

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

4 September 2020

Good morning parents,

I wish to give you an update at the end of our first week.

1. I extend warmest thanks to you for working so well with us in terms of:

**Drop off and collection arrangements**, I honestly could not have asked for more 'tuned in' parents. In a school of over 500 pupils we had virtually every child and parents where they needed to be and at the times that they needed to be there. Whilst there were a few teething problems on days 1 and 2 all have been resolved now.

**Items being brought into and out of school:** You have done exactly as we have asked in terms of providing disposable bags and screw top water bottles etc, I know that that has required a lot of organisation on your behalf and it is hugely appreciated.

**Uniforms-** wearing of full uniform on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and tracksuit on Tuesday and Thursday is going well and ensures that confidence levels re pupil hygiene are good. Again, I know that this is hard work for families so thank you.

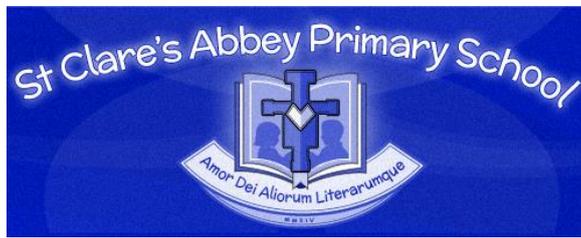
**2. Amended School Closures-** Please refer to website for list of closures for the full 20/21 year but see below for closures in the first half term

September 28th - Monday - no school for pupils - staff day

October 26th - 30th - - School closed - Mid Term Break

**3. Update re class bubbles.** We have spent a lot of time explaining to the children the importance of staying in their own 'class bubbles'. Each class has its own designated play area, playtime equipment and entrance/exits to their play area. There are designated staff assigned to each class bubble and they remain with your children throughout the day. I anticipate that if any staff members are absent in the weeks to come that the bubbles will have to be amended to arrange cover. There is no way of avoiding that but it will be managed in a measured way and we will make changes only as a last resort.

**4. Cashless system-** Thank you to everyone who have made use of this already. Can I encourage all parents to login and book their child in for packed lunch/school meal/ free school meal for each school day up until the end of September? ( Excluding Nursery children) Should you wish to



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change a pre booked choice this can be done until the evening before. If you are having difficulties, please contact [mmcneaney269@c2kni.net](mailto:mmcneaney269@c2kni.net)

**5. Seesaw-** Thank you to parents who have responded to the teachers' notifications to indicate that they are receiving Seesaw messages. Weekly tasks will commence for all classes next week to ensure that all are competent in using it in the event of possible lockdown for any class. (This may happen if a child or adult within a class tests positive for Covid 19.) I am aware that one class is not yet connected due to a technical problem, I appreciate your patience.

**6. Visits to the school office-** Thank you for respecting the need to reduce these. Email and phone call are the safest means of communicating for us all. I ask parents to refrain from 'dropping off' lunch, break etc to their child via office once school has already started unless it is an absolute emergency.

**7. Leaving school premises for appointments-** at this early stage of settling back into school I ask parents who need to take their child out of school for an appointment, to not return them to school on that day. Should any parent have a query re this please feel free to contact me.

**8. Individual risk assessments.** Prior to school reopening I had asked parents to contact me if they felt that their child required an individual risk assessment undertaken in terms of them having been in receipt of a shielding letter or living with someone who had been in receipt of a shielding letter. We have concluded the assessments for all who contacted us but if anyone has overlooked this request please contact me ASAP via [mmonaghan771@c2kni.net](mailto:mmonaghan771@c2kni.net)

To conclude- whilst several children, parents and staff have been very apprehensive about the return, I feel that we have had a great week, thanks to the combined efforts of everyone. Thank you sincerely you for your support and have a wonderful weekend.

With warmest regards,

Mrs Monaghan