

In the Loop

WWW.STANNESPS.COM

SEPTEMBER 2026



Gentle reminder:

To help with planning for the year ahead, the 2026-2027 Holiday List is available on our website, in the school calendar, and as a downloadable PDF in the Documents section.

24th and 25th September:

School will be closed to pupils.

Your Response is Needed

If your child is in Primary 2 to Primary 7, please complete the online Special Requirements Form using the link already shared, if relevant.

These forms help us support your child effectively, so we would be grateful if you could submit them as soon as possible. The deadline is Friday 4th September 2026.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we begin a new school year together, we look forward to what promises to be a truly special year for our school community.

As we embark on our 70th anniversary celebrations, we give thanks for the generations of pupils, families, staff, governors and the wider Parish Family of St. Anne's who have helped build and sustain our wonderful school community over the past seven decades.

Rooted in faith and guided by our shared values of kindness, respect, belonging, growth and connection, we look forward to celebrating our rich history while creating new memories together.

We are excited for the year ahead and grateful for your continued partnership as we help every child learn, flourish and reach their full potential.

Mr Ciarán Conway
Principal

— CELEBRATING —
70 YEARS
— 1956 - 2026 —
ST. ANNE'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



'MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW'



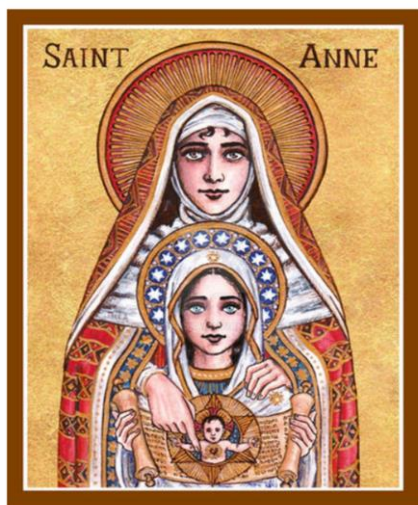


OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

DEAR SAINT ANNE,

HELP US TO BE THANKFUL.
WATCH OVER US WITH CARE.
INSPIRE US TO TRY OUR BEST,
TO LOVE, LEARN AND SHARE.
ST. ANNE, MOTHER OF MARY
AND GRANDMOTHER OF JESUS,
PRAY FOR US.

AMEN.



Growing in Faith Together

At St. Anne's, our faith is at the heart of all that we do. Guided by Father Martin, we look forward to journeying together in faith throughout the year, helping every child to grow in their relationship with God and with one another. Through the celebration of Mass, preparation for the Sacraments, prayer, and other special liturgical events, we will come together as a school and parish community to live out our faith and values each day.

Weekend Masses are celebrated in St. Anne's Church at 5.00pm on Saturday (Vigil Mass) and 11.00am on Sunday.

10th Antrim Scout Group based in St. Anne's Parish Centre is welcoming new members. Scan the QR Code to join their waiting list.



Parental/Caregiver Permissions

To help school life run smoothly, the permissions you have previously given for your child will continue to apply throughout this academic year.

Should you wish to amend any of these permissions or discuss them further, please contact the school office at info@stannesps.belfast.ni.sch.uk

SEAG Registration; Deadline approaching

A reminder that SEAG registration closes on Friday 18th September. Any child wishing to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment in November must be fully registered by this date. Registration is completed online at www.seagni.co.uk Families eligible for Free School Meals Entitlement can register without paying the fee.

Starting the Year Together

We warmly invite parents and caregivers to our annual Curriculum Meetings. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, visit their classroom, and learn more about the year ahead.

Curriculum Meetings (9.10am - 9.40am)

- 3rd September: P7
- 4th September: P6
- 8th September: P3
- 9th September: P5
- 10th September: P4
- 11th September: P2
- 21st September: P1

To facilitate these meetings, children should line up in their usual designated areas, where they will be welcomed and guided by the Vice Principals and other members of staff.

While parents and caregivers meet with teachers, pupils will enjoy their 'Welcome Back to School' Assemblies. Parents and caregivers should proceed directly to their child's classroom.

EA Music

Music lessons for P4–P7 pupils will begin in the week commencing 1st September. Please ensure your child brings their instrument on the correct day so they are ready for their lesson.



Sporting Partnerships

Our pupils will enjoy a wide range of sporting activities this term:

Primary 3 will take part in a 6-week Gaelic games programme with Coach John from Éire Óg. It's wonderful to work so closely with our parish club.

Primary 4 will begin a 6-week block of hurling delivered by Coach Mark from Gaelfast.

Cleveland Basketball sessions will start with the P5 year group, led by Coach Carla. We are extremely grateful to Paul Cooper of Coopers Chemist, who is generously sponsoring the Cleveland coaching programme in our school. Thanks to this support, sessions are fully funded, providing approximately £1,800 worth of coaching for our pupils across the year.

Swimming Lessons: All P5 classes and two P6 classes will attend swimming lessons at Olympia Leisure Centre, beginning 14th September. These lessons form an important part of the statutory PE curriculum, ensuring pupils develop essential water safety and swimming skills.

School Sports Teams

Pupils will shortly receive information about the start dates for training across our various school teams. We look forward to another exciting year and hope to build on the fantastic success of last season.

School Choir

Mrs McGleenan and Mrs Collins are delighted to be restarting choir rehearsals on Thursday 17th September, and we're excited to welcome everyone back to choir. If your child would prefer not to continue this year, please send in a short note to let them know.

Jo Jingles

We are delighted to welcome Miss Nicola to Nursery for a series of fun, engaging Jo Jingles music and movement sessions. The first sessions will take place on Monday 21st September and 28th September, with further dates to follow in October.

These classes will support children's attention and listening, following simple instructions, exploring rhythm and beat, and enjoying a range of percussion instruments. We look forward to seeing our Nursery pupils enjoy this wonderful musical experience and will share highlights with you on Seesaw.

Our PTA Needs You

Our PTA is a brilliant team of volunteers who help raise vital funds and strengthen our school community. We are inviting new members to come along and get involved.

The PTA meets once a month in the Birch Building, with reminders sent by text or email. Our first meeting of the year is on Tuesday 1st September at 6.30pm.

If you want to support the school, share ideas and make a real impact, come along and join us. We would love to see you there.

PTA After School Programme

We are excited to launch our After School Programme for P2-P7 pupils from Monday 7th September. Registration details and the full schedule have already been shared with families. P1 pupils will join after the mid-term break to allow time to settle into school routines.

All club leaders will complete an orientation and safeguarding session before starting, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for every child.



Inspiring Learning Through Innovation

We have successfully re-enrolled in the Dream Space Ambassador Programme, building on last year's achievement of the prestigious Platinum Award.

This innovative programme gives pupils exciting opportunities to develop their creativity, curiosity and digital skills through hands-on experiences and high-quality resources.

We look forward to the positive impact this will have on our pupils and our wider school community.

Nerve Partnership School

We are delighted to share that St. Anne's has been successful in our application to become a Nerve Partnership School, with a special focus on film-making. This partnership will give pupils exciting opportunities to develop their creativity, storytelling and digital production skills, while also supporting the growth of our pupils as digital leaders.

As part of the programme, staff will take part in CPD sessions, strengthening our whole-school expertise in digital media and film-making.

NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Week

Our whole school will take part in Speak Out Stay Safe Week from 28th September to 2nd October. Pupils will engage in a range of assemblies, year-group sessions and class-based activities designed to help them understand how to stay safe, recognise trusted adults and know who to turn to if they ever need support.

Learning Community Partnership

We are delighted to continue working with Good Shepherd P.S., Holy Child P.S., Stranmillis University and INTO Film as part of our shared learning community. This collaboration supports the development of children's creativity and imagination, giving pupils rich opportunities to learn alongside partner schools and industry experts.

Leadership Update

We extend our warmest good wishes to Miss A O'Neill as she takes on the role of Acting Vice-Principal in Ms Mallon's absence. Miss O'Neill brings great experience, energy and compassion to her work, and we look forward to supporting her in this leadership role.

'For Arts' Sake' Programme

We are thrilled to be involved in the 'For Arts' Sake' Programme following a successful application. Each of our four P6 classes will work alongside a visiting artist, with the first block of lessons focusing on ceramics, another valuable opportunity to develop our children's creativity and self-expression.

Freckle Maths

P2-P7 pupils will soon receive their Freckle log-in details. We ask for your support in encouraging your child to complete their Freckle homework and to use the programme regularly to practise and consolidate key mathematical skills, which complement their class work.

Pupil success, individual and class, will be celebrated in our monthly assemblies, recognising accuracy, time practised, and overall engagement with the programme.

School Transport

Translink school bus services will be operational from Tuesday 1st September. Details about bus procedures and routes are available on the school website.



A Special Welcome

A warm welcome to all our new Nursery and Primary 1 pupils and their families as they begin their journey with us. Our phased induction programme is now in progress, supporting positive early transitions and helping us build strong, trusting relationships with pupils, parents and caregivers from the very start.

You can find further information in our Nursery and P1 Welcome and Induction Booklets. Our staff team is always available should you need any assistance.

We also extend a warm welcome to the new pupils joining us across other year groups, and we look forward to supporting them as they settle into school life.

Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice elections for our School Council and Eco-Agency will take place during the week beginning 21st September (P4). The Eco-Agents and School Councillors elected last year will remain in post for this academic year, providing continuity and allowing them to build on the great work already underway.

We look forward to continued collaboration between both pupil groups as they work together towards achieving the Rights Respecting School Award, helping pupils develop confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Road Safety

Our School Council has created a fantastic road safety video to help keep everyone safe on their journey to and from school. Please take a moment to watch it by scanning the QR code.

We kindly ask all parents and caregivers to support our message by parking safely and responsibly around the school, helping to keep our children safe every day.



School Improvements

Over the summer, our P1 and P2 classrooms received a refreshed look, with new paintwork and flooring creating bright, welcoming learning spaces.

We have also installed new interior and exterior signage reflecting our school's vision, mission and values, helping to create a consistent and engaging environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Our boiler replacement scheme also continued during the summer period, ensuring improved efficiency and reliability across the school.

In addition, we are pleased to share that our minor works application to upgrade the playground surfaces has been successful, and this improvement project will hopefully begin shortly.

Eco Update

This year, we will be working towards the renewal of our Green Flag Status, with a strong focus on global perspectives, outdoor learning, and enhancing biodiversity around our school site. Our Eco-Agency will continue to lead work on litter management, active travel and recycling, helping pupils make sustainable choices and keep our school and local community clean.

An expression of interest will be sent out for pupils who wish to join the Wedderburn Walking Bus, supporting our active travel initiative and helping to keep our school community safe and sustainable. To enable the Walking Bus to run, we are also seeking parent volunteers who can give a little time in the mornings to help supervise the route. Your support would make a meaningful difference and help us continue this valuable eco-friendly initiative.

Finally, if you have any skills, time or expertise that could support our eco-efforts, please get in contact. We warmly welcome your involvement as part of our shared, collective responsibility.