

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

1 April 2022

Good morning parents,

I hope that you enjoy the lovely weather today, it is a great start to the month of April. Across the two playgrounds the children are delighted to see the spring bulbs that they planted in September springing to life. It really is like a miracle for many of them to see the transformation and we have more plans for them to be involved in further planting to enhance the school grounds. Inspired by the life of St Francis we really believe in the power of nature and the impact it can have on our wellbeing when we embrace it.

Taking the curriculum outdoors:

As a follow up to the cameras planted in the woodland last weekend, we have some beautiful footage of the wildlife that emerged when the children had left it for the day. Two particularly interesting guests were the squirrel and the fox and we have really close up images which the children will love to see. We are hoping to get these reproduced in a format suitable for sharing on our class interactive screens.

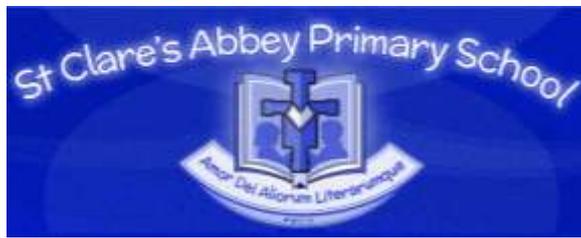
Work Focus:

Prior to Easter we will be completing in house end of term assessments. I ask you to work closely with your child on the following to ensure that they do as well as possible:

- Mental Maths targets posted on Seesaw this term (All year groups)
- **Reading and writing of High Frequency Words-** (P1 -P3 pupils and some pupils from older classes - you will know if your child works on these.)

Dogs:

This might seem at odds with my earlier delight re the wildlife in our woodland, but we are **trying to manage the anxiety of some pupils who are terrified of dogs.** As such I ask parents to work with us to ensure that they are not unnecessarily stressed, by **refraining from walking dogs onto school premises.** Additionally, if you wait at the school gates with your dog, could you wait some distance away and we can direct your child over to you?



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It is so difficult for a dog lover to understand this fear, especially when he/she may confidently state that the dog would not hurt anyone. However, dealing with the genuine anxiety that children are exhibiting is a real concern and one which I would like to alleviate for them, whilst in our care. I respectfully request that you work with us on this issue.

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan.