

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

Dear Parents,

I hope that you found the children refreshed this week after their break from the screens over mid-term. I know that the staff certainly felt the need for and enjoyed that same screen break.

I draw your attention to the following:

1. Return to school update:

You will be aware from the media that Nursery and P1-P3 pupils will return to school on Monday 8th March. I had held off until today before contacting you about this as I wanted to see if there would be changes announced yesterday, at this point it appears that there will not.

Therefore, we look forward to having the younger members of our school back with us for a period of face to face teaching. Then on the week commencing 22nd they will revert to 'Learning From Home' until the Easter holidays.

We plan to have school running as it had been in term 1 for Nursery and P1-P3 pupils when they return. That means that:

- Early morning supervision will be in place from 8.15
- School meals will be available as required
- School uniform/tracksuit will continue to be worn on alternative days
- No schoolbag arrangement will remain in place
- Requirements for parents to wear masks on school grounds and to observe social distancing will remain.
- Dismissal times from classroom doors will be as they were

Mrs Mc Parland - P1 @ 1.50

Mrs Cribbin- P1@1.55

Miss Mackin P1@ 1.50

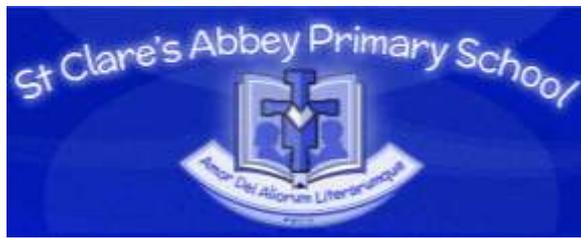
Mrs Keenan-P2@2.00

Mrs Kearney/Miss Mc Namee- substitute teacher-P2 @ 2.05

Mrs Tierney-P3 @ 2.05

Mrs Browne-P3 @2.10

Miss Duffy - P3 @ 2.15



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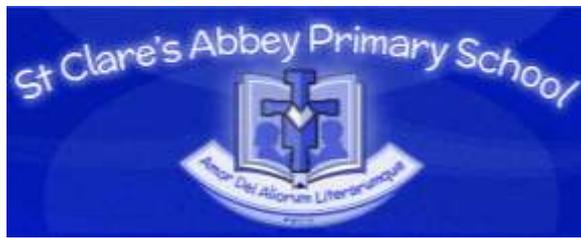
2. Message to P7 pupils:

Please note as per previous correspondence on school app, that the application for post primary places has changed this year to an electronic system. Guidance has been posted on the App and school website, please use this. The process opens on 1st March and closes on 16th March. If you are struggling, please email me mmonaghan771@c2kni.net

3. Message to P6 Parents:

I appreciate that you will have questions about the transfer procedure and the preparations that we as a school will be putting in place to support your child. Considering our existing circumstances, the P6 teachers are working through a plan with me to decide on the best way forward when the pupils return to face to face teaching. In the meantime, I urge you that the most fruitful approach you can adopt is to commit whole heartedly to the digital work being provided by the class teachers. Please ensure that you read the DE circular posted on the school website.

4. **World Book Day** will take place on 4th March, watch out for the teachers' posts re this on Seesaw.
5. **Lent** is progressing and I think that we are all observing Lenten sacrifice more than ever this year, simply by working our way through all the restrictions. However, please take a look at the Lenten posts on the Website, they are updated weekly and I think that they are lovely, hopefully you do too.
6. **Parent Teacher meetings:** we intend to hold these via phone call during Holy week. We will provide times and dates in due course. We will miss seeing you in person, but very much feel that it will be good to have the opportunity to talk together about your child(ren).
7. We have been thinking a lot about the emotional well-being of the children and will be rolling out a few things in the next weeks that we hope will lift the spirits. The first is our '**Let's get singing**' plan. Each week Mrs Keenan or Mr Clarke will teach us a new song and hopefully Newry will be filled with the voices of all the St Clare's Abbey families, raised in song. I had a little run through last night with the first recording, and whilst my family initially thought that I had finally 'gone crazy' for asking them to sit down to 'choir practice'- before the evening was out we were all singing and it was really lovely -the tune is still going through my head. I would heartily recommend that you take part in this. We have always loved to sing in St Clare's Abbey and I imagine that many of our children have been missing it. Thank you to Mrs Keenan and Mr Clarke, in advance for their work on this. The links will be posted on the web site and the teachers will also post on Seesaw.



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8. I was very happy to see some 'News from home' photographs posted on the website, it would be lovely to see more. It is wonderful to see what everyone is getting up to.

I finish by wishing you a lovely weekend and praying that the sunny weather we are hopefully to enjoy for the next few days, will raise our spirits and fill us with optimism.

With warmest wishes to you all,

Mrs Monaghan.