

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

Principal's update 13/9/24

Dear Parents,

I feel as if this week has flown by and it is great to see everyone settling into the new year. I write re a few points:

Nursery and P1 pupils

We now have our newest pupils well into routine, with all Nursery pupils enrolled and P1 pupils preparing to start their longer day with us. Please do not be surprised if your child is tired or tearful as he/she gets used to the additional hours. They are kept busy in school and there is a lot of stimulation during the day, so do not be surprised if it takes its toll for a little while. I wish to thank the parents of our new pupils for choosing St Clare's Abbey, I am getting to know your children slowly and surely and I know that we are going to have a great experience together; home, school and child. I am sure that you have been impressed by the care lavished on your very young and precious children, by our devoted early years' staff. They are a very impressive group of people who are investing everything they possess into giving your children the very best start possible. I am so appreciative!

Post Primary Entrance Exam

The P7 teachers have posted on Seesaw to indicate to parents how they can enter their child for the exam, if they choose. The closing date is **Friday 20th September**.

Application for Free School Meals.

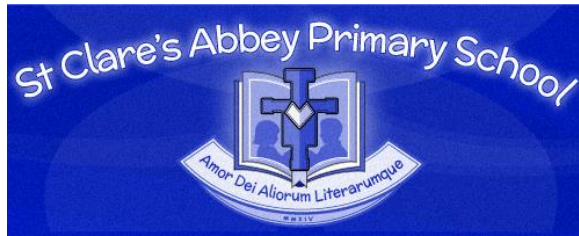
A lot of the school funds that we receive from DE is based on the percentage of pupils we have in receipt of Free School Meals. Our percentage has dropped and funding has been reduced as a result of this. I encourage all families who might be eligible to apply, even if their child chooses to take packed lunches. We really need to get as much funding as possible and this is one way in which you could help.

Applications are made on the eani.org.uk website. If you have applied and have not received a response, please contact EA to confirm the status of your application.

Road safety message

We put a lot of effort into teaching your children about road safety. Please work with us to instil key messages by:





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. Crossing the road outside school with the assistance of the 'lollipop man'- Mr Monaghan. The adults on duty have been advised that they should not be helping pupils to cross the road at a different point ie across from the pedestrian gate.

- Ensuring that you use footpaths and zebra crossings when walking through school with your child.
- Dropping your child off in the correct zone (at the section of the turning area close to the P1/2 play park.). NB pupils should never be walking in between parked cars.

Collection of P4-P7 children

Pupils will be brought to the gates for collection. They cannot be taken from their line prior to that by parents or older siblings etc. It is a hectic time of the day and the teacher needs to be very clear that he/she has dismissed each child properly.

Arrangements for sending messages to school

Thank you for signing up to Seesaw. This will be used for teachers to share messages with you and for you to comment on pupils' work or respond to certain queries. HOWEVER if you need to send an urgent message during the day, please do this by contacting the school office. Teachers look at Seesaw only at specific times in the day and can miss these urgent messages. Thank you for working with us on this.

Sacramental dates

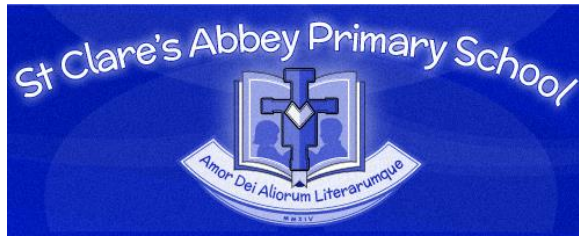
I will be attending a meeting with local principals, priests and Canon Brown on Tuesday and hope to be given our sacramental dates at that time. I know that parents are eager to receive dates, so I will issue them ASAP.

Parents' start of year information sessions next week

I look forward to seeing you or a representative at our start of year meetings next week. A reminder of the times is shown below. It will be lovely to see each other again and help our children to make the best possible start to the new school year.

Date & Time	Year Group	Location
Monday 16th @ 1.20- 1.50	P6	Mrs Noonan's classroom





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Monday 16 th @ 2.10- 2.50	P7	Assembly Hall
Wednesday 18 th @1.00-1.40	P3	Miss Jones' classroom
Wednesday 18 th @ 2.10-2.50	P5	Mrs Mc Veigh's classroom
Thursday 19 th @1.00-1.40	P2	Miss Rocks' classroom
Thursday 19 th @ 2.10-2.50	P4	Miss Mc Cann's classroom

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and thank you sincerely for your support,

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan

