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6 May 2020

Dear Parents,

Good morning to you all on such a beautiful day. The birds are cheeping incessantly as I write this - just lovely!

We have reached May, the month in which we honour Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus. This has always been a special time for us in school. In the absence of our traditional celebrations I urge you to visit the school website www.stclaresabbeyps.com and enjoy the tribute to Our Lady posted on the home page. Our current P7 pupils can revisit the May procession from their First Holy Communion year as it has been reposted. It also contains May memories of celebrations from the former Abbey and St Clare's sites. I know that many families set up 'May altars' in their homes and make an effort to pray to Mary as a family during her special month. I invite you to send in a photograph of yours to stclaresabbey@gmail.com, we would love to share these.

My thoughts are very much with our P4 pupils as they should have been making final preparations to receive their First Holy Communion, how things have changed and how disappointing for them that this is no longer the case. I have received no information as to alternative plans for the sacrament and assure you that I will communicate with you as soon as I do.

This is a bank holiday weekend so I strongly urge you to take a complete break from school work on Friday. I feel as if it is needed as I am aware, through my conversations and messages with you, that many of you are starting to really feel the grind of the 'lock- down'. I have no sense of when or how we will be reopening but am following DE publications daily to ensure that I remain fully informed. In the mean time, be very pleased with and kind to yourselves, you are managing a remarkable time so, so well. The emotional dips in the process are inevitable and I say again, we can all only do our best and the community of St Clare's Abbey is undoubtedly doing that.

To finish off I alert you to a really nice little post on the website's Home Page under the News section- it is the 'Kindness Calendar' and urges us all to carry out a daily task to focus on 'The Power Of Kindness' I hope that you might get a chance to share it with your children, urge them to take ownership of it and decide on their own daily act. Hopefully they will enjoy it and you will enjoy the outcome too.

Warmest regards to you all. Keep the messages coming into me on Seesaw and the photographs to the website, I and all the staff love to see them.

Mrs Monaghan