

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

Parental update 18th September.

Good morning parents, we have had a lovely week in school and have all really enjoyed the good weather. The children are well accustomed to all the new rules and routines at this stage and I am very pleased with them. Please see the important points that have arisen this week as needing your attention:

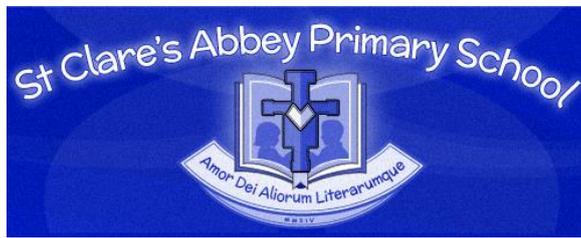
1. Thank you to all parents who have responded to the start of year permission/ agreement document posted on Seesaw. I know that the teachers are awaiting a small number of responses, so if you have not had a chance to read and respond, can I ask you to do so over the weekend? I remind you that queries can be raised in the first instance with the class teacher via Seesaw private message and after that via email to bdowney378@c2kni.net. Please note that any parent requiring assistance for Seesaw can request an appointment. We have had some already and those parents are now up and running.

2. Thankfully no member of our school community has tested positive for Covid 19, however should this happen, a process has to be worked through in a very structured manner. Therefore, if your child tests positive please contact school immediately Monday to Friday by telephone initially 02830262175 or if unable to get through on phone please email me on mmonaghan771@c2kni.net. If you receive a positive diagnosis during the weekend, please email me on the above email address. I will be checking my email each Saturday and Sunday.

3. Note to P1 & Nursery parents.

As each day goes by, I am realising that there are definite gaps as a result of me not having had my induction meeting with you in June. That would have been the time when I would have shared a few practical Health and Safety matters with you.

- The first involves traffic- we have had a few instances of parents leaving school after drop off and collection times, driving cars very fast and also taking short cuts instead of following the one - way system. We constantly have children in this vicinity and I am very worried about this. Please drive at minimal speed in school grounds.
- The second involves parents coming to school during the school day to either collect pupils or drop off belongings. All parents entering school for any such purpose must report to the school office. From a safeguarding perspective, it is not appropriate for adults to come to outdoor spaces, in Nursery or P1 if they see their child outside; either to talk to them or pass items to them. Whilst each child obviously recognises his/ her own parent, the other pupils in



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the class simply see the parent as a stranger in school, which dilutes the message of 'Stranger Danger' that we teach.

4. Note to P3 parents.

Each year parents of new P3 pupils grapple with a new drop off point as their children have moved to an entrance at the other side of the school. This has resulted in a lot of parents driving their car up to the corner and allowing their children to disembark there.

As a result:

- Traffic is slowing up behind,
- **Delivery vehicles trying to reverse** into their drop off point in this area are delayed,
- Staff are having to wait to get into parking spaces and
- **Pupils are walking in between parked cars** (this is very poor road safety).

Therefore, can I ask all parents of pupils in P3, P4, P5 and Miss Rocks' P6 to allow their children to disembark at the top of the carpark (beside P1/P2 drop off - where disembark markings are in place and Mr Murphy, caretaker, is in position daily). We have staff stationed at key points on the walkway around so there will be no question of your child getting lost. I urge for your cooperation in this matter and thank you in advance.

I sign off by congratulating our P5 pupils once again on receiving the sacrament of First Eucharist last Saturday. It was a wonderful day. We have a beautiful gallery of photos on the website but can add to this if we receive any new ones. Please email to stclaresabbey@gmail.com. Any that we have received have now been posted.

Enjoy the weekend,

yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan