



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

10 December 2021

Good morning parents

Staff and pupils enjoyed a beautiful Christmas dinner on Wednesday 8 December. Thank you to all our kitchen and dining hall staff.

### **Minister of Education**

The staff and pupils of St Clare's Abbey were delighted to welcome the Minister of Education Michelle McIlveen to our school yesterday. She was given a tour of the school including the forest and recently developed sand quarry. Minister McIlveen visited many of the classes where the children spoke confidently about their work. The Minister complimented the children on their work ethic, their behaviour and good manners.

*We would like to thank the Minister for taking time out of her busy schedule to visit us.*

### **Open Days**

This will be the second year that we are unable to hold an Open Day for our school. Whilst the majority of parents had the opportunity to visit and tour the school in the past some parents didn't, particularly parents of children in Nursery and P1.

To enjoy a tour of the school please copy the link below into your browser. (Admission information is available on our website).

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=NBaYfqIDgqL>

### **Admission to Nursery/Primary 1**

If you have a child(ren) due to start Nursery or Primary School in September 2022 you are required to make an application via the Education Authority Portal - [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

Admissions criteria for each school will be published on the Education Authority website on **17 December 2021**.



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Online applications will open at 12.00 noon on Monday 10 January 2022 and will close at 12 noon on Friday 28 January 2022.

Before starting to complete your child's application, please read carefully the admissions criteria.

Your application should be completed providing all the relevant details about how your child meets the school's admissions criteria.

### **Book Fair**

The recent Book Fair in school was a great success generating **£1,416.05** in rewards. This money will be spent on much needed reading books for the school.

### **Covid-19**

**The number of Covid cases is rising in our school community.**

Please follow PHA guidelines and keep your child off school if they have symptoms. What is concerning is that some of the positive cases have presented without any symptoms.

*For this very reason, it is important to take Lateral Flow tests regularly. These are available in the school office.*

If your child is positive, PHA should contact you directly and advise when it is safe to return to school.

**It is also very important to keep the school office fully informed.**

### **Party Day**

Next Friday (17 December) is **Party Day in the Dining Hall**. All children are encouraged to wear their Christmas jumpers/clothes. (non-uniform day)

Have a good weekend everyone.

Mr Sweeney