



12 Courtenay Hill, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2EA
Phone: (028) 3026 2175

22 April 2020

Dear parents,

Welcome back to term 3, could any of us ever have imagined it being like this? We will all look back on it in disbelief in future years, but for the moment we are blessed with beautiful weather and I know from your messages and photographs that you are all trying to make the best of a very unique situation.

Today is '**Earth Day**', an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22nd to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This is a cause very close to our hearts in school; we have a thriving Eco team, under the guidance of Mr Byrne, a wonderful Gardening Club, made possible by a host of dedicated parent and grandparent volunteers and we have our school forest, which offers a very special vantage point from which we can explore the beauty of nature. I miss all of those things at this time. Please mention Earth Day to your children and enjoy the little bit of nature on your own doorstep. If any of you have photographs of your children gardening or enjoying any other aspect of nature, we would love if you could send them to the school website stclaresabbey@gmail.com

Please note the following website additions: (NB these are provided only as ideas, there is no expectation that families avail of them.)

1.Section: Learning from Home/ Let's get cooking

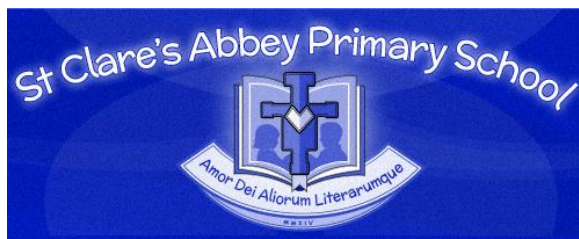
Enjoy and once again, if you would like to send pictures, we would love to see them.

2.Section: Learning from Home/ Learning Support/Play Matters- Important read released by Dept of Education.

3.Section: Learning from Home/ Learning Support/RISE NI, CAMHS & AUTISM SERVICES.

Many of our families work with these services, if so this will be a useful section for you.

Before I conclude I congratulate you again, sincerely, on the way in which you have committed to Home Learning so far. It is actually unbelievable that we have had virtually all families engage, this would not be typical across NI and speaks volumes about you as parents and how well we as a school community are coming together. A special word of thanks to those who are overcoming a



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variety of struggles to get the work done and to those who are juggling it with continued work away from the home, I don't know how you are managing but I thank you.

Term 3 is a great term and slow, steady amounts of work will pay great dividends, so please continue with what you are doing.

I received lots of messages on Seesaw from the children in Term 2, they were the highlight of my days. Can I ask if they have time that they send me another to let me know how they are settling into term 3?

Can I also remind you to continue to upload 2 samples of work each week, one for Literacy and one for Numeracy. At the end of each week we keep a tally of these and are thrilled that almost every child is submitting. This is so, so important as your child needs to know that their work matters and that the teacher is interested in what he/she is doing.

Some parents have messaged me to say that their children are running out of paper for their work. **Mr Sweeney will open school next week and parents can come up to collect a new exercise book.** Teachers will notify parents of times for specific classes on each class Seesaw page.

I finish by wishing you a lovely week,

with warmest regards,

Mrs Monaghan.