

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

Dear Parents,

I feel as if this week has flown by and it is great to see everyone settling into the new year. I write re a few points:

### **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!

### **Post Primary Entrance Exam**

The P7 teachers have posted on Seesaw to indicate to parents how they can enter their child for the exam, if they choose. The closing date is Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Application for Free School Meals.**

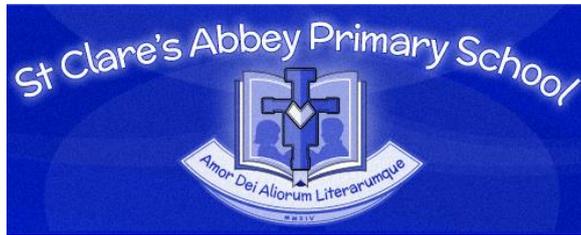
A lot of the school funds that we receive from DE is based on the percentage of pupils we have in receipt of Free School Meals. Our percentage has dropped and funding has been reduced as a result of this. I encourage all families who might be eligible to apply, even if their child chooses to take packed lunches. We really need to get as much funding as possible and this is one way in which you could help. Applications are made on the [eani.org.uk](http://eani.org.uk) website. If you have applied and have not received a response, please contact EA to confirm the status of your application.

### **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.





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**Traffic management**

We are wading through a huge volume of applications for parking permits. Our school cannot accommodate the vast number asking to enter and wait in school at dismissal time.

Therefore, applications from parents of P4-P7 pupils will not be facilitated, (Unless the P4-P7 pupils holds his/her own blue badge).

P4-P7 children are led to the school gates by the class teacher and therefore the person collecting will have to collect from outside the school.

Parents have worked with me so nicely in the mornings this week, especially when I have pointed out that we operate a drop off only zone- thank you to every parent I approached who responded to my request so graciously. The result is that the morning traffic is operating quite smoothly.

Collection time however has been a different matter as there has been so much congestion that the buses and taxis for our pupils in the ECPD unit were significantly delayed. **This cannot happen.**

**The 2pm gate will be tightly managed from Monday on and the only people who will be given entrance will be those to whom a parking permit has been issued.**

In an ideal world our school would have been built with sufficient parking for our 50 + staff and 500+ families however that is not the case and therefore we have to manage the situation with courtesy and common sense.

**Sacramental dates**

I am delighted to share our P4 & P7 sacramental dates with you at a very early point in the new year. Thank you to Canon Brown for this. We look forward to helping your precious children and you their families to prepare for these spiritual milestones in their faith journey.

Sacrament.	Date & Time	Venue
First Confession.	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> December @ 11.00	St Mary's Chapel
First Holy Communion.	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> May @11.30	Sts Patrick's & Colman's Cathedral
Confirmation	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May @6.30	Sts Patrick's & Colman's Cathedral

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and thank you sincerely for your support,

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan

