

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

Dear parents

I wish you and your families every blessing for 2023.

As we start the new calendar year and term 2 of this school year I write to ask for your help to solve a big problem in school - **that of traffic congestion in the morning.**

Throughout Term 1 I noticed increased problems and I put a lot of it down to the road works that had been happening around the school. Those finished in December and the traffic jams continued whilst I made the excuse of it being due to the excessive Christmas traffic.

However throughout this week I have been watching carefully and the main cause is that many parents are driving into school, parking their cars in the drop off area and WALKING their child to the classroom.

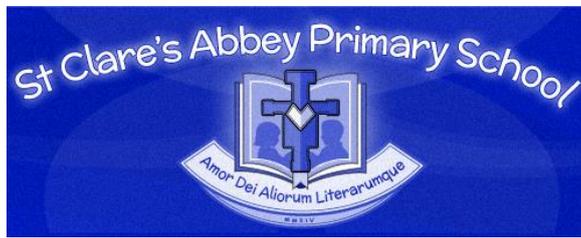
This means that other parents cannot use the drop off spot to allow their children to disembark and ultimately what should be a busy but free flowing movement of traffic is totally jammed, with tailbacks stretching up and down Courtenay Hill and across the Windmill Rd. One parent

'I follow the rules every day and either stop for a moment to allow the children to get out of the car or park outside school and walk my children up to school. But when I get into school I see other parents have just abandoned their cars in the drop off to walk their children to class. It's as if they think that they are more important than everyone else and that the rules don't apply to them.'

I urge all parents to work with us to ease the problem. It has become so bad now that we have record breaking numbers of children arriving into school after lessons have started at 9.00. Our teachers have always been in class since 8.45 to receive their children and we have always had a prompt 9.00 start, but the bad habits that have crept in this year means that in virtually each class, proper school work is now starting 20+ minutes later. This cannot continue.

Therefore moving forward:

1. If you drive into school, use the drop off zones to allow your children to disembark and then move on as swiftly as possible. (There is always a member of staff available at this time in case a child becomes upset after his/her parent has driven off)



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2. *If you need to walk your child to the classroom, park outside school grounds and walk up.*

3. Remember that in the afternoon the only cars that are to enter school for **HOME TIME** 'pick up' are those that have registered with school as needing special arrangements to be made- eg **Blue badge holder for a child**. Should you need this provision but have not yet registered feel free to contact Mrs Downey in the school office.

Yours in anticipation of us all working together to solve what is rapidly becoming an unmanageable situation.

An Irish 'saying' used quite often at the start of a New year is 'Well begun is half done!', Please God a good start will be made next week to rectify this situation.

Mrs Monaghan