



12 Courtenay Hill, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2EA

Phone: (028) 3026 2175

Dear parents,

News from this week:

1. This week we celebrated Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the start of the Lenten journey within the Catholic church. Mrs Doherty (Religious Education co-ordinator) and I had the privilege of distributing ashes to the children during a little prayer service within each class. We were deeply impressed by the sincerity and respect evident in each child as he/she listened and received. I have spoken so many times about the spirituality of our children and it continues to be a great source of joy to me, to watch their growing faith development.

As part of our school Lenten preparation we are really promoting the Trocaire appeal and each class has its own fundraising box, which we are hoping will be filled multiple times with spare coin donations from families. 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of this wonderful organisation that works to provide aid to the poorest communities in the world by investing in their capacity to become self sufficient. Trocaire packs are available at the back of all our chapels and in the Parish office, for families to keep in their homes. It would be lovely for your child to have the message reinforced at home, so feel free to collect one.

2. We extend congratulations to Melissa Monaghan- P3, Grainne Brennan-P7 and Shanara Miah -P7 who have been shortlisted as finalists for the NI Anti Bullying Forum Creative Arts Competition that took place during Anti Bullying week. To have 3 finalists from one school is fantastic and we are so proud of the girls and the recognition that they have brought to St Clare's Abbey in terms of being a school that works really hard to stamp out bullying behaviours.

3. I also draw your attention to the recordings posted on our school website which show the wildlife that is currently enjoying life in our forest. Mr Fitzpatrick our P5 teacher and Eco Co-ordinator, has installed cameras in key places around the school grounds and it is such a treat to see what is happening throughout the night and into the early hours of each new day. We realise how lucky we are to have such a beautiful school site and it is a pleasure to teach our children the value of caring for nature. The recordings can be found on our Eco Page under the menu "children".

I wish you all a great first weekend of Lent:

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan

