



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

4 March 2022

Good morning parents,

Thank you for the effort you invested into World Book Day and Active Super Hero Challenge, school was filled with fun yesterday and hopefully you will get a sense of that from perusing the website and your child's class seesaw page. I draw your attention this week to a few things:

1. Seesaw app and Primary 365 School App.

With reference to Seesaw, I am aware of a lot of activity on each class page, which could lead to some important things being missed by parents. Therefore, I am hoping in future, to send generic information home on the school app Primary 365 eg notices re World Book day, Fair Trade day, school closure, Feis etc. Currently these go home on the Primary 365 school app and Seesaw and the reason is that I am aware that some parents have not been able to access the Primary 365 school app.

This will cease now so **please ensure that you have the Primary 365 school app and if you have difficulties, please contact the school office.**

A second point re Seesaw is- I am aware that parents use this to contact teachers with queries. Whilst this had seemed like a good idea initially, I have realised that many messages are coming in to teachers late into the evening and are being missed because teachers have finished their school work for the day. Also I have had some teachers on sick leave and as such they have not been responding to private Seesaw messages, this is leading to a break-down in communication. Therefore, **I would urge parents to contact school via phone to arrange a chat with a teacher if it is an important query.** I can also be contacted via email mmonaghan771@c2kni.net as I do not regularly access Seesaw messaging and could miss something important. I check my emails constantly. Other than that posts from home to school under the posted work should continue as these are important but if not seen immediately, they will not impact on the child, or teacher/ parent communication channel.

2. Sacramental preparation talks for parents.c

Thank you to those P7 parents who registered for the Confirmation preparation talks. Parents of P4 are asked to register for First Eucharist talk on Mon 7th or Thurs 10th March by emailing fred@newrycathedralparish.org. I reiterate how important this preparation is. As our P4 pupils prepare to receive the **sacrament of reconciliation on Friday 11th March**, they are receiving a lot of guidance in school and it will mean so much more if parents are supporting us wholeheartedly.

3. Nurture classroom.



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We have been delighted to learn that The Department of Education has allocated significant funding to our school to enable us to have a **'nurturing classroom.'** This will offer a life changing opportunity for some of our youngest pupils who are struggling to make a good start to their education. **It will be a very special addition to St Clare's Abbey when it opens next year and is provision** that we had been seeking for a very long time. We will need to have a mobile classroom installed on site, as we are packed to capacity within, and I have no doubt that it will generate much excitement among the many aspirant builders, designers and architects that we see at work each day, during play based learning. I will keep you posted.

4. **Food Waste Action Week (7th – 13th March)**

Next week Mr Byrne and the Eco Council will be promoting the above message to all. Please support their work by chatting to your children about this very important concept. The Eco council is very busy, engaging in and promoting a range of very moral issues, as appropriate for a school, guided by the principles of St Francis, the original ambassador for Earth Care. We are proud to be his followers.

And finally,

I conclude by wishing you well as we begin the period of Lent. This is an important time of preparation as we mark Jesus' journey through the events of Holy week onto the joys of the Easter Season. As we make our own small sacrifices or engage in additional prayer, **I ask you to pray for the family of our dear colleague, Christine Hanna**, to whom we bade farewell on Wednesday. Whilst we are sorrowing as a school at her premature loss, the depth of her family's grief is unimaginable. This lent, they are carrying a cross that they could never have anticipated, a few short months ago. We pray that they will find the strength that they need.

Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love;

That they may face each new day with hope and certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given.

May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship and their lives enriched by your love.

Amen

Yours in appreciation,

Mrs Monaghan