assembly Hall in the Rowan Building.

This session provided an overview of how we will support pupils in the months ahead, outlined key preparation strategies, and shared practical guidance on how parents can help at home. If you missed this session, do not worry, we will share the PowerPoint used during this meeting with all P6 families via email.

## Dates for your Diary

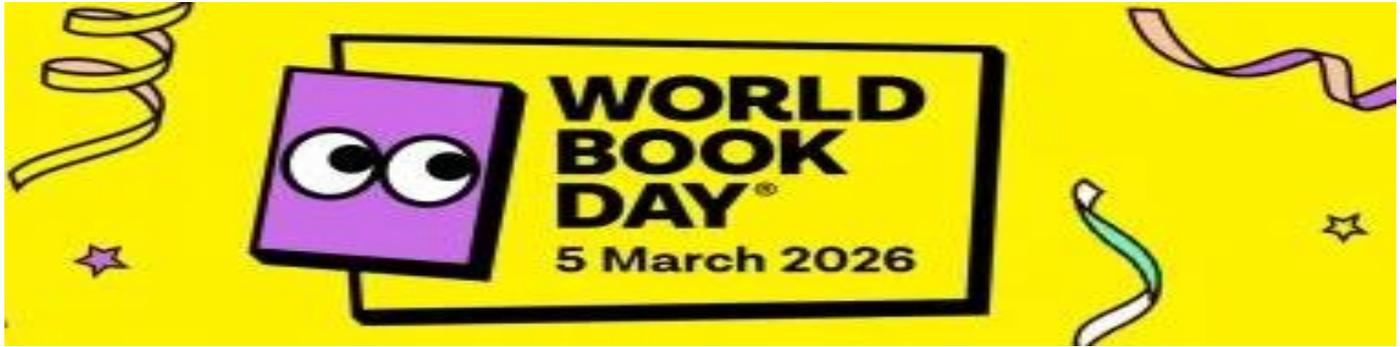
Please note:

School will be closed to pupils on these dates.

- 16<sup>th</sup> March – Staff Development Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – St. Patrick's Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Staff Development Day



' MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW '



## Celebrating World Book Day at Our School

We are very excited to celebrate **World Book Day** with our pupils. This special day is dedicated to fostering a love of reading and sharing the joy that books bring into our lives. Throughout the day, children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of fun and engaging activities designed to inspire their imagination and encourage reading for pleasure.

To mark the occasion, classes will enjoy a variety of World Book Day experiences, including:

- **Book Day Parade** – Children are invited to take part in a fun parade celebrating books, characters, and stories they love.
- **Teacher Storytime Swap** – Some staff will be swapping classes to share their favourite stories.
- **Guest Readers** – Special guests will join us to read aloud and share their love of reading.
- **Peer Reading Opportunities** – Older and younger pupils will pair up to enjoy stories together.

We hope these activities help children build positive reading habits and experience the magic of storytelling in different ways.

One of the most important elements of our World Book Day celebration is giving every child the opportunity for a **'Show and Tell'** session. Children can talk about their favourite: book, character, author or illustrator, costume or object linked to a story. This helps develop speaking and listening skills and encourages pupils to share their personal reading interests with confidence.

To help make the day enjoyable and comfortable for all families, children may choose one of the following options:

- Bring their favourite book to school to share with the class.
- Dress up as a favourite character or a theme from a book (optional and age-appropriate).
- Bring an object or accessory linked to a book or character to support their Show and Tell.
- Wear sleepwear suitable for school or bring their bedtime teddy as a nod to bedtime reading and the comfort of stories.

All options are optional and equally encouraged—we simply want children to enjoy the day in a way that suits them best.

You can explore additional resources to support and celebrate World Book Day by visiting

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>





## Weekly Mass Rota

The following classes will be attending 10.00am Mass on the dates listed below. Parents are very welcome to join the pupils at these celebrations.

4<sup>th</sup> March: P6PG and P5OC  
11<sup>th</sup> March: P6AL and P5DM  
25<sup>th</sup> March: P6DT and P5CE  
1<sup>st</sup> April: P6JP and P5LM

## Sacrament of Confession

Our P3 pupils will be celebrating the **Sacrament of Confession** on the following dates:

### Monday 23rd March

- 11.00am: Mrs Walsh's class
- 1.00pm: Mrs Donnelly's class

### Thursday 26th March

- 11.00am: Mrs Mc Guinness' class
- 1.00pm: Mrs Stott's class

This is a very special step in the children's faith journey, and we look forward to supporting them as they prepare for and take part in this important occasion.

## P1 Health Assessments

The School Health Team will be carrying out P1 assessment mop-up sessions in the Medical Room. These sessions are for any children who were absent during the initial assessments.

## Reading Journeys

Our P4 and P6 classes continue to enjoy their regular library visits with Miss Barbara.

- 4<sup>th</sup> March: P6DT
- 6<sup>th</sup> March: P6JP
- 11<sup>th</sup> March: P4OMG
- 20<sup>th</sup> March: P4NF
- 24<sup>th</sup> March: P4CG
- 25<sup>th</sup> March: P6PG
- 31<sup>st</sup> March: P4LB

These sessions provide pupils with the opportunity to explore new books, develop their reading interests, and build confidence in selecting texts they enjoy.

## Cross Country

Our P6 and P7 cross-country team will compete at Woodlands on Wednesday 11th March in the West Belfast Heat of the Belfast City Council Cross Country Championships. This is a great opportunity for our runners to challenge themselves and represent the school with pride.

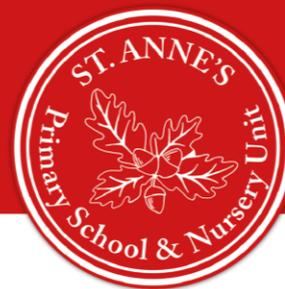
## Safe and Sound

As part of their 'Safe and Sound' topic, our P3 pupils will enjoy two informative visits from local services this term.

- Tuesday 3rd March: Anna Killen from NI Water will visit P3 to talk about water safety, responsible water use, and how we can look after this important resource.
- Tuesday 24th March: Leonie Rae from NIE will visit school to deliver their primary school electricity safety programme. The session aims to raise awareness, reduce vandalism, and help prevent electricity-related injuries in the community. It will highlight the dangers of electricity both at home and outdoors.

These sessions are designed to support the pupils' learning in a practical, engaging and age-appropriate way.





## Raffo Cup

Our boys will be taking part in the upcoming Raffo Cup Group Games on Wednesday 4th March at 10.00am and 12.00pm. The matches will take place at the Woodlands 4G pitch.

We will be competing against:

- **Bunscoil Phobal Feirste**
- **St Bride's**
- **St John the Baptist**

This promises to be an exciting morning of football, and we know our pupils will represent the school with great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. We wish all our players the very best of luck!

## Developmental Cup Games

Some of our boys will take part in the Developmental Cup Games on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at Woodlands.

This event is designed to give younger or less experienced players the chance to represent the school in a supportive competitive setting.

We will be using our extended Gaelic panel to ensure that every player can take part.

## Presidents Cup

Congratulations to our girls' Gaelic football team, who have successfully made it through the initial group games of the President's Cup. The team put in a series of strong performances, seeing off competition from several schools: St Bride's, St John the Baptist and Holy Trinity, to secure their place in the next round.

We are incredibly proud of the girls for their efforts and wish them the very best of luck as they progress further in the competition.

## Basketball Blitz

Our P7 classes will take part in a Basketball Blitz at Lisburn Racquets Club on Thursday 12th March, following their weekly coaching sessions with Coach Carla. This event gives pupils the chance to put their developing skills into action and enjoy the challenge of competing against other schools.

## Celebration of Sport

All P6 classes will attend a sporting event at Brook Leisure Centre on Friday 20th March. This will be a fun and active morning, giving pupils the chance to take part in a range of activities.

## St Patrick's Day Celebrations

In the lead-up to St Patrick's Day, our pupils will be taking part in a series of special St Patrick's Day assemblies, reflecting on the life, faith and influence of our patron saint.

These assemblies provide an opportunity for children to learn about St Patrick's story, his mission in Ireland, and the values he modelled—courage, kindness, forgiveness and spreading hope.

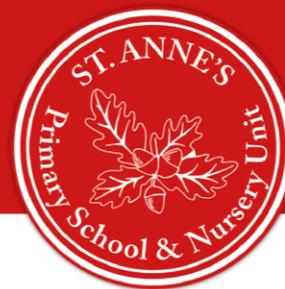
As part of our celebrations, pupils will also have the chance to share their own culture and heritage through song, dance, music, stories and poetry. These assemblies are always a joyful and meaningful highlight of the school year, bringing our community together to celebrate Irish culture, faith and tradition.

There will be a special St. Patrick's dinner for P1-P7 pupils on 13<sup>th</sup> March. You can book via SchoolMoney.

## PTA

Next meeting is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm in the Birch Building. You are very welcome.





## Trip to City Hall

Our School Council members will be making a very special visit to Belfast City Hall on Tuesday 31st March. During their visit, the pupils will have the wonderful opportunity to meet the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tracy Kelly, after kindly accepting her invitation to visit her at her place of office.

This experience will give the children valuable insight into civic leadership, local government, and the important role the Lord Mayor plays within the city. They will also enjoy a guided tour of the historic building and have the chance to ask questions and learn more about how decisions are made in Belfast.

## Dream Space Highlights

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting STEM learning across the school, several exciting Dream Space Live events and training sessions are taking place this month.

P5DM class will be taking part in a special Dream Space Live session to mark Engineers Week on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Pupils will engage in hands-on digital learning experiences, exploring problem-solving, creativity, and engineering-based challenges.

To celebrate World Book Day, P6AL will participate in a themed Dream Space Live workshop, combining digital skills with storytelling, reading and creative thinking.

Our Dream Space Ambassadors continue to progress through their leadership programme and will take part in MakeCode Arcade 101 training on 24<sup>th</sup> March. They will continue to share their new skills and knowledge with their peers and younger pupils, helping to build digital confidence and enthusiasm across the school.

We are delighted to see the children embracing these opportunities and developing valuable digital learning skills.

## Planet Neve Live

We are delighted to welcome Score Draw Media back to St. Anne's on Thursday 12th March with their brand-new "Planet Neve Live!" show for P1 and P2. Following the success of last year's Yukee Live Show, this free performance will introduce children to the joy of making music through imaginative play.

Through songs, storytelling and movement, the show encourages children to build

positive, confident connections with music. The performance also explores simple musical concepts such as beat, rhythm, tempo, timbre, form and pitch in a fun, interactive format. We look forward to a wonderful musical experience for our youngest pupils!

## Hedgerows Heroes

Emily from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will return to school on Thursday 19th March to deliver the final workshop in this year's programme. She will be working with Miss Edwards' P5 class, continuing their learning about caring for the environment and taking positive action within our community.

## Stepping into Spring

Friday 20th March marks the first day of spring, and we are encouraging all pupils to make an active journey to and from school. Walking, parking and striding, scooting or cycling are all great options. Pupils are also welcome to creatively accessorise their uniform, school bag, bike, scooter or skateboard to celebrate the day. Choosing an active journey supports pupils' health and well-being, helps reduce congestion and lowers carbon emissions, making a positive difference for our environment.





## Nursery News

### Visit from Miss Barbara

We are thrilled to welcome back Miss Barbara, the Librarian from Finaghy Library to nursery! She will be bringing a fabulous selection of story sacks and rhymes to enjoy with the children as we get ready to celebrate World Book Day. It's sure to be a magical morning filled with imagination and storytelling fun!

### Blackberry Farm

We're looking forward to welcoming Farmer Claire from Blackberry Farm, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. She will be telling the children all about Spring on the Farm.

The boys and girls will have the chance to meet some special farmyard friends, including the Little Red Hen and her newly hatched chicks! It promises to be a delightful and educational experience for everyone.

### Trip to W5

On 13<sup>th</sup> March, our nursery pupils will join their friends from Barbour Nursery School, Lisburn, for another fantastic Shared Education experience for our second visit to W5!

Children will enjoy:

- Playtime in the Over the Hills and Far Away story-themed spaces
- A fun and active soft-play session
- A lively musical workshop

Please remember to send your child with a packed lunch. Children entitled to free school meals will have lunch provided.

### Volunteers Needed!

If you can help us on this trip, we would be incredibly grateful. Your support helps us ensure a safe, enjoyable day for all the children.

Please speak to your child's class teacher or complete the form on Seesaw if you're available - we would love to have you join us!

### Quiz Team Success

We are delighted to share that our winning quiz team will be representing the school in the Northern Ireland Final at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. We wish them the very best of luck as they take on schools from across Northern Ireland.

### School Singing Project

P5 pupils will enjoy another session of the School Singing Project with Cathedral Music on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

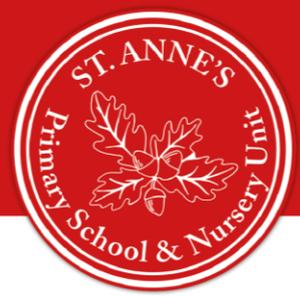
Rebecca and Cathal, the Director and Assistant Director of Music at St Peter's Cathedral, will continue working with the children to develop their musical skills.

Through this programme, pupils will:

- develop vocal skills through warm-ups and singing technique
- learn about healthy voice production
- explore musical ideas using body percussion, rhythm games and ensemble work
- reflect on their musical experiences and share their learning
- respond to musical characteristics such as dynamics, articulation and tempo
- learn and prepare songs for a final performance to showcase their progress

This ongoing project offers a rich and enjoyable musical experience for our P5 classes.





## Freckle– February Update

Our pupils spent a total of 23.7K minutes practising on Freckle this month. While this is a decrease from January's total of 36.4K minutes, we continue to see many children engaging positively with their online learning.

A big well done to Primary 4, the year group that recorded the highest total time on Freckle in February.

Congratulations also to Mr Gribben's P6 class, who topped the overall school leaderboard for usage.

A special well-done to the following classes who recorded the highest usage in their year groups:

- **P2:** Mrs Murphy/Mrs Murray
- **P3:** Mrs Stott/ Mrs Cullen
- **P4:** Ms Fitzpatrick/Ms Houten
- **P5:** Mrs Cavanagh
- **P6:** Mr Gribben
- **P7:** Ms Mullan

We encourage parents to continue supporting their children by ensuring they complete their assigned Freckle homework and by using the platform regularly to practice and consolidate key skills and knowledge at home.

## Certificates for the Month of March

Each month, we celebrate the children's achievements and encourage positive behaviour across St. Anne's through a series of special certificates. For the month of March, pupils will have the opportunity to earn awards in the following areas:

- **Showing Excellent Manners**
- **Wonderful Homework**
- **Moving Around the School Quietly and Responsibly**
- **Being Organised and Prepared for Work**

These certificates help reinforce good habits and recognise the everyday efforts of our pupils.

We wish all the children the very best as they work towards these goals. We would greatly appreciate your support in discussing these focus areas at home and encouraging your child to always try their best.



## ELMS Library System

Our school is delighted to be part of a pilot project implementing a new computerised library system called ELMS. This updated system will help modernise how pupils borrow books, track their reading and access library resources.

We look forward to seeing the benefits this new technology will bring to our school library.

## Drama and Verse

We are delighted to welcome Bronagh Bryan from Many Faces Drama back to St. Anne's. Bronagh will once again facilitate engaging workshops focused on speech, drama and poetry for our pupils, ahead of the much-anticipated Poetry Parade.

The workshops will take place on: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March. These sessions provide children with wonderful opportunities to build confidence, develop expressive skills and enjoy creative learning experiences in preparation for our upcoming celebrations.

