

OCTOBER 2026



## Dates for your diary:

**Flu Vaccinations:** The School Health Team will administer flu vaccinations on Tuesday 14th October to those pupils whose parents and caregivers have granted permissions.

**PTA Meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm. Staff Room Brich Building. New members are welcome and very much needed!

**Halloween Themed School Dinners:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**PTA Halloween Coffee Morning:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – canteen Birch Building

**Midterm:** The school will be closed from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October for the midterm break.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:** Our formal parent teacher meetings provide an opportunity for you to discuss the progress of your child with the class teacher. These will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.



## Value of the Month

Our Value of the Month for October is **Respect**.

Respect is an important part of who we are as a school community. We live out this value each day through the way we speak to one another, listen to others, show kindness, celebrate differences and care for our school and each other.

Throughout October, pupils will be encouraged to demonstrate **Respect** through their words, actions and choices. We will recognise and celebrate examples of pupils living out this important value during our school Assemblies, sharing the positive difference Respect makes to our school community.

Together, we can ensure that everyone in our school feels valued, included, cared for and that they belong.

## Nursery News

### Big Bedtime Read: *Room on the Broom* Sensory Story

St Anne's Nursery Unit is delighted to be taking part in the Getting Ready to Learn initiative, a programme designed to encourage and develop parental involvement in children's early learning. Through the programme, we have developed a series of home-learning lending packs that aim to nurture a love of stories and books, alongside fun activities to support the development of fine and gross motor skills. We are excited to launch our home-learning programme with our Big Bedtime Read:

- **Date: Tuesday 20th October**
- **Time: 7.00pm**
- **Location: Nursery, Willow Building**

Come along and meet Penny the Pumpkin, who will be joined by the Witch from *Room on the Broom* for a fun and entertaining retelling of this much-loved Halloween story. Children are welcome to come along in their **pyjamas**, but please remember to wrap up warmly!

For more information, visit: <https://www.gettingreadytolearn.co.uk/>





## Nursery Librarian Visit

We are delighted to welcome Miss Barbara from Finaghy Library to the Nursery on **Tuesday 6th October** for the first of her monthly visits. Miss Barbara will bring along a wonderful selection of Autumn and Halloween inspired stories to share with the boys and girls. We are really looking forward to welcoming her to the Nursery and enjoying some special story time together!

## Jo Jingles

Nursery pupils will continue their fun-filled Jo Jingles music and movement sessions with Miss Nicola on **Monday 5th, 12th and 19th October**. These enjoyable sessions provide lots of opportunities for pupils to develop their attention and listening skills, follow simple instructions, and explore rhythm and beat. The children will also have great fun using a range of percussion instruments as they learn and explore through music and movement.

## Halloween Music Morning

Our P1, P2 and P3 pupils are getting ready for a SPOOKTACULAR Halloween Music Morning! Each year group will perform a selection of Halloween-themed songs and music. We are also delighted to welcome our Nursery children to enjoy the P1 performance.



## NSPCC WEEK SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE

From Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October, our whole school will be taking part in **NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe. Week**.

## UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools Award

At St Anne's, we are working towards becoming a UNCRC Rights Respecting School. This award, led by UNICEF, helps children learn about their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and encourages them to respect the rights of others. Through this work, we aim to create a positive, inclusive school community where every child feels safe, valued, listened to and empowered to reach their full potential.

## FEEL GOOD FRIDAY

To celebrate the end of NSPCC Week, we will hold a **Feel-Good Friday** on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**, dedicated to Article 31: The Right to Rest and Play.

Pupils will enjoy an hour of cooperative games, construction activities and outdoor play, helping them understand the importance of relaxation, recreation and play as a fundamental children's right.

## P5 Cathedral Singing – School Singing Programme

Our P5 pupils will have the exciting opportunity to participate in the 2026 School Singing Programme at St Peter's Cathedral. Beginning on **8th October**, children will learn new songs, develop their vocal skills and experience the joy of singing alongside pupils from other schools across Belfast. Led through the Schools Singing Programme at St Peter's Cathedral, this enriching initiative will help pupils build confidence, teamwork and performance skills while fostering a lifelong appreciation of music.

## P5 Fire Service Visit

On **13th October**, our Primary 5 pupils will welcome the Fire Service to school for an informative and engaging visit. Pupils will learn about the important role firefighters play in keeping our communities safe and find out more about the different aspects of their work. The visit will also focus on important fire safety messages, helping pupils understand how to prevent fires, recognise potential dangers and know what to do in an emergency. There will be plenty of opportunities for the children to ask questions and learn directly from the firefighters.





## Maths Week Ireland: Let's Get Mathematical!

Beginning Monday **12th October**, we will be celebrating Maths Week Ireland across the school, with plenty of opportunities to show that maths can be fun, exciting and all around us!

Throughout the week, pupils will enjoy a range of hands-on activities, including maths games, puzzles, number challenges, problem-solving activities, investigations and maths trails. Most importantly, Maths Week is about building confidence, curiosity and a positive attitude towards maths. We can't wait to see lots of enthusiastic mathematicians thinking, exploring, playing and having fun with numbers!

## For Art Sake

Throughout October, P6 BMcK will be working with Andrea, their ceramics teacher, on four exciting pieces linked to their Titanic topic in WAU. The children will use their creativity and ceramic skills to make a Captain Smith character, a small model of the Titanic, and ceramic tiles focusing on key events from the Titanic story. way.

## PeacePlayers with Cranmore Primary School

We are delighted that our P6 BMcK class will take part in the PeacePlayers Programme with Cranmore beginning on **Monday 19th October**. PeacePlayers is a programme that brings children and young people from different schools and communities together through sport, particularly basketball. It provides opportunities for children to meet, get to know one another and build positive friendships in a fun and supportive environment.

It is also a lovely opportunity for pupils to celebrate what they have in common, appreciate differences and learn from one another.



**PEACE PLAYERS**  
NORTHERN IRELAND

## P5 Cleveland Basketball Coaching with Coach Carla

Our P5 pupils will continue their exciting opportunity to take part in basketball coaching sessions with Coach Carla from Cleveland Basketball Club. Throughout the programme, the children will further develop their skills in dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork through a variety of fun and engaging activities.



Pupils from P1-P7 will take part in an exciting iRock Assembly on **12th October**, where they will experience the energy and fun of being part of a rock band. The children will be introduced to a range of instruments, enjoy live demonstrations, and learn how music can help to build confidence, creativity, teamwork, and resilience. The assembly will inspire our pupils to explore their musical talents and encourage everyone to get involved in making music. We look forward to seeing our young musicians develop their skills and passion for performance throughout the year.

## Playful Literacy with Stranmillis University

This month, our P4 pupils are looking forward to taking part in Playful Literacy sessions with students from Stranmillis University. Through fun, creative and interactive activities, the children will have opportunities to develop their reading, writing, communication and language skills in playful and engaging ways.





## Gaelic Football League Action

Exciting times ahead for our boys' and girls' Gaelic football teams as they prepare to compete in the Cumann na mBunscol Belfast League this October. The girls will kick off their group games on **Wednesday 7th October**, followed by the boys on **Wednesday 14th October**. Times, venues and opponents are still to be confirmed. We wish both teams the very best of luck and look forward to cheering them on!

## Gaelic Games in Action for Key Stage One!

We are delighted that our pupils will continue to enjoy their Gaelic Games sessions throughout October.

- P3: Éire Óg Gaelic sessions every Monday.
- P4: Gaelfast Hurling and Camogie every Tuesday throughout the month.

These sessions provide a fantastic opportunity for the children to be active, have fun and develop their fundamental movement and Gaelic Games skills.

## School Council

We are delighted to welcome our newly elected P4 pupils to the School Council! Being part of the School Council gives our children an important opportunity to share their ideas, represent the views of their classmates and have a voice in school life.

Throughout the year, our School Council will meet to discuss ideas, listen to suggestions from across the school and think about ways we can continue to make our school an even happier, kinder and more welcoming place for everyone.

## Cash for Clobber

Don't forget about our Cash for Clobber Clothing Bank, located in the Church car park, opposite the Parish Centre. It provides a simple way for families and members of our community to **donate unwanted clothing and textiles**, giving pre-loved items another life rather than letting them go to waste. By donating your unwanted items, you are also helping our school to receive valuable funds which will go directly towards supporting and developing our Eco projects. It's a fantastic way to have a clear-out, support our school and encourage reuse, recycling and more sustainable choices within our community.

## Eco Agent Update Pond and Wildlife Audit

Our Eco Agents will become environmental investigators on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** as they take part in a Pond and Wildlife Audit around our school grounds. Equipped with observation skills and a passion for nature, pupils will explore local habitats, identify plants and wildlife, and assess the biodiversity within our school environment. This exciting learning experience will help children develop a greater understanding of the natural world while encouraging them to become responsible stewards of the environment. The findings from the audit will support our ongoing efforts to protect and enhance wildlife habitats, helping to make our school grounds an even better place for nature to thrive.

## Eco-Elections

Well done to all P4 pupils who put themselves forward to become eco-agents. Their speeches, presentations, and posters were full of creativity, knowledge, and commitment. A big thank you to the adults who supported them throughout the process.

The newly formed Eco-Agency will hold its first meeting and eco task on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, where they'll carry out the annual audit, set targets, and begin drafting their action plan.





## Parenting Week 2026 - Making Connections –

**Monday 19 October to  
Friday 23 October 2026**

During Parenting Week 2026, we are encouraging families to celebrate the theme of Connections by spending quality time together through simple, meaningful activities at home. Families can take part in activities such as dressing for dinner, getting creative outdoors, building a cosy den, blessing others in the community, or interviewing one another.

As part of this special week, we invite parents and caregivers to complete a Connection Pledge with their child and create a shared drawing that represents what connection means to their family. We would love to display these in our PDMU area as a celebration of the strong partnerships between home and school and the importance of nurturing positive relationships (Posters and Connection Pledges will be shared with homework for the week).

Scan the QR Codes for more information on Parenting Week – Making Connections.



## Parenting Week 2026

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd October

# Making Connections

Ideas about "Making connections" help us to grow and learn!

This Parenting Week, we are inviting schools to explore the concept of "Making Connections".

We would love to hear what 'connection' looks like, feels and means to our children and have them share their wonderful ideas through posters, visual boards, drawings or word displays.

Think about what connection means to you and how you can create, develop and maintain connections.



#ParentingWeek2026  
#MakingConnections





## Safer Schools NI

Keeping children safe online is a responsibility we all share. The **Safer Schools App** provides parents and carers with helpful information, advice and guidance to support children as they navigate the online world.

The Safer Schools NI app is a free interactive safeguarding tool designed for school communities across Northern Ireland.



We encourage all parents and caregivers to download the **Safer Schools NI App** and make use of the helpful resources available.

Once downloaded, please create a parent/carer account using our school's **4-digit code: 1747**.

## Developing Healthy Habits Online

### Helping Kids Balance Their Media Lives

Technology is an important part of everyday life, but finding a healthy balance can sometimes be tricky.

Common Sense Education provides families with 5 simple tips for developing positive and healthy media habits at home, including screen-free times, family rules and making time to enjoy technology together.

Developing healthy digital habits is an important part of growing up in an increasingly connected world. We hope our learning will encourage lots of conversations at home too, helping our children to find a positive balance between enjoying technology and enjoying everything the offline world has to offer!

Scan the QR code for more support and information.



## Halloween Coffee Morning - Join Us for a Brew and a Chat!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Halloween Coffee Morning on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.00am** in the Dining Hall, Birch Building.

This is a lovely opportunity for the PTA to greet new parents, carers, and grandparents, and to reconnect with familiar faces from previous years. Whether you are meeting someone new or catching up with friends, it's a great way to spend half an hour enjoying a coffee and a chat.

There will be ballot prizes, and all proceeds will go towards supporting our school. For those short on time, take-away teas and coffees will also be available.

We hope to see you there!



Next meeting: **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 6.30pm** in the staff room, Birch Building.





## Welcoming a New School Year Together

As we begin another exciting school year, our P4, P5, P6 and P7 children will come together in the church for special Welcome Back Assemblies on **Wednesday 21st October**. Times to be confirmed and will be emailed in advanced.

Fr Martin warmly extends an invitation to all parents, caregivers and family members to join us for this special occasion as we gather in prayer, reflection and celebration.

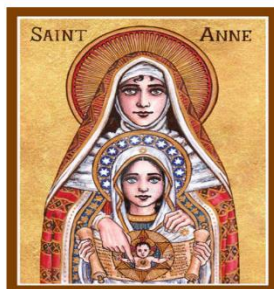
As a school community, we recognise that each new school year is a journey we take together. Our children flourish when home, school and parish work in partnership, supporting and encouraging them as they learn, grow and develop in faith.

We look forward to journeying together throughout the school year, strengthening the important partnership between our children, families, school and parish.

**Everyone is very welcome!**

## 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.



## St Anne's Parish Mass Times

### Reminder: Mass Times

- Saturday @ 5.00pm: Sunday Vigil Mass
- Sunday @ 11.00am: Children's Liturgy
- Weekday Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am

### Class Mass Rota

We are delighted to share that our programme of class Masses will begin in November. Throughout the year, each class will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass together, helping our children to grow in faith and strengthen their connection with our parish community. Further details, including dates and times for individual classes, will be shared with parents in due course.

## Have a concern about your child?

If you have any concerns about your child, the first point of contact is your child's class teacher. Should you need any additional support, you can reach out to the **Head of Key Stages**:

**Nursery:** Mrs D Hamill  
**Foundation:** Mrs L Mc Glone  
**Key Stage One:** Mrs J O'Neill  
**Key Stage Two:** Mr Teague

Here at St. Anne's the welfare of our pupils is paramount. If you have a particular concern about the safety of your child or another, you can make contact with one of the members of the **Child Protection Team**:

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: **Mrs Hunter**  
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: **Mrs McGlone**  
Deputy Designated Teacher for the Nursery: **Mrs Hamill**  
ICT Co-ordinator: **Mrs Stott**  
Head of Key Stage 2: Miss A O'Neill  
Principal: **Mr Conway**  
Designated Governor for Child Protection: **Mrs B Niblock**

Contact can be made through the school office.

### School office

The school office is open from 8.15am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

### Contact Details



Saint Anne's Primary School 50 Kingsway  
Finaghy Belfast BT10 0NE



028 9061 5414



info@stannes.belfast.ni.sch.uk



# In the Loop

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



## Online Workshops



## October 2026

|                 |                                                                                                   |                                                                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oct 1st</b>  | <b>7:30PM - 8:30PM</b><br>Stop, Think & Act:<br>Helping Children<br>Manage Impulsivity            |    |
| <b>Oct 6th</b>  | <b>7.30 - 8.30pm</b><br>Attention HQ -<br>Helping Kids Tune In<br>and Stay On Track               |   |
| <b>Oct 8th</b>  | <b>10:30AM - 11.30AM</b><br>Calm & Connected<br>Helping kids<br>understand and<br>manage emotions |  |
| <b>Oct 13th</b> | <b>10:30AM - 11.30AM</b><br>Thinking Outside the<br>Box<br>How Different Brains<br>Learn & Grow   |  |
| <b>Oct 14th</b> | <b>7:30PM - 8:30PM</b><br>Calm & Connected<br>Helping Kids Tune in<br>and Stay On Track           |  |



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