

SEPTEMBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2019

ST CLARE'S ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME . . .



Dear Parents

We welcome everyone back to school. I thank you sincerely for the effort you have invested into ensuring that your children are beautifully dressed in correct uniform. They are a credit to you and to us. We love having them back and rejoice in how well they look and how much they have grown.

We warmly welcome our new additions to Nursery and Primary 1 who will be phased in over the month of September. We know your children will have a wonderful experience in our school and look forward to getting to know them and you!

Many of you enrolled your children in the 'Big Summer Read' organized by Newry Library - I thank you so much for this. The library had its biggest uptake in many years and our pupils accounted for many of their participants.

Yours appreciatively for all your support in so many ways.

Mrs M Monaghan

CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

I have a concern about my/a child's safety

I can talk to the Class Teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to

Mrs Toner (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

(One of our Deputy Designated Teachers, NB Mr Sweeney – Main Deputy Designated Teacher)

Mr Sweeney (E Safety concerns)

Mrs Palis (Polish speaking)

Mrs Bennett (for Nursery concerns)

Miss O'Shea (for ECPD concerns)

If I am still concerned I can talk to

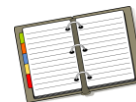
Mrs Monaghan - Principal

If I am still concerned, I can contact

Shane Comer (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Siobhan Gorman (Designated Governor for Child Protection Matters)

DATES FOR THE DIARY THIS TERM



School Closures:

30.09.19 – Staff Development Day

30.10.19 – 01.11.19 – Halloween

Break.

Parents Evening/Movie Night:

19.09.19 – keep the date. Year Group Meetings for each Primary at 7.00 pm

Details to follow.

Individual Parent Teacher

Meetings:

Week of 21 October including
24.10.19 – half day for Pupils – 1.00 pm on this day.

Primary 1 Welcome Assembly:

17.10.19 at 1.15 pm

Galaxy Coaching Fundraiser:

Friday 27 September 2019

Transfer Test

Saturday 16 November 2019.

Registration form available on www.thetransfertest.com/pptc-gl-assessment. Deadline 2.00 pm on Friday 20 September at Sacred Heart Grammar School for receipt of applications

Please refer to school website for up-to-date information
stclaresabbeyps.com

Updated Staff News:

We congratulate Mrs A McParland (P6) on the birth of her daughter, Rionach. During her Maternity Leave this year her post will be filled by Mr Hillen, Substitute Teacher.

Mrs Doherty (P5) will continue on her Maternity Leave and she will be replaced by Miss Friel, Substitute Teacher.

Miss Rocks will move to Primary 6 and Mrs Browne will move to Primary 3.

We congratulate Mrs Martina Connolly on the birth of her daughter, Grace at the beginning of July. During her Maternity Leave, her post will be filled by Mrs Dineen.

Any other News

Clubs

Morning Club and P1-P3 Afterschool Club have commenced already. It is important that you complete the authorisation letter and return to school promptly including payment. **Please do not leave children off before 8.15 am in the morning as there is NO supervision.** Children need to be collected promptly each day at the gate. Please do not collect children mid-way through afternoon club - please wait until club is finished.

Data Forms

If you haven't returned your Data and Consent Forms Form, please do as soon as possible.

Bus

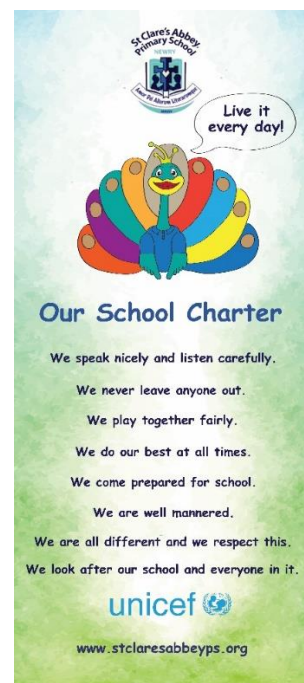
The Warrenpoint Road Bus is back to running as normal.

The Barcroft/Carnagat Bus is running again in the morning time.

We encourage parents to purchase the 'bus card' direct for Translink to avail of reduced fare prices. If you do not have a 'pass', children need to pay each day - please do not send children without payment, we are in danger of losing this service.

Congratulations . . .

Rights Respecting School - We worked hard last year on our Rights Respecting School work. In June we were inspected by an External Assessor and were awarded the 'Silver Award'. We thank the children, staff and extended school families for all the hard work that was involved. We will now work towards the GOLD award and hopefully will achieve this in the coming year.



Important Stuff

School 'App': We ask each parent to sign up for the St Clare's Abbey 'app'.

This will be the first method of communication with parents for updated information in relation to school matters.

Please go to 'Play Store' or similar and search for St Clare's Abbey. Download onto your device. Please sign in as a parent and tick each Class Teacher associated with your child/children. Also please tick any other activities that may relate to your child/children. If you are having difficulties, please contact the school office.

Contact Information: It is very important that you contact the school with **any updated information** in relation to change of telephone numbers or addresses.

We request **at least 3 contact names** in case of emergencies.

School Grounds: Once again we remind parents of the need to drive carefully into the school grounds and to be aware of the school crossings. The school operate a 'drop-off' zone for pupils.

Parking is not allowed in school grounds and particularly not in the drop off zone or bus parking areas.

Please park carefully outside of school grounds. A crossing patrol is available on Courtenay Hill.

Sports Fundraising Event

This year, we have decided to employ Galaxy Coaching to carry out our Sports Programme. They will introduce gymnastics to the programme. As school budgets continue to be reduced, we again intend to hold a **SPORTS FITNESS FUNDRAISING EVENT** on **Friday 27 September 2019** to help with costs. Sponsor cards will be sent home this week and we encourage support for this event. **Many prizes will be on offer.**

It promises to be a great day!



The Big Bus

We were delighted to host the Action Cancer Big Bus at the school on Friday 30 August. Many of our staff, parents and wider school community availed of breast screening and health checks. Donations can be sent direct to Action Cancer.

Achievements

In conjunction with the School Council we raised **£14,465.00** last academic year for the following charities: KBRT, Lions, African Project, Trocaire, NI Children's Hospice, Southern Area Hospice, SVP, Lauren's Adventure, Ellen's Journey, Brain Injury Charity. **We thank everyone for their generous support.**

Take Note . . .

No Nuts

Due to severe allergies, our School operates a strict '**NO NUTS**' Policy.

We also have one P2 class and a Nursery session in which we are making arrangements to manage **dairy allergies**. Parents of pupils in these classes have been contacted.



'NO NUTS IN SCHOOL'

Attendance

Education Welfare Office (EWO) monitor school attendance regularly remotely. It is very important that you give a reason for your child's absence as a failure to do so reflects badly on you, the parent, and the school. Reasons can be submitted by telephone, in person, by e-mail only to this address bdowney378@c2kni.net or in writing to class teacher.

Parenting Programmes for the Year Ahead . . .

1. Parental Paired Reading:

All P3, P4, P5 and P6 parents are invited to information sessions on:
Monday 30 September at 1.45 pm - P3 Parents
Tuesday 1 October at 2.15 pm - P4 Parents
Wednesday 2 October at 2.15 pm - P5 Parents
Thursday 3 October at 2.15 pm - P6 Parents

2. 'Promoting Positive Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being in Children'

Date and details to follow.

3. 'Numeracy - Helping Children with Money'

Date and details to follow.

4. 'English Grammar - Making the Most of Language'

Date and details to follow.

We would love your help

Dear Parents, I would love to avail of some of your expertise in helping us boost reading within our school. I need a band of parents to help on Wednesday afternoon from 1.45 pm - 2.45 pm and I will provide training support for you. If you think that you could help us, could you please contact Mrs Downey or Mrs McNeany in the school office and leave your name and contact details. I thank you in advance and look forward to working with parents on this project.



Mr Sweeney's Entrance Exam Preparation Club . . .

Mr Sweeney will take the current Primary 7 pupils who are sitting the GL Entrance exam each Monday from 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm for extra tuition. Please ensure your child attends weekly and is collected at the gate at 4.00 pm.

And so . . .

You're off to great places.

Today is your day.

Your mountain is waiting.

So get on your way!

Dinner Money . . .

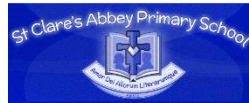
Please ensure dinner money is paid each week on a Monday for the dinners to be taken that week. All outstanding dinner money should be paid early the next week.

Application Forms for Free School Meals /Uniform Allowance are available in the office.

Dinners must be paid for until EA issue approval to Free School Meals

Our Three Year Plan . . .

How we will make our school even better



Our Behaviour Code . . .

Our children know all about this and look forward to 'Cracking the Code' at assembly each week.

