

St. Clare's Primary School Newsletter

November 2020



Welcome Back

Digital Platforms

Over the course of the past two years the school has moved to trying to assist pupils and parents with the purchase of several digital resources. Little did we know at the time just how important those resources would become.

From seesaw to bug club, accelerated reader to mathletics and maths seeds for the younger pupils, these have been brought on board to extend and consolidate the excellent work taking place in the classroom.

With this in mind it is vitally important that you as parents ensure that you have signed up for every digital resource we are providing. One of the most important of these resources is our new improved seesaw app. It is vital from a communication point of view that every parent is signed into seesaw. It is much more than a texting tool although this will now be our primary means of contacting you. We have invested in seesaw professional which gives us many more options for sharing of work, videos, pictures etc. Teachers have asked each of you during the parent interviews to ensure that you have seesaw on your phones. Never has it been more important for us to be able to share messages with you and to make emergency announcements should the need arise. If you are in any doubt whatsoever on how to get started please contact your class teacher. Once logged into any of these digital platforms the pupils will know exactly what to do.



Parent/ Teacher Meetings

Teachers are reporting a really great set of discussions took place on 2nd November. These of course have been very different this year due to the pandemic.

We would like to thank you all most sincerely in engaging in this exercise. We could have held these later in the year but we felt, especially in these strange times, that we wanted to touch base now not just to share how your child is progressing academically, but also to find out how the children are coping emotionally and socially both in school and at home.

There were a few phone numbers that were out of date so we appeal again to you to ensure that if you are the primary contact for a pupil that the office is aware of the exact number that we can communicate with you. Again many thanks for participating in these meetings.

Newcomer Pupils

For our newcomer families and those parents who require an interpreter, these are being arranged in the coming week. Interpreters will contact parents by phone and will translate the words of the class teacher.

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Cars Parking

We truly value the great relationships we have with our neighbours in the street. However, we ask all car users during drop off and pick up times that they respect the property of the residents and do not block or park outside houses which has led lately to disruption for our local community.



School Protocols

A big thank you to all our Parents and pupils who have made the protocols around the school so smooth by strictly adhering to the social distancing rules each day. We will have to continue in this vein for the foreseeable future and we really appreciate your co-operation, greatly in this matter.

We have to insist however that all guardians during drop off and pick up wear a mask. This is for the protection of the whole school community and something which the staff should not have to enforce. By showing social responsibility in this regard we can ensure that the school will remained open and everyone is protected as much as possible from the virus.

Parenting NI Workshops

Parents, a member of the Board of Governors (Lauren Walls Parent Rep) works for Parenting NI. They are in a position to offer some parenting workshops for you online and free of charge. They are:

- (i) Children's Emotional Health, **Wed 25th November from 7 to 8.30 pm** and
- (ii) Helping Children Manage

Change during the Pandemic, **Tues 17th November from 7 to 8.30 pm**

Parents can go to the Parenting NI website and can access all the workshops, they have lots running in all the Trust areas so if the Belfast one was filled, you could sign up in a different trust area which was maybe not filled, there are lots of free workshops for practitioners also by clicking on the Parenting NI website:

<https://www.parentingni.org/>

Non Uniform Day

By now we should have had a couple of discos and we would normally be preparing for the Christmas Fayre. These events have in past years helped us raise some money for school funds which are sadly very low at present. To support this in a little way, we will be having a non-uniform day on the last Friday of the month 27th November. Pupils are asked to bring in £1 each to support this cause on the day itself.

National Children's Day

In St Clare's we will be celebrating National Children's Day on Friday 20th November 2020. The children will take part in various fun activities with their class.

Tools of Solidarity

Once again this year we welcome back into our P6 and P7 classrooms representatives from the local charity 'Tools for Solidarity' Our children will be empowered through talks and activities with ways to make a difference and help to defeat poverty and injustice around the world.

Stay in Touch

Website www.stclaresps.net



Friends of St Clare's



@ClaresPs

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