

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

Phone: (028) 3026 2175

8 January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well and have survived the first two days of this second stage of Learning from Home. Such a lot has passed since the Minister's communication with schools on New Year's Eve and to be honest, there have been so many changes during the past few days that it has been overwhelming at times. However, we have 'Supervised Learning' and 'Learning From Home' up and running but hope to fine tune everything next week as there have been 'teething problems.'

Learning from Home

1. To ensure that Learning From Home runs as smoothly as possible I ask parents to check that their child can log into:

Bugclub (P1 - P7)

Mathletics (P1 - P7)

My School (needed for Newsdesk) (P3- P7)

If there are login difficulties, you must inform the class teacher ASAP on Seesaw. If this is not possible contact me on mmonaghan771@c2kni.net

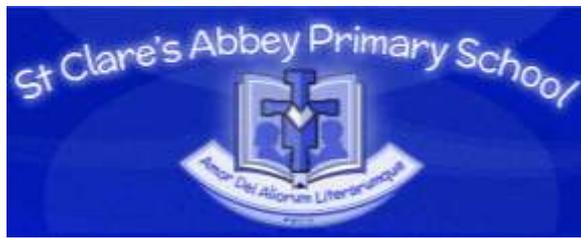
2. School staff will be gauging pupil engagement by:

Checking that allocated Bug Club books for the week have been read. (This will be fully up and running next week.)

Monitoring that all allocated Mathletics tasks have been completed

Looking at pupils' work uploaded to the class teacher. (We did not ask for this this week.)

Your child's teacher will inform you next week as to exact pieces that need to be uploaded. We need to keep this specific.



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There is a real duty of care on us to follow up on pupils who are not engaging. We will aim to support in whatever way possible so please reach out to us if you are struggling. Failure on parents' behalf to do so will result in involvement of the Safeguarding team and ultimately the Education Welfare Service, which is not what any of us want.

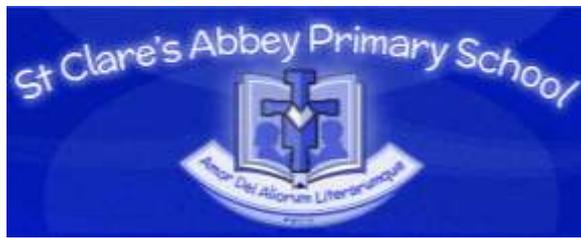
3. The plan is that the weekly work overview will be uploaded each Friday to be started on Monday. Some parents have asked for this as their work commitments require that they have time over the weekend to organise things for home schooling. Where possible, I suggest that you do keep the work for week days as it is important that the children don't fall out of routine completely.

4. School staff are trying to enhance what was offered during the last period of home learning and will be engaging with pupils with recordings/ voice messages, so please look out for these over the course of each week. It is important that your child listens to/ sees these as without them the work posted is impersonal. They will need to be viewed in conjunction with the work overview but teachers will be working on these throughout the week so they will be posted on the relevant days.

5. The work set by teachers should not need to be printed out, it should be viewed online and the actual work/answers written into a book. If you need an exercise book or are having difficulty viewing work (because you are viewing on a phone etc) please contact Mr Sweeney on esweeney242@c2kni.net

6. Teacher availability.

Each teacher is in school one day per week assisting with supervised learning and as such whilst Learning from Home activities will be posted for 5 days in the week, teachers will only be communicating remotely 4 days per week as they will be in school on the fifth day. Teachers will inform you as to which day this will be. Teachers will communicate with parents during school



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hours. We appreciate that messages will be posted by parents during evening times, but please understand that teachers will respond to these the next day during their working hours.

Supervised Learning In School

1. This is a big change when compared to the last 'Lockdown'. We are catering for pupils who need to be on site and are managing this by juggling staff between home and school. We thank parents for only applying for this when absolutely necessary. If you are accessing this service, please remember to notify school with as much advance notice as possible, if your child will not be attending on his/her scheduled days.

2. All pupils and staff attending school will have temperatures checked before entering the building, parents are asked to remain with their child as this happens.

3. The afternoons have proven long for our P6 & 7 pupils who have been left in class until 2.55 with only one or two other pupils. Therefore, I ask all parents to collect their P6 & 7 child at 2.30 from the main gate unless the child has already gone home with a younger sibling. This will come into effect from Monday.

And finally,

Happy Friday everyone, it seems like a huge amount has happened since last Friday, New Year's day!! Has it really only been a week?

I wish you and your families blessings for 2021 and I ask you to take comfort, in these uncomfortable days, from the following: Jeremiah 29:11.

'For I know the plans that I have for you' says the Lord, 'plans for your welfare and not for calamity, to give you hope and a future'

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan