

1 NOVEMBER 2018 – 31 DECEMBER 2018

ST CLARE'S ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME . . .

Dear Parents,

We have had such a lovely first half term with your wonderful children. We have watched, with delight, our Nursery and P1 pupils settle into school life, whilst simultaneously enjoying the maturity exhibited by P7s as they have assumed their roles as pupil leaders. They are a credit to you and us! The first two months have been filled with lots of 'big' events including Healthy Kidz fundraiser.

Recycling project – feel free to pop in and see the many wonderful creations. 'Forest schools' work - we are working towards an award in this. Have a little peek at how beautifully it has been decorated for Halloween - thank you to Mrs Burns for this!

Gathering in the harvest from our 'Gardening Club' work and making vegetable soup with this for the parents and grandparents who volunteer.

'Movie Night' and Parents Information Sessions - thank you for your attendance and your efforts to help us forge strong home/school links.

Individual Parents Teacher meetings.

The launch of 'Mathletics' as a home-school Maths Programme - feel free to contact us if you need some advice regarding using this at home.

A focus on healthy breaks and lunches - there has been a great improvement in recent weeks – Thank you!

Selection of our fundraising charities and events for the year - the School Council found this difficult but made good decisions - please refer to their letter for details.

Commencement of 'The Children of The Eucharist' Programme – this allows P4 pupils as part of their sacramental preparation to engage in child friendly adoration of The Blessed Eucharist once a month. It is a special time and the children are responding beautifully to it.

Introduction of cursive 'Joined up' writing from P3 to P7. We will be uploading recordings of correct letter formation to the website, please watch these and support your children in this tricky work of mastering the art of cursive.

We had a visit from PSNI and Station Commander of the NI Fire service to talk to the pupils about Halloween safety and the law regarding fireworks and bangers- please ask your children about this. I could write and write and write as St Clare's Abbey is an incredibly busy place, however, I urge you to log in to the school website www.stclaresabbeyps.com to gain a good insight into the busy September and October we have all had together.

Yours in Partnership,
Mrs Monaghan

DATES FOR THE DIARY THIS TERM



School Closures:

01.11.18 – 2.11.18 – Halloween Break.

21.12.18 – 6.01.19 – Christmas Break. School closes at 12.00 noon on Friday 21 December 2018. School re-opens on Monday 7 January 2019.



Transfer Test:

Transfer date - 17.11.18

First Confession:

Friday 7 December 2018 at 2.00 pm in St Mary's Church.

School Council Charity Events

30.10.18 – Halloween Dress Up Day for Ellen.

23.11.18 – Pyjama Day for Ellen

20.12.18 – Christmas Jingle Dress Up for Ellen.

Please refer to school website for up-to-date information
stclaresabbeyps.com

Christmas Activities:

Thursday 13 December: Miss Rocks	11.00 am	Wednesday 19 December: Nursery (AM)	9.30 am
Friday 14 December: Mrs Tierney	11.00 am	Primary 7	11.00 am
Mrs Davey/Mrs McKeown	1.00 pm	Nursery (PM)	1.00 pm
Monday 17 December: Miss Duffy	11.00 am	Mrs Cribbin	1.30 pm
Mrs Doherty/Miss Dyas	1.30 pm	Thursday 20 December: ECPD/Mr Digney	11.00 am
Tuesday 18 December: Primary 2	11.00 am	Primary 4	1.30 pm
Mrs Gallagher	1.30 pm	Primary 6 Mass: Date to be confirmed	

Any other News

First Confession will be held on Friday 7 December 2018 at 2.00 pm in St Mary's Church, Chapel Street, Newry.

Holy Communion will be held on Saturday 18 May 2019 at 10.30 am in St Mary's Church, Chapel Street, Newry.

Confirmation will be held on Friday 12 April 2019 at 6.00 pm in Newry Cathedral, Hill Street, Newry

The Priests of the Parish invite all parents of Primary 4 pupils to take their children to the 'Do this in Memory' masses to be held at 7.00 pm in St Brigid's Church on the following dates:

Saturday 24 November 2018
Saturday 26 January 2019
Saturday 6 April 2019

Saturday 15 December 2018
Saturday 9 March 2019

Introducing . . .

POP The Peacock - a new article is released each week and sent out to parents on the School APP. Please speak with your child regarding the importance of each Article. The children will also speak about the Articles in School, for example our Article for the past week is Article 16 - "You have the right to privacy".

Important Stuff

School 'App'

Again we urge parents to sign up for the St Clare's Abbey 'app'. This will be the **first method** of communication with parents in relation to school matters, especially in relation to school closures. If you are having difficulties, please contact the school office.

Contact Information

Parents **NEED** to ensure updated information in relation to contact numbers, address etc is given to the school as soon as possible. This year we had over 350 pupils with changes on their data forms in September!! We request at least 3 contact names in case of emergencies.

See-Saw Programme

Many parents are now using this to view their child's classroom experience. If you have difficulty in using this and need extra help, please contact the school.

School Grounds

We really appreciate the high level of co-operation we are getting in relation to drop off and pick up of pupils within the school grounds. Thank you for this and we trust this continues. New signs have been put up around the school in relation to areas out of bounds for safety reasons, please respect these instructions.

'Allergies'

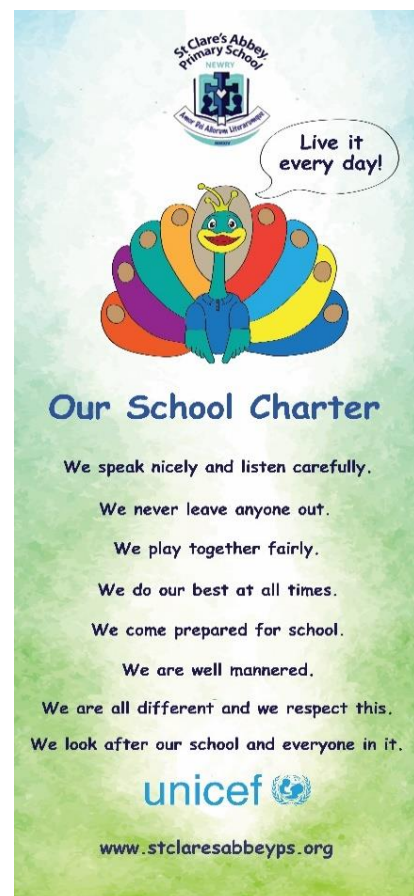
Due to severe allergies, our School operates a strict '**NO NUTS**' Policy. We also have one P1 class in which we are making arrangements to manage a **dairy allergy**. Parents of pupils in this class have been contacted. Again we request no hard or highly coloured sweets or lollies in lunchboxes.

Sports Fundraising Event

Our Healthy Kidz Fundraising Event was an amazing success and we almost reached our target to allow us to fully fund this event for the current year which costs £6,500.00. The pupils had a fantastic time and are enjoying their weekly PE experience. Check out the website for photographs.

You will note from the TV news this week, that the Department of Education have ceased funding for sports coaches. This will now have to come out of school budget. Thankfully we are now on track for this year!!

Throughout 2019, we will be working towards gathering the funds for next year. If you wish to help in any way or put forward suggestions for fundraising, please contact the office.



Staff News:

Mrs Kearney and Mrs McGoldrick recently gave birth to healthy baby boys - we offer our warmest congratulations to both families.

Mrs Doherty will be going on Maternity Leave at Christmas - we await the news of her new addition.

And so:

*"Focus on the good
in each and every day,
no matter what happens
there is good to be
found".
Catherine Pulsifer*

JUST TO FINISH . . .

We would like to thank Mr Aidan Clarke of **Stat Sports** for sending his Senior Sports Scientist to the School to let some of our P7 pupils test out their GPS Devices. These devices are used by the Barcelona Football Team, Manchester United, Irish Rugby Team, Dublin GAA amongst other high profile sports teams.