

In the Loop

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APRIL 2026



Easter Break

The school will close at 12.00 noon on Thursday 2nd April for Easter. It will reopen on **Monday 13th April.**

Gentle Reminder:

4th May: Bank Holiday

5th May: Staff Development Day

22nd May: Staff Development Day

25th May: Bank Holiday

Sacrament of Confirmation

Our P7 pupils will be making their Confirmation on the following dates:

22nd April at 11.00am:

Classes of Miss A O'Neill and Mr Donnelly

23rd April at 11.00am:

Classes of Mrs Watson and Ms Mullan

We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with them and their families. P7 class photographs will be taken on 24th April; please ensure that your child wears their full school uniform.

APRIL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to our Primary 3 pupils who made their First Confession, so well prepared and supported throughout. It was wonderful to have parents join us for this special occasion. Our sincere thanks to Father Martin for leading such a beautiful service, and to Father Rory and Father Robert for their support on the day.

Trocaire Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has fundraised and sponsored events in support of the Trócaire Lenten Campaign. There is still an opportunity to donate via SchoolMoney if you have not already done so. The final amount raised will be shared once all contributions have been totalled.

Poetry in Motion

Our Poetry Parade on 1st April was one of the highlights of the school year, celebrating poetry in all its forms. Congratulations to all pupils, from Nursery to P7, who confidently recited poems with their class or individually. Each class got behind their performers, cheering on their class champions with great enthusiasm. Our P7 interval acts kept the audience entertained throughout. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success.

PTA Monthly Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place in the staff room in the Birch Building on Tuesday 14th April at 6.30pm. All parents and carers are very welcome to come along — the PTA is very much in need of support, and your involvement would make a real difference.



Digital Citizenship and Well Being

Monthly Focus: News & Media Literacy

In an era of hyper-realistic AI, we are training our pupils to become "Digital Detectives," learning how to critically evaluate online content and distinguish truth from digital illusions.

Scan the QR code to access the short video on: 'What is AI? A Guide for Parents.'



Strengthen your family's media literacy by investigating "wild" social media posts together using our three key *Detective Questions*:

1. Does the content look or feel real?
2. Who is telling the story?
3. How can we check if it is true using reputable sources?

This shared approach helps children build confidence, curiosity and critical thinking in an increasingly digital world.

Scan the QR code below to access the Common Sense AI Literacy Toolkit for Families.



Digital Leaders

Our Dream Space Ambassadors will be visiting classes to lead an activity on digital footprints, helping children understand that digital images and information can remain online even after they are deleted. Pupils will also learn the importance of always seeking someone's permission before posting their image online, and how negative comments, images or videos can have a lasting impact. These sessions aim to build pupils' confidence in making safe, respectful and responsible choices online.

Year Group Assemblies

Our Welcome Back Assemblies, led by the Heads of Key Stages, are scheduled for the week beginning 13th April. These assemblies will help strengthen our sense of community as we return to school and will give pupils the opportunity to revisit expectations and routines for a positive start to the new term.

Certificates for the Month of April

To celebrate the children's magnificent work and to encourage positive behaviour in St. Anne's, we present a range of monthly awards that reflect our school values of faith, kindness, respect, growth, connections, belonging and fun.

This month's certificates will recognise pupils for:

- **Obedying classroom rules** — showing respect, growth and contributing to a positive sense of belonging.
- **Fabulous friendship** — demonstrating kindness, strong connections and helping others feel included.
- **Kindness and respect towards others** — living out our values of kindness, respect and creating a school community where everyone feels they belong.

We wish all our children every success in their efforts as they continue to grow and shine.



Girls and Boys Gaelic Football Championships

Our girls' team delivered an outstanding performance in the semi-final of the President's Cup against St. Michael's, securing a brilliant four-point victory. Their teamwork and determination were evident throughout, and they should be immensely proud of their achievement.

Our boys met St. Michael's in the semi-final of the Raffo Cup. Despite extremely challenging conditions, with snow and sleet throughout, they showed remarkable resilience and focus to edge a very tight game and earn their place in the final. Their attitude and commitment in such weather were exceptional.

Both our girls' and boys' teams have now progressed to their respective finals, which will take place on Wednesday 15th April at Rossa GAC.

In the finals, the girls will compete against Holy Trinity Primary School, while the boys will face Bunscoil Phobal Feirste. Having two teams reach finals day is a tremendous honour for St. Anne's, and a testament to the hard work of our pupils and coaches. We wish both teams every success as they prepare for these important matches.

Ulster Indoor Championships

Our girls' football team represented the school at the Cumann na mBunscol Ulster Finals Day at Meadowbank Arena, Magherafelt. Although they did not progress further in the competition, the calibre of skill and intensity at this level is exceptionally high, and our girls rose to the occasion with determination and heart.

Reaching this stage and representing both the school and Antrim at provincial level is a fantastic achievement. They did themselves proud, showing teamwork, resilience and exemplary conduct throughout. We are extremely proud of every one of them.

Éire Óg

We were delighted to welcome back John from Éire Óg for some bonus coaching sessions with our P3 classes. This unexpected but very welcome opportunity will give some of our youngest players a chance to further develop their fundamental skills in a fun and supportive environment.

We are incredibly grateful to Éire Óg for their ongoing commitment to helping our pupils grow in confidence and ability.

Cross Country Competition

We also enjoyed remarkable success in the cross-country heats. We had a P7 boys' winner, a runner-up in the P6 boys' race, and another P6 boy finishing fifth. In the P6 girls' race, we secured an impressive second place. Alongside these podium finishes, several of our pupils achieved top-ten positions across the races — a fantastic accomplishment given that each event had around fifty competitors.

We now look forward to the finals in Mallusk this month, where St. Anne's will once again be proudly represented.

Cleveland Basketball

P4 Basketball Coaching will begin on Monday 13th April for all four classes, led by Coach Carla. Pupils will take part in skills-based sessions designed to build confidence, teamwork and physical development.

Girls Soccer Squad

On 16th April, the girls soccer team will travel to Finaghy Primary School for a friendly match at the Finaghy Primary Sportzone. The girls are eager to put their developing skills into action. We are looking forward to an afternoon of teamwork and sporting spirit.



Nursery News

Football Programme

We are pleased to share that Sonal Sports will be visiting the nursery this term to deliver a series of fun soccer-skills sessions.

Their Tiny Kickz programme introduces basic movements in an enjoyable way, supporting children's confidence, balance, coordination, teamwork and spatial awareness. This month's sessions will take place on 16th, 23rd and 30th April.

We look forward to welcoming Coach Paul and giving our nursery children the chance to continue developing their physical skills through active, hands-on learning.

Creepy Crawly Classroom Takeover

We are delighted to welcome Wee Critters to nursery on Wednesday 22nd April for an interactive mobile animal workshop. The children will have the chance to meet a range of fascinating minibeasts — including It promises to be a fun, hands-on learning experience for everyone.

Shared Education

Our final PeacePLUS Aspire Shared Education session with Barbour Nursery School will take place on Wednesday 29th April at Streamvale Farm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a year of partnership, shared learning and new friendships.

We would appreciate parent or grandparent volunteers to help make the day extra special. A Google Form for volunteer sign-ups will be shared via Seesaw, or you can speak directly with your child's class teacher.

We are looking forward to a joyful celebration together.

Songs, smiles and Springtime Cheer

Just before the Easter break, pupils from Mr Gribben's P6 class visited the residents of Kilwee Nursing Home.

The children performed for them and brought plenty of smiles, spreading a little joy during their afternoon. Although it was a last-minute arrangement, it was absolutely worth it - a lovely experience for both pupils and residents alike.

Freckle March Update

Our pupils have now spent an impressive 28.1K minutes practising across all subjects on Freckle — a fantastic increase from 23.7K minutes in February. This shows just how motivated and engaged our learners have become.

To keep the momentum going, pupils and classes receive shout-outs at assemblies, and our Freckle Leaderboard is on display to track class engagement and celebrate those making the biggest effort. The children love seeing their progress recognised.

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

P2: Mrs Murphy/Mrs Collins
P3: Mrs Stott/ Mrs Cullen
P4: Ms Fitzpatrick/Ms Houten
P5: Mrs Cavanagh
P6: Mr Gribben
P7: Mrs Watson

Regular use of Freckle brings real benefits: it adapts to each child's level, builds confidence through achievable steps, and strengthens core skills in maths. Encouraging your child to spend a little time on Freckle each week helps reinforce classroom learning and supports steady, meaningful progress.



THE
**CHANGING LIVES
INITIATIVE**
FLOURISH & THRIVE

Thinking outside the box

How Different Brains Learn
& Grow

Raising a child who learns differently brings both joys and challenges. This workshop helps parents understand how children's brains grow and adapt, with simple strategies to support learning at home.

Whether your child has a diagnosis, is waiting, or you're just beginning to wonder, this session offers knowledge, confidence, and practical strategies you can use straight away.

In this workshop you can expect:

- ✓ Parent-friendly information on how children's brains learn
- ✓ Everyday strategies to support your child
- ✓ A focus on strengths as well as challenges



Free Workshop For
Parents and Caregivers

Event Details:



17th APRIL 2026



10:30AM - 11:30AM



GREENWAY WOMENS
CENTRE
19 GREENWAY
BT6 0DT



SCAN HERE