In the Loop

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NOVEMEBER 2026

Dates for your diary:

P7 SEAG Dates:

- Paper 1 - 14th November
- Paper 2 – 21st November

Parent Teacher Meetings: Our formal parent teacher meetings will take place on **Friday 27th November. School is closed to all pupils.**

PTA Meeting: Tuesday 3rd November @ 6.30pm in the Staff Room Brich Building. New members are welcome and very much needed!

Anti-Bullying Week: Monday 16th - Friday 20th Nov. The theme this year is **'Break the Silence'.** **(**More info to follow).

16th Nov – Odd Socks Day
17th Nov – School Council Peer Workshops
20th Nov – Crazy Hair Day



Value of the Month

Our Value of the Month for November is **KINDNESS**.

Throughout the month, our school community will focus on the value of Kindness. Kindness means treating everyone with care, respect and consideration through our words, actions and attitudes. It is about showing empathy, helping others, including those who may feel left out, and making positive choices that support the wellbeing of everyone around us.

As a whole-school target, pupils will be encouraged to show kindness to everyone each day, regardless of differences, friendships or circumstances. Whether through a smile, encouraging words, helping hand or thoughtful action, every act of kindness contributes to a welcoming, inclusive and supportive school community. By choosing kindness, we can make a positive difference to those around us and help ensure that St Anne's is a place where everyone feels valued, respected and cared for.

13th Nov – World Kindness Day

Nursery News

Make a Noise Programme: Key Dates: 11th, 18th and 20th

In November we will begin our Make Sound music and movement sessions. Our nursery will be filled with music, laughter and lots of movement! Children will take part in interactive music and movement sessions that are designed to be fun, energetic and full of creativity. We'll be using colourful props like scarves, ribbons and instruments to make the experience even more exciting. It's all about exploring sounds and rhythm, dance and enjoying the music! We can't wait to get dancing!

Storytime with Miss Barbara

On 3rd November, we will be delighted to welcome Miss Barbara from Finaghy Library for the second of her monthly visits to our Nursery. During her visit, Miss Barbara will share a selection of engaging stories inspired by the theme of Night and Dark, helping to foster the children's love of books, imagination and storytelling. Our children always enjoy these special visits, and we are looking forward to another morning of stories, learning and fun.

Our local libraries provide access to a wide range of children's books, family events and storytelling sessions throughout the year. You can find more information by visiting: **www.librariesni.org.uk**



'MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW'

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Playful Learning Partnership with Stranmillis University Science Students (P1-P7)

Throughout the month, pupils from P1-P7 will participate in a range of exciting and engaging activities as part of our Playful Learning Partnership with Stranmillis Science students. Working alongside the student teachers, children will explore scientific concepts through hands-on investigations, creative challenges and interactive learning experiences. These sessions will encourage curiosity, develop problem-solving skills and promote learning through play across all year groups. The partnership will provide valuable opportunities for pupils to collaborate, investigate and discover, helping to foster a lifelong love of learning and science

P2 Nativity Preparations Underway

Our P2 pupils will begin preparing for their much-anticipated Nativity performance. Through singing, acting and rehearsals, children will work together to learn their parts and bring the Christmas story to life. These preparations will help to build confidence, develop performance skills and foster a sense of teamwork as pupils look forward to sharing this special celebration with their families and the school community.

Gaelfast Hurling/Camogie Coaching

Our P3 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in Gaelfast Hurling and Camogie Coaching sessions over the coming weeks. Through a range of fun, inclusive and skill-based activities, the children will develop their fundamental hurling and camogie skills while building confidence, teamwork and coordination. The programme will encourage active participation and help foster a love of Gaelic games in a positive and supportive environment.

'Steve the Street Sweeper' Environmental Outreach Assembly

On Wednesday 4th November, our P3 and P4 pupils will participate in an engaging environmental outreach assembly led by 'Steve the Street Sweeper' from Belfast City Council. Through interactive discussions and activities, the children will learn about the importance of keeping their local environment clean, reducing litter, and showing respect for shared spaces. The session will encourage pupils to develop positive habits and understand how small actions can make a big difference in their community.

NSPCC Classroom Visits



We are pleased to welcome the NSPCC to school for classroom visits with P3&P6 on 5th&6th November. Through age-appropriate activities and discussions, children will learn about staying safe, identifying trusted adults, and speaking up if they have any worries or concerns.

These sessions support our school's commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing, helping pupils develop the confidence and knowledge they need to stay safe and seek support when needed. We look forward to this valuable learning opportunity for our children.

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Eire Óg Coaching

Our P4 pupils will take part in a series of coaching sessions delivered by Eire Óg GAC. Throughout the programme, the children will develop their Gaelic games skills through a range of fun and engaging activities. The sessions will help to promote teamwork, confidence, coordination, and sportsmanship, while encouraging pupils to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

Dream Space Ambassadors Training



Throughout the month, our Dream Space Ambassadors in P6 and P7 will take part in specialist training sessions with Mr Teague. During these sessions, pupils will develop their digital leadership skills, explore new technologies and build their confidence in using a range of digital tools. As Dream Space Ambassadors, they will play an important role in supporting technology-rich learning across the school, helping to inspire their peers and promote creativity, innovation and responsible digital citizenship

🎵 All things music and singing 🎵

On 11th November, all P5 pupils will participate in a Peace Proms Workshop at The SSE Arena, Belfast, where they will rehearse alongside pupils from other schools and further develop their singing skills. This will be followed by Session 2 of the Cathedral Singing Programme on 18th November, providing pupils with another valuable opportunity to perform as part of a larger choir while building confidence, teamwork and a love of music

P5 Cleveland Basketball Blitz

On Monday 16th November, our P5 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in the Cleveland Basketball Blitz. This exciting event will allow children to develop their basketball skills through a range of fun and competitive games while promoting teamwork, communication and sportsmanship. Pupils will enjoy representing the school, building their confidence and experiencing the excitement of participating in a sporting event alongside other local school. The blitz promises to be an enjoyable day of physical activity, cooperation and skill development.

Go Team St Anne's!

Healthy Me Programme

Throughout the month, our P6 pupils will participate in the 'Healthy Me' Programme, designed to support their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing by Action Mental Health. Through a variety of engaging and age-appropriate activities, pupils will explore topics such as healthy lifestyles, positive relationships, emotional resilience and personal wellbeing. The programme will encourage children to make informed choices, develop healthy habits and build the confidence and skills needed to support their overall health and wellbeing, both in school and beyond. To find our more scan the QR code:

For Art Sake

Mr Teague's P6 pupils will participate in a range of creative and expressive activities led by experienced arts practitioners. Through art, discussion and collaborative projects, pupils will have opportunities to develop their creativity, confidence and self-expression in a supportive environment through 'digital art'. The programme will encourage imagination, wellbeing and positive communication while providing meaningful opportunities for personal and social development.

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PeacePlayers Programme

Throughout this month, P6BMCK pupils will participate in the PeacePlayers Programme, taking part in a variety of fun, inclusive and team-based activities. Through sport and collaboration, pupils will develop important skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and respect for others. The programme will encourage children to build positive relationships, celebrate diversity and work together towards shared goals. It will provide valuable opportunities for pupils to grow in confidence while promoting friendship, inclusion and mutual understanding.

Titanic Trip

Our P6 pupils will embark on an exciting educational visit to Titanic Belfast, where they will explore the story of the Titanic through interactive exhibitions and immersive learning experiences. The visit will bring history to life, deepen pupils' understanding of Belfast's rich heritage, and provide valuable opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

Visit Dates:

- **Tuesday 18th – Mr Teague's & Miss Payne's class**
- **Wednesday 19th – Miss Lavery's & Mr McKernan's class**

We are sure this will be an informative, enjoyable and memorable experience for our pupils.

SEAG Transfer Test

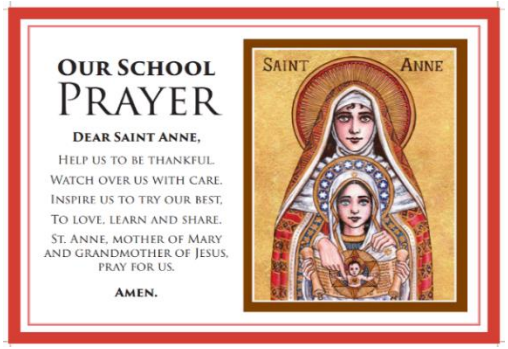
As our P7 pupils prepare to sit the SEAG Transfer Test, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication and effort they've shown throughout their preparation.

Reminder of dates:

- **Assessment Paper 1: 14th November**
- **Assessment Paper 2: 21st November**

We know this can be a significant time for both children and families, and we want to assure you that your child is in our thoughts and prayers. We are proud of each pupil and grateful for the support and encouragement you continue to provide at home.

Wishing all our P7s calm minds, confidence, and the very best of luck as they take this next step.



Trócaire Christmas Appeal Assemblies

As part of our Global Perspectives Eco-School focus this year, pupils from P2-P7 will participate in the Trócaire Christmas Appeal Assemblies in the Rowan Assembly Hall on 25th November. Through these assemblies, children will learn about Trócaire's work supporting vulnerable communities around the world, helping families access education, healthcare, clean water and sustainable livelihoods. Pupils will explore how charity fundraising and acts of solidarity can have a positive impact on the lives of others, while developing empathy, compassion and a greater understanding of global citizenship



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From **16th-20th November**, we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week 2026. This year's theme, **"Break the Silence"**, encourages children and adults to speak up about bullying, listen to one another, and work together to create a kinder, more inclusive school community.

What does "Break the Silence" mean?
This year's theme encourages children and young people to speak up if they are worried about bullying, whether it is happening to them or someone else. It reminds us of the importance of talking to trusted adults, listening to one another, and supporting those who need help. By breaking the silence around bullying, we can work together to build a kinder, safer and more inclusive school community where every child feels valued, respected and heard.

These also reflect our school's core values of kindness, respect, and belonging, and aim to empower every child to be a force for good in their community.

- **Friday 13th November – World Kindness Day**
  Pupils from P3 to P7 will take part in a virtual assembly followed by classroom activities focused on kindness and compassion.
- **Monday 16th November – Odd Sock Day**
  Pupils are invited to wear odd socks to celebrate individuality and uniqueness.
- **Tuesday 17th November –** School Council Peer Workshops
- **Wednesday 18th November –** School Council Peer Workshops
- **Friday 20th November – Crazy Hair Day**
  To round off the week, pupils can come to school with a fun and creative hairstyle to celebrate self-expression and unity.

Our School Council will also be visiting their buddy classes to share key messages about anti-bullying, helping to reinforce the importance of standing together and supporting one another. We encourage all parents and carers to visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance website: https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2026/anti-bullying-week-2026 where you can download the Parent Pack and find helpful resources to support conversations at home.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and heard. We encourage all members of our school community to **Break the Silence**, speak up if they have concerns, and continue to show kindness and respect towards others every day.

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Digital Citizenship Focus: Cyberbullying

Digital citizenship is about using technology safely, responsibly, and respectfully. An important part of being a good digital citizen is knowing how to recognise and respond to cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying can happen through messaging apps, online games, social media platforms and group chats. It may involve unkind messages, exclusion from online groups, sharing embarrassing content, or spreading rumours.

Most children will encounter unkind behaviour online at some stage. While some incidents are quickly forgotten, others can have a lasting impact. By staying involved in children's online and offline lives, parents can offer support when it is needed most.

Together, parents and educators can help children develop the confidence, empathy, and skills needed to create safer and more positive online communities.

Think Before You Post

Encourage children to ask:

- Is it kind?
- Is it respectful?
- Is it true?
- Would I say it face-to-face?

By working together, we can help our children become safe, respectful and responsible digital citizens.

Further Support for Parents and Caregivers

For advice on supporting your child online and responding to cyberbullying, visit:

Thinkuknow (CEOP):
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Internet Matters:
www.internetmatters.org

NSPCC Online Safety:
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Scan the QR code for more support through Common Sense Education – Family Tips to help kids fight cyberbullying and online harm.

Peace Proms Presale Ticket Information

Excitement is building for our P5 pupils for this year's Peace Proms concert! The Peace Proms 2027, one of Ireland's largest music education and performance programmes. Organised by the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland, Peace Proms brings together almost 30,000 children from over 700 primary schools across Ireland and Northern Ireland to celebrate music, friendship and peace

Parents and caregivers of participating pupils will have exclusive access to a **pre-sale ticket window** before tickets are released to the general public on Monday 2nd November from 10am using the link below:
https://www.ticketmaster.ie/artist/1509563?venueId=460013&did=prompre

Families are encouraged to avail of the pre-sale period to secure their seats early and avoid disappointment, as this popular event regularly attracts large audiences.

Further information regarding ticket sales, dates, times and booking links will be shared directly with participating families as soon as it becomes available by the event organisers and the P5 Team.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils' commitment and enthusiasm and look forward to seeing them take part in this unforgettable musical experience.

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