



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

Dear Parents,

This month is Dyslexia awareness month. In St Clare's Abbey we place a lot of emphasis on helping our pupils with Literacy difficulties. Whilst we as teachers, cannot diagnose a child as having Dyslexia, it takes an educational psychologist to do that, we have undertaken a lot of training to identify good strategies for helping pupils struggling with Literacy, some of whom may have Dyslexia. I have arranged that the newsletters from EA Literacy Service be posted on our school website under the 'Parents' section and 'Help with Literacy' sub section. I have been refreshing my own reading of these over the week and I would urge you to have a look. One in particular that struck me last night was Issue 2- 'Reading'. Contained within it is a link to a movie about one mother's struggle to help her child overcome his challenges arising from his Literacy difficulty. It is a wonderful story and its references to the Nessy programme that we purchase for many of our children is thought provoking. I urge any parent who has a Nessy license for their child to watch it and truly commit to Nessy. The license bought for your child is expensive and will really work if used in a committed way.

The next thing that has really been on my mind relates to the marking/ sharing of your child's work that has been posted on Seesaw. I can see that the teachers are giving you a valuable piece of information to use with your child to help them improve in their learning. If each parent could view these with their child, talk about them and respond to the teacher (by voice or written message) showing the child that home and school are on the same page and have the same expectations we would see great progress. I had a look last night and across the board we have less than 25% of our parents responding. I truly know how demanding life is but equally I know how eager parents are for their children to do well and improve in their work. Our teachers have taken on this extra piece of work at my request as we are firmly convinced that standards will improve if we all work together. Please take a little time at the weekend to sit with your child- 5 or 10 minutes and go through their work, then create a response and send it back to the teacher. The children whose parents are doing this love it and it creates a great excitement within the class when there is two way communication. One week the work shared will be related to World Around Us, the next Literacy and the next Numeracy. We have reduced the amount that we are posting so that what comes through will be more manageable.

Thank you as always in anticipation of your engagement with us on Seesaw,

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan