

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

Principal's Update 12th January

Dear Parents,

I wish you and your families every blessing for 2024. It is exciting to start a new calendar year and term 2 with you all.

Important dates for the week ahead:

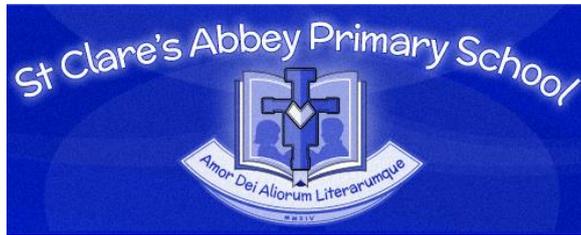
1. Saturday 13th The parish family mass will take place in St Brigid's Church @7.30pm. It would be lovely to have our families attend as the liturgy will be child friendly. We would especially love to see lots of our P4 & P7 children and their families attend as they prepare to receive their sacraments in the Summer term.
2. Monday 15th @10.30- A group of parent volunteers will meet with Vice Principal Mrs Donnelly to 'have their say' on our new updated Literacy policy. Additional parents are very welcome so please join us if you are free. Such meetings are really important as we need to hear from you to ensure that the thoughts and grand plans that we have actually make sense and work for you.
3. Thursday 18th- **As per media coverage there will be no school for pupils as staff will be participating in strike action all day.**

Term 1 assessment updates:

Throughout December we had been undertaking assessments with pupils. A lot of emphasis had been placed on enhancing reading scores this term. Analysis of recent scores indicate clearly that where children have engaged fully at home with our reading material (*High Frequency Word lists/ Reading Books/ Bug Club for P1-P3 pupils*) and (*Reading Books/ Bug Club/ Accelerated Reader for P4-P7 pupils*) there have been great improvements in scores.

P4- P7 pupils will be reviewing their Term 1 **Accelerated Reader progress reports** next week, to analyse their own usage and performance. ***This will then be shared with you, the parents and we ask you to discuss it with your child.*** Progress has been made within each class across the first term, however we still have a long way to go. Therefore, we will be running the Parental Paired Reading Programme again this year, this was led by Mrs Donnelly last year and a huge number of parents participated with their child over an 8 week period and the results were great. This year's programme will be launched with a parental information session to be held on Monday 22nd January at 2.15, please keep this date in mind and watch out for further detail on Seesaw from Mrs Donnelly.





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Reminder:

Please respond to the piece of Term 1 literacy sent home by your class teacher this week. I appreciate that there may not have been enough time for you to go through it yet so hopefully the weekend will afford an opportunity. We undertake a tally of how many parents have responded and we will wait until next week to do this to give everyone a chance. I have spoken to several of the children who were able to tell me all about looking at their work with their family and what they need to do next. This is fantastic as it means that your child's motivation to improve is coming from within, which will lead to greater success. Thank you for helping us to secure this. We appreciate the power of parental engagement so much and there is an abundance of research which shows how valuable it is in enhancing pupil attainment.

To conclude:

I feel that this has been quite a dry message and that I am asking a lot from you, however I want to make the best possible start to the new term re academia. Our motto in St Clare's Abbey is 'Loving God, Loving Others and Loving Learning' so we really wish to start the new term with a strong focus on the 'loving Learning' element, with your assistance.

Looking forward to your continued support,

Yours in partnership

Mrs Monaghan

