

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

11 November 2023

Dear Parents

We have had such a lovely calm, kind, hardworking week back at school. The Halloween break seems to have provided a great rest for us all.

Christmas support:

I am aware that Christmas is now the next thing on everyone's mind. I would urge any family who feels that they could do with a helping hand to organise Christmas, to make contact with me. Please know that I will handle any conversation in the utmost confidence. Please contact me via phone 02830262175 or by email mmonaghan771@c2kni.net. I do not use Seesaw for messaging.

I also know that St Vincent De Paul is eager to hear from families who may need help with Christmas or meeting the cost of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please reach out if this might be of interest to you and do so early to avoid unnecessary financial stress and anxiety.

P7 Pupils:

Our wonderful P7 pupils have worked incredibly hard over the last few months whether they were planning to sit the GL exam or not. They undertook their 'normal' P7 work daily and then extra Literacy and Numeracy each day. The first exam takes place tomorrow and my prayer for any child participating is that he /she will be calm and do his/her best- we can do no more and God has a plan for each and everyone of us!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The second paper will take place on 25th November.

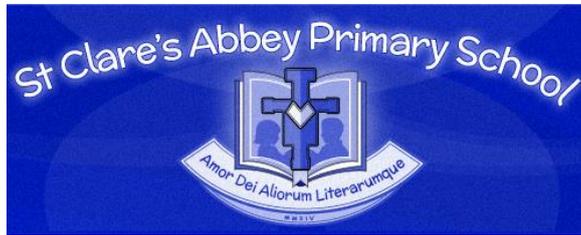
Parental Support Programme:

I thank the parents who offered to help out with the in-school reading programme and the policy consultation programme. Work on each will begin next week and Mrs Donnelly will be in touch with those parents to confirm arrangements, however if any other parent wishes to be involved, please let us know on Monday.

In November, we remember our loved ones who have died:

The children have been praying throughout the week for our dearly beloved who have passed on from this life. They know how important it is that we remember. Perhaps you can speak as a family about your own relations who have died and the children can add them to our intentions in school as the month of November unfolds. We have a remembrance tree in the foyer. Once again, their respect and reverence as we pray and sing is deeply touching, they are very caring!





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Family Mass:

Canon Brown has asked me to promote the second parish Family Mass scheduled for this Saturday evening in St Bridget's Church. I know that the last one, whilst lovely - thank you Fr Alphonsus!!- was longer than any of us had expected and was a late finish. However, this has been noted and I truly urge you to attend this week's, especially if you have a child of P4 age or older.

Upcoming Industrial Action on Thursday 16th November:

Please see correspondence below from EA re this. I do not have a definite plan yet as to how this will impact on St Clare's Abbey, but I want to give parents notice that there will be some disruption on Thursday, **(It will most likely be a late school opening- but possibly more than that.**

I do know for definite that no school meals will be provided.) I will furnish you with definitive detail on Monday.

The Education Authority (EA) has warned of expected disruption to some school services as a result of strike action notified by UNISON, UNITE the UNION, NIPSA and GMB. UNISON, UNITE the UNION, NIPSA and GMB will all take strike action on Thursday 16th November 2023. The EA is working with schools, youth services and partners to minimise any disruption to children and young people caused by the strike action. However, due to the large number of staff anticipated to be involved in the planned action, we are expecting significant disruption, including to EA home to school transport (yellow bus), school meals and cleaning services.

The strike action will also have a major impact on the availability of Classroom Assistants in schools and may also impact on EA services to schools.

We encourage parents/carers to check the EA website for regular updates and details of any planned disruption here: www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates - information is also available across EA social media channels.

Thank you for your understanding and support,

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan

