

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

17 December 2021

Dear Parents,

This year has been another very difficult and challenging year for everyone in our community. The continuing impact of COVID-19 remains a factor in how we go about our daily lives whilst our working patterns continue to be subject to significant disruption and change. And whilst the successful implementation of the vaccination programme across society has offered a renewed sense of hope and optimism, the challenges presented by the Omicron variant of the virus provide us all with the stark reality that we have to continue to be careful, follow the guidelines and regulations and look out for our families, neighbours, colleagues and the most vulnerable in society.

Newry Helping the Homeless

Thank you for your generosity in providing many essential products for those in need.

With your help, we have made some people's Christmas a little brighter.

Christmas Holidays

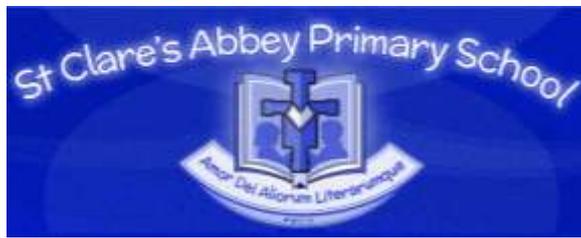
School will finish for this term on **Wednesday, 22nd December at 12 noon**. No dinners will be served on this day.

The Warrenpoint Road bus will only run in the morning. There will be no collection at 12.00 noon.

The school will reopen for the new school year on Monday, 10th January 2022.

Christmas

As Christmas approaches there is a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation, of **warm memories and rich traditions**, all of which create within us a sense that **this is a special and blessed time of the year**.



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The Christmas story brings us *Good News* and offers renewed strength and hope to support us as we carry our burdens in our daily lives. The challenges that Our Saviour and the Holy Family faced in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago gives us all hope that even though we may face unsurmountable obstacles on our journey through life, there is a brighter dawn ahead.

In 1914 the soldiers in the trenches on the Western Front did a remarkable thing - on Christmas Day they imposed a spontaneous widespread and unofficial ceasefire. For a brief moment in time soldiers on both sides of the war became brothers not enemies. They exchanged rations, stories and even played football. There never has been a war to end all wars; hostilities rage around the globe and the evil of war is the daily experience of millions.

Peace on earth and good will to all men and women is the message of Christmas Day. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and blessed are the peacemakers for they are children of God.

May we be in their midst.

The staff of St Clare's Abbey wish everyone a happy Christmas.

We hope your holidays are filled with love, family, peace and happiness.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sweeney