



1 NOVEMBER 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2019



ST CLARE'S ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME . . .

Dear Parents,

We have had such a lovely first half and it has truly flown by!!!! We have watched, with joy, as our Nursery and P1 pupils have settled into school life, they are absolutely beautiful children and we are so delighted to have each and everyone of them with us. Simultaneously, we proudly delight in 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:

'Galaxy Coaching Fundraiser' - your generosity has been overwhelming and has ensured that we have sufficient funds to pay tutors to deliver a highly skilled gymnastics, dance and games PE programme. I have peeked through the window several times since it has commenced and the quality of the tuition is excellent - the pupils are loving it!

'Forest Schools' work - Having achieved the prestigious 'Forest Schools Award' last year we continue to make fabulous use of this part of our school grounds. Our use this term has included: A study in P6 on Biodiversity in conjunction with staff from the District Council, Creation of a 'Dig for Victory' garden in P4 as part of their WW2 study, Lunch time play opportunities for younger pupils aided by P7 Mentors and key staff, Outdoor curriculum time for P1 - P3 pupils as part of their Play and Activity Based Learning work.

In order to make effective use of the forest we have had to ask for your support in providing suitable footwear - thank you to you all for supporting us in this. We aim to extend our use of the forest further, believing wholeheartedly in the benefits our pupils gain from being outside as often as possible. We also thank sincerely Mrs Siobhan Burns for the festive decorations she has added to the forest - the children are thrilled by these.

Parental involvement has been of a high level this term. It is claimed that the most important factor in pupil academic success is the interaction of home and school. We wholeheartedly believe in this and thank you for your attendance at the events outlined below and for your efforts to help us forge strong home/school links.

'Movie Night' and Parents Information Sessions - P1 - P7 pupils and parents.

Big Bedtime Read evening- Nursery parents

Individual Parents Teacher meetings.

Parents' Literacy workshop with Kate O Hanlon

Parents' Numeracy workshop with Colette Delargey.

Our Parents' Volunteer Reading Programme - we thank sincerely the mums who volunteer on this!

The 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.

Consolidation of our work on developing **Cursive 'Joined up' writing** from P3 to P7. This is very difficult for several of our pupils, however, a significant number are making wonderful progress and we urge you to continue to support your children in the tricky work of mastering the art of cursive. (I suggest urging them to write possibly one small piece of their Literacy written work in cursive - 1-2 lines.) Once mastered it is a joy to behold!!

As always I could write and write and write about our work this term 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 catch up on the many wonderful things happening in our lovely school.

I wish you a wonderful mid-term break and finish off by informing you that we had a visit from PSNI to talk to the pupils about Halloween safety and the law regarding fireworks and bangers - please ask your children about this. Each year when we depart on the Halloween break I do so with fervent prayers that each pupil will return safely once all the bonfire, fireworks and sparklers fun has come to an end.

Yours in Partnership,
Mrs Monaghan

Christmas Activities:

Wed 5 December:	P6 Advent Mass **	1.30 pm
Wed 11 December:	P3 Mrs Browne	11.00 am
Thu 12 December:	P3 Mrs Tierney	11.00 am
	P4 Carol Service in Hall	1.30 pm
Fri 13 December	P3 Miss Duffy	1.30 pm
Mon 16 December:	P5 Mr Digney	1.30 pm
Tue 17 December:	P2 Christmas Play in Hall	11.00 am
	P1: Mrs Gallagher	1.30 pm
	P5: Miss Friel	2.00 pm

Wed 18 December:	Nursery AM Session	9.30 am
	Nursery PM Session	12.45 pm
	P1 Mrs Cribbin	1.15 pm
	P7 Play in Hall	1.45 pm
Thur 19 December:	ECPD	11.00 am

**** P6 Advent Mass in St Mary's Church: P6 parents are warmly invited and any other parents that would like to attend. P4-P7 children will be in attendance.**

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 **MUST** ensure updated information in relation to contact numbers, address etc is given to the school as soon as possible. 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

Once again, 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.

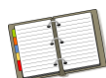
New signs have been donated by PSNI which are placed in the drop off zone. Please respect these areas, as safety of our children is paramount.

'Allergies'

Due to severe allergies, our School operates a strict **'NO NUTS'** Policy. We also have **DAIRY ALLERGIES** in school. These classes have strict procedures in place to prevent any reactions. Healthy snack is required at breaktime. Again we request no hard or highly coloured sweets or lollies in lunchboxes.

NO NUTS IN OUR SCHOOL

DATES FOR THE DIARY THIS TERM



School Closed:

30.10.19-01.11.19 - Halloween Break.

23.12.18 - 06.01.20 - Christmas Break. School closes at 12.00 noon on Friday 20 December 2019. School re-opens on Tuesday 7 January 2020.

Transfer Test:

Transfer date - Saturday 16 November 2019.

School Council Charity Events

29.10.19 - Halloween Dress Up Day.

29.11.19 - Pyjama Day.

19.12.19 - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Party Day in Dining Hall for Dinners.

£1.00 Donation for Charity for non-uniform days

The final Parents Information Session on 06.11.19 - led by Liz Jones covering the important issues of 'Promoting Positive Mental Health and Emotional Well-being in our Children. Friday 15 November 2019: Children in Need. Members of our Chamber Choir have been invited to sing live on TV as part of The Children in Need Choir. Please tune in. Details to follow.



Christmas Dinner Day for Pupils:

Thursday 5 December 2019.

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

Sports Fundraising Event

Our Galaxy Coaching Fundraising Event was a brilliant success. We raised £5,991.85 which will help the school fund the sports programme for this year. Kajus Savickas in P6 was the lucky winner of the bicycle. The pupils had a fantastic time and are enjoying their weekly PE experience. The children are looking forward to the new gymnastic club to be held shortly. We are always open for suggestions to ways of raising money to fund our sports programme each year.

Other News

First Confession will be held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 at 1.30 pm St Mary's Church, Chapel Street, Newry.

First Holy Communion will be held on Friday 15 May 2020 at 10.30am in Newry Cathedral, Hill Street, Newry.

Confirmation will be held on Friday 6 March 2020 at 6.00 pm in Newry =Cathedral, Hill Street, Newry.

Nursery and P1 Enrolment for September 2020.

Important Dates:

19.12.19 - EA publishes information on website about admissions procedures and admissions criteria.

07.01.20 - Online Portal for applications opens at 12.00 noon.

30.01.20 - Online Portal for applications closes at 12.00 noon.

If your child is currently in Nursery, an application needs to be made for P1

Digital Admissions for applications for Nursery and Primary 1 will be made online at www.eani.org.uk.

JUST TO FINISH . . .

Newry Cathedral Junior Choir is seeking new members. Any boy or girl age 7 plus who wishes to join the choir, please come with your parents at 11.15 am any Sunday for practice for the 12.00 noon Mass. Parents must attend the mass and be available to collect their children after.