

12 Courtenay Hill, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2EA

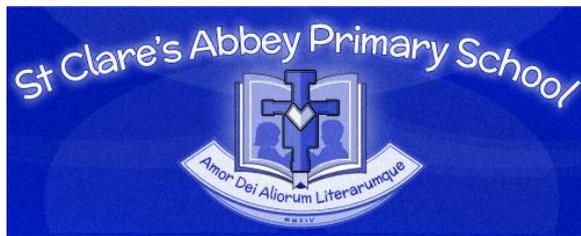
Phone: (028) 3026 2175

13 November 2020

Good morning parents,

How quickly this week has flown by, and it has been another good, settled week in school regardless of what has been happening in the outside world.

1. Next week each teacher from P4-P7 will be sending home assessment outcomes obtained by your child in our recent tests. The teacher will also send your child's previous test score (available for P5-P7 classes only) for comparison purposes. There will be an accompanying message outlining how we feel you can best help us in our efforts to help your child 'catch up.' As you would expect the majority of scores have 'fallen' which is only to be expected after the 'Lockdown Closure'. However, I truly believe that the decrease in attainment levels would have been much greater if you had not engaged throughout that period of 'Learning From Home' as well as you did - so please feel good about that. Nonetheless the fact does remain that we have a lot of EXTRA work to do in school and we are sincerely hoping that you will reinforce this from home. Therefore, please watch out for this document on class Seesaw in the latter part of next week.
2. Our staff have undertaken recent training in helping boost attention and listening skills and one constant message is the importance of children being well hydrated with WATER. I am aware that many of our girls and boys would prefer a bottle of juice and in fact we have quite a few pupils taking this to school. When this is the case, we do not allow them to drink it during the day, apart from break/lunchtime. However, this means that several children are losing out on the amazing benefits arising from sipping water throughout the day. I would ask parents to support us in our request that pupils ONLY take water to school. Whilst your child may be upset initially, the gains from drinking water will soon be evident in the classroom. I have spoken to the children about this today and explained the science behind it and urged them to go 'juice free' in school.
3. I address this next point in the hope that it does not sound presumptuous on my behalf: I have been approached by a few parents who have asked if (within our Covid measures) they will be able to bring in cards/ tokens to staff at Christmas. I have responded by stating that this will not be possible. On reflection, I am making the suggestion that any



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4. parent who wishes, can make a small donation through the school money app, which will be used for the school charity fund. Usually at this stage in the year we would have gathered a lot of money from the school council initiatives and clearly this year we have none, but the requests from charities keep coming. I stress that this is completely voluntary and place no obligation on any family. Guidance for making a payment will be sent out next week as we are liaising with the company to set it up.
5. Next week is Anti Bullying week and the children will be participating in several activities to explore the themes. Please listen out for your child talking about these.
6. Thank you to all parents who completed the questionnaire about the effects of 'Learning From Home' on your child. We are working through these next week to decide how best to address matters raised throughout the year ahead. It is always very helpful to have your perspective.

I sign off by wishing you all a happy and healthy weekend,

Yours in partnership,

*Mrs Monaghan.*