

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

Good morning parents,

Nursery and P1 pupils

We now have our newest pupils well into routine, with all Nursery pupils enrolled and P1 pupils preparing to start their longer day with us. Please do not be surprised if your child is tired or tearful as he/she gets used to the additional hours. They are kept busy in school and there is a lot of stimulation during the day, so do not be surprised if it takes its toll for a little while. I wish to thank the parents of our new pupils for choosing St Clare's Abbey, I am getting to know your children slowly and surely and I know that we are going to have a great experience together; home, school and child. I am sure that you have been impressed by the care lavished on your very young and precious children, by our devoted early years' staff. They are a very impressive group of people who are investing everything they possess into giving your children the very best start possible. I am so appreciative!

### **Road safety message**

We put a lot of effort into teaching your children about road safety. Please work with us to instil key messages by:

Crossing the road outside school with the assistance of the 'lollipop lady' - Mrs Sobala. The adults on duty have been advised that they should not be helping pupils to cross the road at a different point ie across from the pedestrian gate.

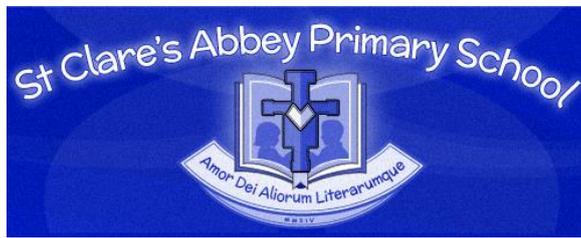
Ensuring that you use footpaths and zebra crossings when walking through school with your child.

Dropping your child off in the correct zone. NB pupils should never be walking in between parked cars.

Accidents can happen so easily and carelessness leads to bad habits.

### **Use of Seesaw**

Over the next two weeks you will see teachers posting pieces of your child's work on seesaw. I have been on Seesaw and note that lots of you are 'seeing' the work, but this year I really want



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to encourage you to write a response or record a message from you and/or your child and send it back to the teacher.

Last year I tracked the progress of pupils across the year and there is no doubt that parents who looked at the work, talked through it with their children and followed up with the teacher, impacted on their child's scores in a good way. As a parent it must be lovely to see an actual piece of your child's work and see what the teacher has said about it. To make the most of this, follow up properly, showing your child that you are interested and are keeping in touch with the teacher.

*If both adults are delivering the message things can only get better!*

We have great parents in St Clare's Abbey and we really like to work with you, this is a very practical way of doing this. I have a little book of daily sayings and proverbs, coincidentally today's is:

'Ni fhaightear saill gan saothru' -

'No sweat without hard work. Nothing comes easy. You've got to work hard for success.'

How true is that and how fitting a message at the start of a new school year?

I remind you that school will be closed on Monday and I wish you a restful weekend.

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan