

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

15 January 2021

Good morning everyone,

I hope that you are well and coping with all that you are juggling at the moment.

I wish to draw your attention to the following:

1. **Microsoft Teams.**

Our ICT team sent detail re this to you on Seesaw and we are using it with different groups of pupils in different ways. We will be in touch with you when we need **you** to come on board.

I understand that a spam/ hoax has been circulating in this area requesting banking details to process payment for use of MS Teams in school. Please disregard this. **There is NO COST involved.**

I will be having a Teams 'Catch Up' with Miss Rocks' P6 class this afternoon at 1.30. I hope that lots of the children will be able to participate.

1. **Pupil attendance.**

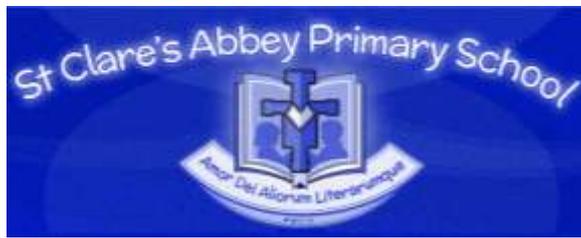
During this 'Home Learning' period the Department of Education has asked schools to record pupil attendance. During the last period all pupils were recorded with the same Covid code regardless of whether they were engaging in work or not.

This time if a child is not engaging he/she will be recorded as absent. We are identifying engagement via each of these:

1. Pupil uploads of requested work on Seesaw
2. Pupil completion of assigned Mathletics tasks
3. Pupil completion of assigned Bug Club books

Or

4. Alternative work package arranged between teacher and parent for a specific reason.



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As I stated last week please work with us and reach out to the class teacher if you are struggling. We have helped several families in this situation throughout the week and have been able to resolve the problems.

Assigned work:

A few parents have contacted me to state that they are struggling to get their child(ren) to settle to work. The teachers are working on timetables and accompanying messages to explain clearly what they expect. Please urge your child to watch/listen to the messages posted. We can see that some pupils are attempting the written tasks without watching the explanation beforehand. We know that you are being presented with a lot on the Seesaw journal and that there is a lot of scrolling back and forward to find what you are looking for. We are trying to make this more manageable and from next week the work will no longer be posted in one weekly package. The teachers will subdivide and post across the week.

I sign off by thanking you for working with us and by wishing you well for the week ahead. I know that some families are facing loss and other difficulties at the moment. I have asked a priest friend to offer a mass for our St Clare's Abbey community.

With warmest regards,

Mrs Monaghan.