



A Message From Our Principal



Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir,

2025 was once again a wonderful year for the St. Anthony's BNS community, filled with memorable moments, achievements and happy memories.

Christmas has truly arrived in St. Anthony's BNS, and the excitement and festive spirit can be felt throughout the school, from beautiful artwork and music to decorated doors, corridors, Christmas trees and cribs. It is a magical time for the boys and for our whole school community.

The amazing boys of St. Anthony's, supported so wonderfully by their caring, professional teachers and SNAs, have worked with great enthusiasm, energy and dedication in preparation for our Christmas Mass, concerts and Nativity plays. Through prayer and song, we were reminded of the birth of Jesus Christ and the message of hope, love and peace that Christmas brings. These were joyful, uplifting and very special occasions shared by all.

The Christmas spirit of giving and sharing is alive and well in St. Anthony's BNS. It has been heart-warming and inspiring to see the generosity shown by our boys and their families in supporting so many worthy charities, including St. Vincent de Paul, Shine, Pieta House, Penny Dinners, Cork Simon Community, My Canine Companion, Marymount Hospice and UNICEF. Míle buíochas daoibh go léir.

At this time of year, we are reminded that Christmas is about far more than gifts or decorations — or, as the Grinch discovered,

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled & till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?”

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- Santa Claus' Surprise Visit



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The kindness, compassion and sense of community shown in St. Anthony's BNS truly reflect this message.

I sincerely thank all of our brilliant staff, parents and families for your support throughout 2025. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and hard-work shown at every level. I would also like to extend a special word of thanks to our Board of Management and our Parents' association for their continued commitment and trojan work on behalf of the school.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I wish you and your families a very happy, holy, healthy and restful Christmas, along with every good wish for the New Year.

Boys — you have been truly amazing, I thank you for this and I know that Santa will leave you something nice!

Nollaig Shona faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir, agus guím gach rath oraibh don Athbhliain!

Oh Christmas Tree....

**Written by My Canine Companion Kali -
our in-house Canine Correspondent**

What a pawsome occasion it was at the annual St. Anthony's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. It was a veritable who's who of staff & students from Junior Infants to 4th Class.

Mr Lyons got the crowd going with his famous Christmas rap and the air was full of festive cheer with musical treats from many of the classes.



Merry Masterpieces



Green School Council



A Message from the Green Schools Committee

Hi everyone!

We are the new Green Schools Committee for this year, and we are really excited to get started. Our focus for 2025–2026 is on recycling and global citizenship, as part of Flag 6 – Litter and Waste.

This means we are thinking not just about keeping our school clean, but also about how our actions can make a difference to the world around us.

As committee members, each of us has been paired with a class to help everyone improve their recycling. We want to remind you to:

- Only put clean and correct items in the recycling bins.
- Keep food and rubbish out of recycling.
- Bring in old batteries for safe disposal.

We are also running a Recycling Slogan Competition! Each class can come up with a creative slogan to encourage recycling. The winning class will receive a special selection box prize.

There's more! If your class keeps its recycling bins free from contamination for a full month, you will earn homework off for the whole class. At the end of the year, the class with the most correct recycling ticks will win a special prize.

We have already started visiting our assigned classes to share recycling statistics, explain how well we are doing so far, and encourage everyone to do their best. Together, we can make a big difference for our school and our planet.

Let's work together to make our school cleaner, greener, and more responsible global citizens!

From,

Your Green Schools Committee



Kindness Matters



The boys of Ms Geraghty & Ms Lynch's classes sent Christmas cards to residents in Charleville Nursing Home & Clonakilty Hospital, sending Christmas cheer.



FESTIVE FRIENDS APPEAL

The boys in St Anthony's raised an incredible €3,000 through the sale of Christmas teddies for the very worthy ASD charity, The Shine Centre, which provides valuable services to children and families in our community. Thanks to Mr Dineen for organising the sale of the festive sensory sand teddies.



WHERE'S ME CHRISTMAS JUMPER!

On Thursday 18th December, we held our annual Christmas Jumper/Hat Day. Boys wore Christmas jumpers or hats to school and donated a coin. All donations for the day, an incredible €1,510, will go jointly to CORK PENNY DINNERS, CORK SIMON & UNICEF.





Adventures at Home & Away



Ms Dunlea's Class had a fun time visiting Santa at the Rainbow Club



THE REEL DEAL!

What a treat for 1st & 2nd Class. They travelled to Ballincollig to the Reel Cinema. 1st Class watched the festive favourite Elf, while 2nd Class enjoyed the newly released Zootropolis.



Jamie & Seán baking up a storm



Ms Lynch's 1st Class enjoying a science experiment



Posting letters to Santa, these boys are definitely on the nice list!

Written by Michael, 4th Class

Christmas Poetry

A Cork Christmas from Ballinlough
by Mr Moylan's 3rd Class

In the heart of Cork where the Lee runs bright,
Christmas sparkles in soft winter light.
Shops glow gold along Patrick Street,
And the echoes of carols drift warm and sweet.

Down in Ballinlough, the air feels still,
As snowflakes gather on the road down the hill.
Lanterns shine in each frosted pane,
While laughter rings out like a merry game.

At St. Anthony's School, excitement grows
Red rosy cheeks and chilly toes.
Children rehearse with delighted cheer,
For the Christmas mass that draws near each year.

Paper snowmen and stars that gleam,
Nativity scenes built from glitter and dreams.
Mr Lyons, Teachers and Co smiling, proud and bright,
As magic fills the hall with delight.

So here's to Christmas in Cork's embrace and a Happy
Christmas from Mr Moylan's 3rd class.
Happy New Year and a Happy
6 7 6 7 6 7!

One in a Million



Harry Spillane in 5th Class is quite literally 'One in a Million!' He has a rare condition called Tyrosinaemia Type 1. This means he can't break down the protein in his food. There are only five people with this condition in Ireland! You can listen to his incredible story on the podcast on Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6h7CjQsqfvyN0unnTcc8RL?si=98f1c48e407e40bc>





St Anthony's is delighted to announce the 2025–2026 Student Council, a dedicated group of boys elected by their classmates to represent student voice in school life

At their first meeting, the boys received their Student Council badges and reviewed the Council Constitution, outlining their roles as leaders. They reflected on what works well in St Anthony's, including our facilities, leadership groups, technology, and initiatives such as Reading Buddies and the Sensory Room and Garden. With the Council now underway, members have begun exploring ways to further enhance school life, with early discussions focusing on:

1. Student Wellbeing & Environment

Continuing traditions like Cosy Day, increasing shared reading, and improving yard play with clearer markings and safer equipment.

2. Student Voice

Ensuring all pupils are heard through ideas such as a suggestion box and a possible Junior Student Council.

3. Clubs, Sports & Activities

More sports for younger classes, internal leagues, and a fun 6th Class vs Teachers soccer match.

4. Sustainability & School Pride

Promoting recycling through a class tick chart with monthly goals and an end-of-year reward.

5. Learning & Creativity

More age-appropriate novels, project-based homework, and expanded language learning opportunities.

What Happens Next?

Council representatives will now bring these ideas back to their classes. In mid-January, pupils will vote on the proposals they feel should be prioritised for the year ahead. The results will guide the Council's work and help shape school initiatives throughout 2025–2026.

The school community congratulates the newly elected members and looks forward to seeing their leadership, teamwork, and creativity make a positive impact in St Anthony's this year

Snow Days





Sciath na Scol Success

CONNECT 4!

St. Anthony's secured their 4th consecutive Sciath na Scol Football Championship in a thrilling victory over Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on 11th November.

Trailing by three points early, St. Anthony's demonstrated resilience and teamwork to fight back. The high-skill match, played in the rain, featured brilliant scores and heroic saves.

We were so proud of our football team, teamwork makes the dream work!



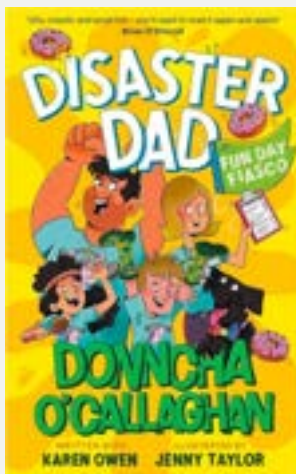
Thanks to the 'back room team', Colm Kiely, Jamie O'Connor, Ian Lucey, Clíona Maguire, Leanne Curran, Laura Cleary & Mr Lyons!

Shay Seacht!

All eyes were glued to the Late, Late Toy Show this year with the appearance of our own Shay from 1st Class. Shay entertained us all with his good humour, fun stories & enjoyed trying out some games with the show's host Patrick Kielty.



Shay's Class with their 'Late, Late Toy Show' party bags



Disaster Dad Returns

We were delighted with a return visit from Donnacha O'Callaghan -parent, author, former Munster and Ireland rugby player, rugby pundit, UNICEF Ambassador and Ireland's Fittest Family coach. He shared stories about his book "Disaster Dad," his sporting career, his role on *Ireland's Fittest Family*, and his work as a UNICEF Ambassador.

Donnacha captivated students from 1st to 4th class with his energy and humor, emphasising a key message: every child can find a love for reading with a little effort. Thank you, Donnacha, for your generous and inspiring visit.

Banna Ceoil

St Anthony's Banna Ceoil has grown from strength to strength in the past few years. Originally established by Gráinne Sheehy & our esteemed former colleague Keith Falvey, Banna Ceoil has attracted lots of talented students and staff alike.

This year Gráinne is joined by Clare Hennessy, Kevin Dineen, Leah McCurtain & Eimear O'Mahony and a host of skilled musicians.

Our wonderful, hardworking secretary Bernadette was serenaded with Scottish & Irish songs celebrating St Andrew's Day this November.



Watts up on the Roof?



We're excited to share that our school has new solar panels on the roof! These panels use energy from the sun to help power our school, which is great for the Earth. By using clean, renewable energy, we're learning how small changes can help look after our planet for the future.

Table Tennis Winners!



Division Two Silver Medallists!
Our Division 2 team finished in second place, narrowly missing out on first by just one single point — 33 to 32! A truly outstanding effort from:

Ryan, Páidí, Aidan and Liam
Andrew, Charlie, Joey and Tom



Our Division 1 team put in a brilliant performance, coming out in first place against some very strong opposition. Incredible table tennis from:

Andrew, Charlie, Joey and Tom

Lifetime Lab Quiz



Huge congratulations to our 4th and 6th-class teams at the Lifetime Lab Science Quiz! Competing against over 50 schools at UCC, our boys showed incredible dedication. A massive well done to our 4th-class team for winning first place in their category, and to our 6th-class team for their fantastic effort and representation of the school.

Quiz Masters



Henry, Ronan & Seán at the quiz.



The boys with their No. 1 supporter, Ruairí.

LIFETIME LAB QUIZ

Written by Ronan, 4th Class

I was part of a quiz team that was competing in the well-known Lifetime Lab's Science Quiz. I was representing St Anthony's BNS along with Henry & Seán from 4th Class. It took place in University College Cork.

Ms Barrett helped train us in school every couple of days and we practised at home every day to improve. The quiz was all about science. I felt very nervous and excited when preparing.

On the way to UCC, I was feeling very nervous. The atmosphere was incredible. There were about 50 other teams there. I felt very exhilarated while sitting at the table.

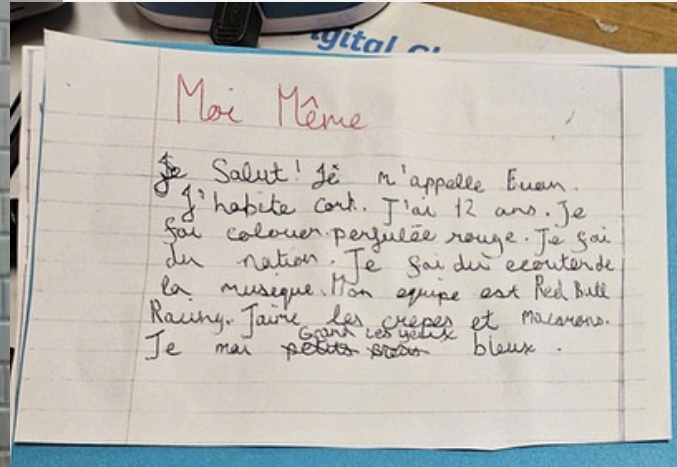
When answering the quiz questions, we consulted and asked each other for help. We took turns writing and helped each other to correct the spelling (just in case).

When they called our table for being first place in 4th Class, a surge of pride went all around my body. When I walked to the stage, I felt the happiest person alive.

I enjoyed this experience, and I would do it again.



Ou Là Là!



Say Yes to Languages

As our new noticeboard announces, 'St Anthony's says "Oui!"

The boys of 5th and 6th Classes have been learning some French over the past ten weeks. Since September, Ms Hennessy has been teaching them oral and written French — and even a little French through song!



5th Class singing Frère Jacques

Good News!



Congratulations also to Shay and his dance team on winning a trophy in their recent competition!



Congratulations to Jake, Conor, Keelan and Arthur in 1st Class, who won medals at their gymnastics competition.

You've Got a Friend in Me!

At St Anthony's, many of our senior classes are paired with junior classes as part of our buddying system. Through activities such as shared reading and art, pupils develop leadership skills, confidence and positive relationships. Here's a flavour of some of the activities they buddy up for.



Ms Geraghty's 3rd Class helping Ms McCurtain's Junior Infants with some Sciath na Scol art.



Ms Donovan's 5th Class sharing their narrative Christmas stories they wrote using Book Creator to Ms Ruiséal's Senior Infants. Also Ms Barrett's 3rd Class reading stories to Ms Lynch's 1st Class.



A Credit to Us!



Congratulations also to our talented artists who won prizes in the school Credit Union Art competition! A special mention goes to Emrys, James, and Thomas, who achieved the incredible feat of coming 1st in the Munster Credit Union Art Competition. We are extremely proud of your creative success!



Christmas Cheer!

Christmas spirit was in full flow the past few weeks with all classes involved in various theatrical & musical performances. The Junior classes performed Nativity Plays, 1st & 2nd Classes treated us to joyous Christmas concerts in the hall while the classes from 3rd - 6th enhanced a beautiful pre-Christmas Mass with their uplifting music and song.





Kali's Corner

KALI'S NAUGHTY & NICE LIST

Naughty

1. People who forget to put paper in the recycling bin
2. Drivers who park on double yellow lines outside the school
3. Dogs that steal ham sandwiches from their principal!

Nice

1. Clodagh - who decorated the school in her handmade Christmas scenes
2. Conor Goolde, top vet in Cork, heals all my aches and pains
3. Colm Hastings - hair stylist to the Canine Stars!
4. School therapy dogs who were very sorry for stealing their principal's lunches!



Paws for a Joke!

- Why does Kali love Christmas morning?
Because every present is a chance to paws and reflect!
- Why was the dog's Christmas dinner so messy?
He wolfed it down!
- Why did the dog bring a ladder to Christmas dinner?
She heard the turkey was on the house!
- What's a dog's favourite type of snow?
Slush puppies, of course!
- Why did Santa let the dog help deliver presents?
She had the best re-paw-tation in town!



Breithlá Shona Duit!

Birthday greetings to Mr Lyons on his roundy birthday- that's a lot of dog years! Ms Dunlea's class celebrated with some lovely hand iced cookies.

ST ANTHONY'S BNS PA NEWSLETTER

As the year draws to a close and the festive season is upon us, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has truly been a wonderful year for our Parents' Association. This term we have had a great coffee morning for the parents of Room 18/19, the popular SVdP giving tree and Santa paid a visit to the boys in Junior and Senior Infants. Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming events in 2026, including, pre-loved uniform sale, Confirmation, Communion and Graduation receptions plus many more. With the strong sense of community we've built together, the coming year promises even more opportunities to support our children, strengthen connections, and create lasting memories. Watch out for the sign up sheets to get involved or email the PA directly.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the PA Committee;

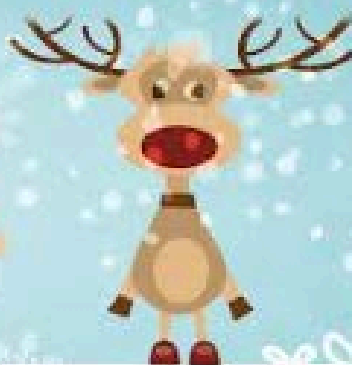
Dawn, Kate, Mary, Sinéad, Davinia and Paula

SVP Giving Tree

Thank you for your contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree which was very well supported. Your donations are much appreciated.



Next PA event: Pre-loved uniform sale January 2026
stanthonypa@gmail.com



Merry Christmas

From St Anthony's Parents Association



Nollaig Shona Duit!



GO RAIBH MÍLE MAITH AGAT!

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to this issue. We wouldn't have a newsletter without you!

CALLING ALL BUDDING JOURNALISTS!

Do you have a story idea you think parents and students would like to read? Why not write a draft, hand it up to your teacher and you too could be in the next issue!



For more news..

Keep up to date on latest news in St Anthony's by following us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysBoysSchoolCork/>

and checking out our website
www.stanthonys.ie