

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

12 February 2019

Dear parents,

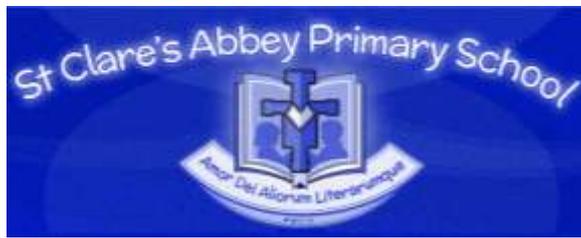
I am delighted to wish you all a lovely mid-term break. I am sure that you are exhausted and ready to switch off and relax. It is a much needed and well deserved rest period which I hope will offer everyone an opportunity to refresh in body and spirit.

I wish to draw your attention to a few matters:

- Our School Counsellor, Mrs O Hare, will be available to offer some face to face sessions in school starting on the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please feel free to contact me by email if you feel that your child requires this service.
- **Lent will commence next Wednesday.** When we come back to school we will be talking to the children about Ash Wednesday, Lenten Promises and Trocaire fund raising campaign 2021. It will be a very different start to Lent, given that the Churches remain closed, but we will make the most of it on our return. **I have placed some lovely resources on the school website and hope that you might have a chance to dip into them next week. (Under Menu Lent 2021)**
- **Information for parents of current P6 pupils re Transfer procedure has been posted on the school app and website.**
- **Information for parents of current P7 pupils re Digital Admissions to Post Primary Schools will be posted to the app and website. This is very important as it will guide you through the changed procedure for selecting your child's post primary school.**

**Correspondence from Sacred Heart Grammar School and Our Lady's Grammar School re their virtual open day arrangements has also been posted.**

- Whilst school is closed for mid-term can I remind parents of pupils who have been accessing school based support, that they need to email me immediately on: [mmonaghan771@c2kni.net](mailto:mmonaghan771@c2kni.net) if their child, who has been in school, tests positive for Covid 19.
- **I have been off school for a few weeks and during that time Mr Sweeney and three of our teachers met with ETI District Inspector- Mrs Mason. The purpose of the meeting was to review the approaches we have adopted to Home Learning.** The outcome was great for our school with the DI recognising the hard work being undertaken by staff and families. It was evident that the children in St Clare's Abbey are having as good a learning experience as possible at this time. It was affirming to be asked to participate in the evaluation and to receive such good feedback. *Congratulations one and all for managing a horrendously*



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*difficult scenario so well and thank you to Mr Sweeney and the staff involved for the work that they did in relation to this survey.*

- I have no doubt that many of you will be engaging in lovely leisurely pursuits over the break, it would be wonderful if you would email some photographs to the website. During the first 'Lockdown' I loved seeing your photographs, but we have been so engrossed in our work this time that I hadn't asked you to send any. Our email address is [www.stclaresabbey@gmail.com](mailto:www.stclaresabbey@gmail.com) I hope to receive many!

As we start the break, I ask you to pray for each other especially on **Ash Wednesday**. All of us are part of a very special group- The St Clare's Abbey Family. I know that many of us are struggling in different ways at the moment, but I also know that the support we receive from others; the prayers, kind words and other thoughtful gestures, carry us through our difficult times... let us be there for each other. A friend shared this with me, I hope that you like it:

*Lord, help me*

*To live this day, quietly easily*

*To lean upon your great strength trustfully, restfully*

*To await the unfolding of your will patiently, serenely*

*To meet others peacefully, joyously*

*To face tomorrow confidently, courageously.*

Thank you once more for a wonderful term, you have been unbelievable throughout; pupils, parents and staff.

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan