

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

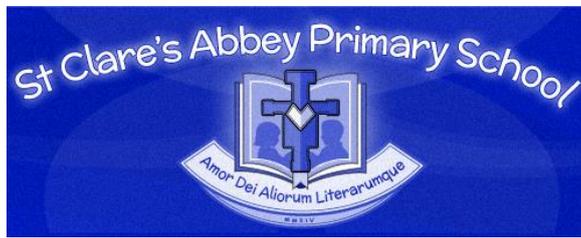
Good morning everyone,

It is unbelievable that I am now sending you a 12th message as part of our 'Lockdown' contact arrangements. It still seems incredible that this is how we are, and have been, living our lives.

This week as you will be aware, is the last week for teachers issuing work to your children. We have to stop at this point as we need to get the devices updated for the next cohort of children, we are purchasing a new version of the Seesaw app, so administrative and training work will be taking place to ensure that the 'online' element of 'Blended Learning' referenced by the Minister Of Education, will be ready for our post summer return. I will still be contactable via Seesaw messaging or by my email mmonaghan771@c2kni.net.

I find it frustrating that I am communicating with you on the 17th June and still cannot share with you, plans for the school return. I know that you need detail so that you can make your arrangements with child care etc. You must be incredibly anxious! I attended a meeting with Peter Weir, MLA. on Friday past and the message was delivered very clearly that **DE guidance is required as a matter of urgency**. I have worked with my Senior Leadership Team on a tentative plan, but until I receive the guidance and know that we are compliant, I cannot share it with you. We are creating it based on conjecture and it may or may not proceed. The Minister has stated that guidance should be issued by the end of this week or the start of next week, and I will be attending a principals' meeting on Monday 22nd June. Therefore, I am HOPEFUL that I will be contacting you by Tuesday 23rd with an update. However this may change.

Yesterday was the first day of parents coming to school to collect their children's belongings. I wish to thank those parents for following our requests so well. There were a few little teething problems, but hopefully they have been resolved. Can I ask you to double check your time slot on the class Seesaw page. Nursery and P7



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pupils will also have important details issued to them on Seesaw, relating to their final days with us.

School continues to be a hive of activity, with every inch being 'upturned' and 'prepared' physically for the return of our children. Additionally the teachers are starting the complex process of working out how to, most effectively, teach the curriculum when they may only have face to face contact with the children for part of each week, whilst the rest has to be managed remotely. Attempting this at the start of the year, will be a very different situation to what we had during the past 12 weeks when a lot of the work was reinforcement within a context of firmly established relationships between teachers and pupils, however we will get there.

Staff are impatiently awaiting DE guidance as their curricular planning will be shaped by the amount of direct teaching which they can do, this is still unknown. I can assure you that our staff, like you, would love nothing more than a full return to normality!!

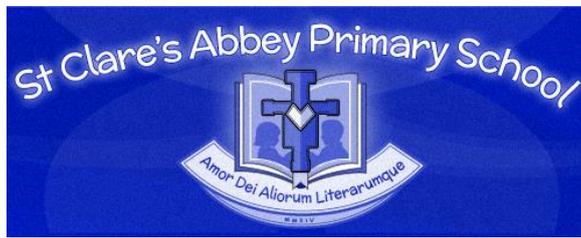
I feel that that has been a very gloomy message, apologies, but I feel most uncomfortable not being able to provide you with clarity. You have supported us incredibly in our work and I really wish to support you as you prepare for the new school year. I know that the Feast day of the Sacred Heart Of Jesus is on Friday 19th June, so I intend to hand my frustration and concern over and trust that all will work out (speedily please, if that is not too big an ask!)

'Oh Sacred Heart Of Jesus, I place all my trust in thee.'

Have a lovely week and please look out for an app message from me in the event of me having an update before my regular Wednesday contact with you.

Yours in partnership

Mrs Monaghan



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