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Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare's Abbey,

As we approach the beginning of Advent, which starts this Sunday, I write to you with lots of 'news.'

First, I have been informed by the builder that we will be able to move into our new school on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February**, which whilst later than what I had hoped for, allows us to make concrete plans for term 2 and 3. These are:

- **8<sup>th</sup> December**, which was to be a holiday will now be an **ordinary school day** for pupils and will allow us to extend the Christmas break, which had originally been quite short.
- **22<sup>nd</sup> December** - Christmas holidays commence @ 12pm
- **6<sup>th</sup> January** school re-opens for pupils
- **15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February** - No school - Mid-term break
- **26<sup>th</sup> February**- pupils spend their last day on Abbey and St Clare's sites
- **29<sup>th</sup> Feb - 4<sup>th</sup> March** -no school for pupils whilst staff set up new school

NB during this week the pupils in each year group and their parents will be invited into school for a familiarity session. Times allocated to each year group will be decided closer to the date.

- **7<sup>th</sup> March**- school will open for all pupils
- **17<sup>th</sup> March**- St Patrick's Day - holiday.
- **24<sup>th</sup> March**- Easter holidays commence @ 12pm
- **4<sup>th</sup> April**- school reopens for pupils.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May**- Mid-term break
- **30<sup>th</sup> May**- No school- bank holiday.
- **30<sup>th</sup> June**- Summer holidays commence @ 12pm

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He/she will be allocated a classmate's name and we ask you to pray with your child each night before bed for his/her prayer friend. This very simplistic yet meaningful advent 'project' is a lovely reminder to us all that advent is a time for preparing for our Saviour's birth and that the most important Christmas preparation we can make is to pray a little bit more as a family and school. In addition to praying for their prayer friend throughout Advent, we would also encourage your child to send a special Christmas card (home-made or bought with a nice personal note inside) to his/her prayer friend and the teacher will distribute these just before the holidays. We want to instil in our pupils that 'it is the thought that counts', often pupils bring presents to school but we really believe that a carefully thought out card and message can be even more meaningful so please support us in this and help your child to put effort into the card rather than buying a gift.

Your child's 'Cris Cringle' prayer card complete with prayer and classmate's name is attached at the bottom of the letter, please cut it out and place at your child's bedside. Thank you for joining us in this special home/school bond.

I realise that many parents are having to book time off from work to attend their child's Christmas celebrations, therefore I am happy to provide times and dates for these:

Class	Date	Time	Venue
Nursery	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 AM & 1.00 PM	Mrs Bennett's class.
P1 Mrs Cribbin	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30 PM	Mrs Cribbin's class
P1- Mrs Trotter	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30 PM	Mrs Trotter's class
P1 Miss Mc Shane	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30 PM	<b>Mrs Toner's class</b>
P2- all three classes	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	1.45PM	Assembly Hall: St Clare's site
P3 - Miss Rocks	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30PM	Miss Rock's class
P3 Mrs Sloan	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 AM	Assembly Hall St Clare's site
P3 - Mrs Tierney	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	11.15 AM	Mrs Tierney's class
P4 - all three classes	<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	1.30 PM	Carol singing for Barnardos in Buttercrane
P4 - all three classes	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2.10PM	Assembly Hall St Clare's site.
P5 & Miss O Shea's class	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00PM	Assembly Hall St Clare's site
	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 AM	Miss O Shea's class - ECPD-
P6 - both classes	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 AM	Mass in Assembly Hall Abbey Site
P7- both classes	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	1.45PM	Assembly Hall - Abbey Sit

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**Some other dates:**

- First Confession will be celebrated in Cathedral on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.30 PM
- Sr Mercedes will host a P7 reflective evening for **all** P7 pupils and their parents on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December @ 7pm on Abbey site.
- We will have a non-uniform day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November and ask for £1 donation towards school charity fund-raising 'pot'.
- 3 - 4pm After school clubs will finish on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

It remains for me to thank you sincerely for your support in what has been a very exciting and unconventional term. Our teachers have worked so hard to ensure that the term was as smooth as possible and I know that you think that they did a great job. The St Clare's Abbey community is a wonderful one and we have a very exciting 2016 to look forward to.. I wish you and your family every blessing for the Christmas season.

Yours in partnership,

*Mrs Monaghan*

Mrs Monaghan  
Principal

**St Clare's Abbey  
Primary School**



**I pray for my  
Cris Cringle  
Prayer Friend**

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Dear Jesus,

During Advent we try to become very close to you by praying to you every night. I pray in a special way for my Cris Cringle prayer friend and his/her family, that they will have a lovely happy Advent and Christmas.

Thank you Jesus, for all the lovely things in my life and I hope that you can feel me wishing you a very 'happy birthday.'