

In the Loop

SAINTANNESPS.COM

MAY 2026



Our Community Going the Distance for Our Children

On Sunday 3rd May 2026, an extraordinary team of 70 runners—made up of staff, parents, and friends of St Anne's—will take to the streets of Belfast for this year's Marathon Challenge. It's a remarkable show of unity, determination, and belief in what our school community can achieve together.

This year, our goal is ambitious: to raise £60,000 to purchase new iPads and Chromebooks for every class. This investment will directly enhance teaching and learning across the school, ensuring every child benefits from high-quality digital tools that support creativity, independence, and modern learning. Our runners are stepping forward because they believe our pupils deserve the very best opportunities. Every mile they complete brings us closer to transforming their classrooms.

How You Can Support the Team:

- **Donate:** Contributions of any size make a real difference. You can support the team at: <https://gofund.me/42b0fe849>
- **Share:** Spread the word among family, friends, and colleagues to help us reach our target.
- **Cheer:** Join us on 3rd May to encourage our runners along the route and celebrate their incredible effort.

As a school community, we know that when we come together, we can achieve extraordinary things. Every contribution, big or small, will make a meaningful difference to our pupils and school community. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Together, we can go the distance for our children.



' MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW '



Dates for your Diary

1st May: Staff Development Day
4th May: Bank Holiday
5th May: Staff Development Day
22nd May: School Closure
25th May: Bank Holiday

First Communion Celebrations

We look forward to celebrating this special sacrament with our Primary 4 pupils and their families on the following dates:

- **Sunday 10th May:** P4LB
- **Sunday 17th May:** P4NF/CH
- **Sunday 31st May:** P4CG
- **Sunday 7th June:** P4LH

A photographer will be available on the day for individual, family, and class photographs. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre for families to enjoy together.

We keep all our children in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this important milestone in their faith journey.

Cathedral Choir

Auditions for St. Peter's Cathedral Choir will be held on 15th May for our Primary 5 pupils.

Confirmed in Faith

Congratulations to our Primary 7 pupils on making their Confirmation. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the sacramental services and celebrations so special, including Rathmore students, parental and parish volunteers.

Particular thanks to Father Martin for leading such personable and thoughtful services, which were greatly appreciated by pupils, families, and staff alike.

School Singing Showcase

All our Primary 5 pupils will take part in St. Peter's Cathedral on 21st May at 11.00am, filling the beautiful space with their harmony, enthusiasm and hard work. This special occasion is a wonderful opportunity for the children to share their love of singing in a truly memorable setting. Parents and carers are warmly welcome to join us and enjoy this uplifting celebration of music and talent.

The poster features a photograph of the interior of St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast, showing the nave with its high vaulted ceiling and Gothic architecture. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top left is the St. Peter's Catholic Cathedral, Belfast logo. The main text reads: "JOIN US FOR SCHOOL SINGING SHOWCASE Thursday 21 May". Below this, it lists the participating schools: "FEATURING P5 PUPILS FROM HOLY EVANGELISTS' PS, ST ANNE'S PS, ST PETER'S PS, HOLY CHILD PS, HOLY ROSARY PS, OUR LADY OF LOURDES PS". At the bottom, it states: "ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL, BELFAST THURSDAY 21 MAY 11AM".

St Peter's
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

JOIN US FOR
SCHOOL SINGING SHOWCASE
Thursday 21 May

FEATURING P5 PUPILS FROM HOLY EVANGELISTS' PS, ST ANNE'S PS, ST PETER'S PS, HOLY CHILD PS, HOLY ROSARY PS, OUR LADY OF LOURDES PS

ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL, BELFAST
THURSDAY 21 MAY 11AM



Step back in Time

Our Primary 2 pupils are getting ready for an exciting adventure to Cultra Museum on 8th May. They'll step back in time to explore old cottages, peek inside vintage shops, and discover how people lived long ago. With plenty to see, touch, and imagine, it promises to be a fun-filled day of curiosity, storytelling, and hands-on learning for our little historians.

Wizard of Oz Performances

Our school production of The Wizard of Oz will take to the stage on:

Wednesday 28th May:

Classes of Miss A O'Neill and Mr Donnelly

Thursday 29th May: Classes of Mrs Watson and Ms Mullan

Pupils have been working hard to learn their lines, perfect their timing, and rehearse scenes filled with humour, heart, and classic Wizard of Oz charm.

It promises to be a colourful, joyful production that celebrates the talent and teamwork of our young performers.

International Research

Two of our Primary 6 classes will participate in the PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) assessment, an international study that explores how children develop reading and comprehension skills.

This is a valuable opportunity for pupils to engage with a range of reading tasks while contributing to important research that informs literacy teaching worldwide. We know our P6 pupils will approach the assessment with confidence and maturity.

A Magical Morning in Wonderland

Pupils from P4–P7 will enjoy a special performance of M & M Productions' Alice in Wonderland in the Parish Hall on 8th May. This interactive show brings the classic story to life with music, humour, and vibrant characters, offering a fun and engaging theatre experience for our pupils.

Post Primary Admissions

Parents/carers will be informed of the outcome of their post primary applications on Saturday 9th May 2026, via the EA Connect Portal.

Nursery News

Sonal Sportz

Coach Paul will continue his sessions with our nursery children on 7th and 14th May, giving them the chance to further develop their physical skills through fun, active, hands-on learning.

Nursery Sports' Day

This will take place on 15th May in the Nursery grounds, beginning at 10.00am.

All pupils will have the opportunity to participate in all the challenges and will perform a warmup and cool down routine.

P1 for a Day!

Our Nursery pupils will enjoy a special 'P1 for a Day!' experience on 21st May, spending the morning from 9:30am–1:00pm in the Primary One classrooms. The children will take part in playful learning activities and even have their dinner in the P1 canteen, giving them a wonderful taste of life in Primary One. This visit helps build confidence and excitement as they prepare for their transition in September.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Following a recent review of our site with a Health and Safety Officer, I am writing to ask for your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone on our school grounds.

While we recognise that the car park gate is accessible, we would strongly encourage all parents, children and visitors to use the designated pedestrian entrance when arriving at and leaving the school. The car park is a busy area with vehicle movement, and using this route on foot presents an avoidable safety risk.

The pedestrian gate provides a safer and more appropriate access point, particularly at the start and end of the school day when there is increased traffic.

I appreciate that routines can be difficult to change, but this small adjustment will make a significant difference in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

Please can you pass this message onto to anyone who does the drop off or collects your child.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Ciarán Conway
Principal



Carpark Gate



Pedestrian Gate

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.

Wednesday 6th May: P4 Mr Higgins and P4 Ms Fitzpatrick

Wednesday 13th May: P4 Mrs Brown and P4 Ms Gillespie

Wednesday 20th May: P5 Mrs Mayne, P4 Mr Higgins and P4 Ms Fitzpatrick

Wednesday 27th May: P5 Miss Edwards, P4 Mrs Brown and P4 Miss Gillespie

P1-P3 Sports Days

We are looking forward to our Annual Year Group Sports Day events, beginning at 10.00am on the following dates (weather permitting):

- **19th May** – Primary 1
- **20th May** – Primary 2
- **21st May** – Primary 3

Parents and carers are welcome to attend as spectators. Pupils should attend school as normal. After completing their events, children may be taken home or remain in school as usual. Further information will be shared closer to the dates.



Residential Information Session

Parents and carers of Primary 7 pupils attending the upcoming Carlingford residential are invited to an important information session on Tuesday 12th May at 9.10am in the Rowan Building Hall.

This session will outline key details about the trip and how pupils can best prepare for their residential experience. We strongly encourage all parents to attend so that everyone is fully informed and ready for this exciting opportunity.

P1 are on the Moo-ve

Our Primary 1 pupils will visit Streamvale Farm on 21st May as part of their topic on Food and Farming. The children will enjoy meeting the animals, learning where our food comes from, and exploring life on a real working farm.

With hands-on experiences, outdoor fun and plenty of curiosity along the way, it promises to be a memorable learning adventure for our P1s.

Certificates for the Month of May

To celebrate the children's excellent work and to encourage positive behaviour at St. Anne's, a range of certificates is awarded each month. In May, certificates will be presented for:

- Caring for school property
- Making a fantastic effort in class
- Showing excellent manners
- Completing wonderful homework

These certificates will be presented and acknowledged during year group and key stage assemblies.

Parent-Pupil Contact Details

If there has been any change to your address, telephone number, or email address, please inform the school office as soon as possible. This ensures we have the most up-to-date information should we need to contact you. Thank you for your cooperation.

info@stannes.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Access Communication
Embracing Neurodiversity

Parent Line NI
0808 8020 400

Safe To Be Me

New workshop for parents and carers on how to create Islands of Safety for Neurodivergent Children.
Delivered by Elaine McGreevy

- Consider how emotional safety may look different across childhood
- Recognise the impact of emotional burden and living in a demanding world
- From reaction to response- when things escalate- understanding the loop
- Explore how small, reliable moments, spaces and relationships can offer relief and regulation.

Wednesday 13th May
7pm-8.30pm on Zoom
Call NOW to book your Free Place
0808 8020 400



Celebrating Our Common Sense School Achievement!

We are thrilled to announce that our school is now a Common Sense School, proudly earning a Digital Badge that recognises our commitment to teaching pupils how to be safe, responsible digital citizens.



This achievement celebrates our whole-school dedication to creating a positive culture of digital citizenship, supporting students to use technology confidently, kindly, and wisely. This short [video](#) helps to explain what this digital badge means.

Digital Citizenship and Well Being

Monthly Focus: Digital Footprint & Identity

Every "like" and photo creates a permanent trail. Your online reputation is as vital as your offline one.

Remind your child: "If you wouldn't want your teacher to see it, don't post, heart, or share it."

Help Kids Post, Comment, and Upload Responsibly



As soon as you share the first photo of your kid, you're establishing their digital footprint. As kids get older and start creating their own content or engaging with others online, it's important for them to understand the tracks they're leaving behind and what those tracks might reveal. Parents can help guide kids toward creating the kind of footprint they can be proud of.

Check out these 4 tips 📱



Be a role model.

Before you post a photo of your kid on social media, ask if it's OK to share. Not only will you give them control over their own digital footprint, you'll also be showing them what you expect them to do with others' photos.



Use privacy settings.

Together, go through all the settings on new apps to make sure you both know what information your kids are sharing. Especially in the beginning, it's better to share very little.



Question everything.

Before you sign school forms or register for a new online service for your kid, check the privacy policy to see what kind of information you're giving the school or company and who they're sharing it with. Sharing some data might be required, but you may be able to opt out of others. Talk with your kid about why it's important to protect your personal data.



Use a celebrity as an example.

With older kids, choose a celebrity or another famous person and look through their Twitter or Instagram posts with your kid. Discuss your impressions of them based on what they post. Ask your kid what kind of image they'd like to project online.



DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & IDENTITY
WE DEFINE WHO WE ARE.

commonsense.org/education
GRADES K-5 FAMILY TIPS: DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & IDENTITY
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The Graduates

On Thursday, 14th May, our P6 and P7 Dream Space Ambassadors will attend their Dream Space Ambassador Graduation in W5, celebrating their learning and achievements throughout the programme.

This exciting day recognises

months of hard work, teamwork, creativity, and leadership. Pupils will enjoy a range of engaging activities and will be presented with certificates to acknowledge their commitment and efforts.

We are extremely proud of our Dream Space Ambassadors and all they have accomplished.

In the Loop

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



Cup Championships Update

We are immensely proud of the achievements of both our boys' and girls' teams this year.

The boys have performed exceptionally well, reaching the Raffo Cup Final for an incredible four consecutive years — an outstanding achievement. Although they were unfortunately beaten on the day by a very strong Bunscoil Phobal Feirste team, they represented the school

with determination, skill and exemplary sportsmanship throughout the competition.

The girls' team have also achieved something truly remarkable, securing the President's Cup for the third year in a row. This sustained level of success is a testament to their commitment, talent and consistency. Their victory against Holy Trinity highlights the hard work and dedication shown by the players both on and off the field.

A special word of thanks must go to all the coaches. Their time, and ongoing commitment to developing the children, not only in terms of sporting skills but also teamwork, confidence and resilience is greatly appreciated.



Nominated

Our Girls' Gaelic Team has been shortlisted for three award categories at this year's Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards, which is a tremendous achievement and a real credit to both the players and their coaches.

- School Sporting Achievement of the Year
- Schools Team of the Year
- Young Team of the Year

We wish the entire team the very best of luck at the awards ceremony, which takes place on 28th May.



Camogie

Well done to our camogie girls who won all their matches in the Cumann na mBunscol Aontroma Belfast Schools' League, playing against St Joseph's Carryduff, St Michael's, and St Bernard's Wynchurch.

The girls continue to train hard and wear their St Anne's jerseys with pride. Their next match takes place on 20th May. We are very proud of them all.

Hurling

The Hurling League competition was very strong in the Cumann na mBunscol Aontroma Belfast Schools' League.

Our boys gave their best performance in every match. They faced tough opposition, losing to Bunscoil and St John the Baptist, but showed great determination throughout. Their hard work was rewarded with a well-deserved win against Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Athletics

The Mallusk Cross Country finals were a great success, with over 80 competitors in each race, from schools across Belfast. Our runners produced excellent performances and gained valuable experience.

We achieved four top-ten finishes, including:

- P6 Girls: Two runners finishing 9th
- P6 Boys: One runner finishing 13th
- P7 Girls: Two runners finishing in 5th and in 13th
- P7 Boys: One runner finishing 5th

Well done to all competitors for their fantastic effort and commitment.

Positive Kick Off

The Girls Soccer Development Team enjoyed a fantastic friendly against Finaghy Primary School, finishing with a hard-fought 2-1 win.

There was plenty of energy on the pitch, with great teamwork. They can't wait to lace up again for the next match!

Eire Og

A huge thank you to Éire Óg for their very generous donation, which has helped us purchase new PE equipment. As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support as our parish club. The pupils are absolutely loving the new resources.





School Attendance

In line with all schools, we have a responsibility, working alongside the Education Welfare Officer, to monitor pupils' attendance and punctuality. This information also contributes to your child's end-of-year report. While we recognise that there may, at times, be circumstances that affect attendance, regular and punctual attendance plays a vital role in helping your child achieve the best possible outcomes.

Percentage attendance = Days missed

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

If you are experiencing any challenges or difficulties that may be affecting your child's attendance or punctuality, we encourage you to speak with your child's class teacher as early as possible so that we can work together to find a solution. Further advice and guidance on supporting your child's attendance is available in *School Matters – A Parents' Guide*, published by the Department for Education.

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/attendance-matters-a-parents-guide.pdf> or in St Anne's Attendance Policy on our school website: <https://saintannesps.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Attendance-Policy-2018.pdf>

Freckle: April Update

Our pupils have collectively spent 11.8 thousand minutes practising across all subjects on Freckle. While this total is slightly lower than our March figure, this is expected due to the Easter break interrupting usual routines. A special well done to the following classes who recorded the highest usage in their year groups:

- **P2:** Mrs Murphy / Mrs Collins
- **P3:** Mrs McGuinness
- **P4:** Ms Brown
- **P5:** Mrs Cavanagh
- **P6:** Miss Payne
- **P7:** Mrs Watson



Freckle provides targeted practice at the right level for each child, helping to build confidence and strengthen key maths skills. Short, regular sessions each week make a real difference, and we encourage parents to support their child in practising at home as routines settle for the new term.