

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

2 October 2020

Dear parents,

This has been a worrying time in the Newry and Mourne area and I am relieved to have reached the end of another week with no positive cases of the virus among our pupils. In the background, staff have been working very hard to ensure that all is ready to make a smooth switch to home learning as soon as it is needed for a particular class. As part of this we had a 'Seesaw' support clinic in school on Wednesday and we are now confident that all parents who required help to implement Seesaw are 'up and running.' If by chance anyone finds themselves still in this position, please contact school immediately.

#### **Ventilation in class rooms:**

We have been making a very conscious effort to ensure that the classrooms are well ventilated at this time. As the weather becomes colder this will be more difficult but equally important. We will try to manage opening of windows to ensure that there is adequate fresh air circulating whilst still retaining some heat, I am sure that you can appreciate the importance of this. Can parents also ensure that all pupils take a coat to school as they have a long time outside each day between break and lunch.

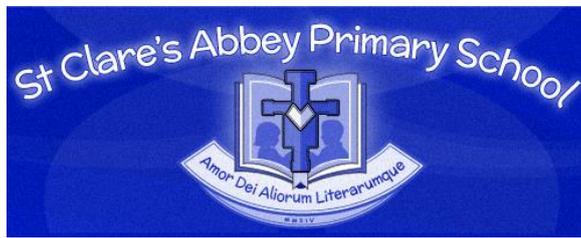
#### **A notice to P3 parents:**

We are worried about the number of parents who are in the playground in the afternoon when senior pupils are having PE sessions. This is compromising the class bubbles of these older pupils. To overcome the problem we have two requests:

1. Please do not arrive prior to your child's class pick up time
2. If you are collecting a child from P1 or P2 playground and also a P3 child, please wait at your younger child's classroom and the P3 child will be brought round to you.

#### **Update to school policy for Promoting Positive Behaviour:**

Given the importance of good hygiene at this time, we have added to the above policy stating that spitting will not be tolerated in school. From this point onwards if a child intentionally spits on another person, his/her parent will be contacted to take their child home from school.



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There is guidance stating that this could further lead to suspension or expulsion. I do not envisage that being required in our school however it is crucial that parents and teachers talk to pupils about this and how seriously it will be treated. I will be talking to all pupils today re this matter and would appreciate you reinforcing the message.

**A notice to Nursery parents:**

The nursery gates will be padlocked promptly as the session begins. If any parent arrives after that time, he/she will need to come to the main school office and admission will be arranged.

I conclude by wishing you and your families well. I know that many people are anxious at this time. Please rest assured that we are being vigilant in our care of your children.

Yours in partnership

*Mrs Monaghan*