

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

27 April 2020

Good Morning

It is hard to believe that Friday is 1st May and that it has now been 7 weeks since we last had your children in school with us. I am sure that whilst you are clearly putting every effort into balancing all the ingredients of this new way of life, that you are, like ourselves, feeling the pressure of the uncertainty. None of us know what the plans are for reopening school and at this point I urge you to congratulate yourself for all that you are doing. It is unbelievable really and I am very aware of how truly challenging it is and for some families, in particular, due to personal circumstances. April is actually 'Stress Awareness Month' so I would draw your attention once more to the website section: **Learning From Home/ Coronavirus and Us/** at the bottom of that page there are a collection of excellent posts related to this topic that you may not have had a chance to see yet. I would also remind you again, about the **Relax Kids** section which is absolutely lovely and so calming.

A few pieces of important information that I wish to share with you:

1. Staff news:

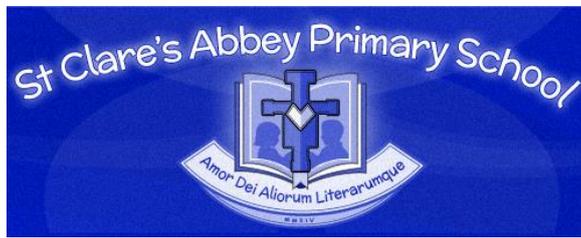
Mrs Catherine Bennett, Head of Nursery has decided that she will take early retirement at the end of this year. I know that the majority of your children have been taught by Mrs Bennett and that you will agree with me that she will be deeply missed. She has been a very significant person in our school.

Mrs Mella Cunningham and Mrs Anne Doyle, two very special classroom assistants have also decided to retire at the end of this year. The care and devotion that they have shown to our children have been second to none. I have no doubt that you will agree that they will be deeply missed also.

We wish each of these three wonderful ladies a healthy and happy retirement

2. Nursery & P1 intake for Sept 20.

Due to Covid 19 EA has informed pupils directly if they have received a place with us this year. Letters are due to arrive with families today, but in the event of postal disruption, parents can check on the EA Citizen Portal from today also. Please share this message with anyone whom you know to be awaiting notification. Full details are posted on the Home page of our school website.



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3. GL Entrance test information for current P6 pupils. Please refer to yesterday's app message and the post on the home page of the school website for full information, but in essence it appears that the exam will be held later and that enrolment will begin and end later.

4. Eco news.

Thank you for all the photographs received last week for 'Earth Day' it was so lovely to see them.

We were delighted to learn that Mr Byrne and his Eco Council have won a place in the UNESCO-Young Environmentalist Award all Ireland Final. We knew that we had already won a place in the semi final before school closed, but received this further good news yesterday. The submission and photographs of all our Eco work will be published for the People's Choice Award and in the Finalist Booklet. Our warmest congratulations to Mr Byrne and the whole Eco Council past and present, but particularly to the children who prepared the recorded application. They did a great job.

I finish by wishing you a lovely week, thank you for all the work that you are uploading, it is very important for us to see how the children are getting on. You, your children and our hard working staff have created amazing consistency in the midst of huge change. I will say it again, it is not the norm and is to be highly applauded.

With warmest wishes to you,

Mrs Michelle Monaghan.