

St. Clare's Primary School Newsletter

October 2020



Happy Halloween

Midterm Break

As you were aware, school was meant to finish next Friday 23rd October for the midterm. Last night the NI Executive have imposed an extension to this break beginning on Monday 19th October and lasting through the two weeks. This decision has been taken out of our hands and at time of writing detailed information is not evident. However, this is how we have planned for such incidents:

- (i) Seesaw codes and files have been updated and all codes for digital resources have been finalised.
- (ii) School mobile number can still be used for passing of information directly to the Principal- this is 07716709763
- (iii) Up until this Friday 16th October normal protocols will be in operation for all pupils and visitors

IQM Award Winners St Clare's PS and NU



We at St. Clare's PS and NU could not be more proud than to announce the school has been awarded a most prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) status following a rigorous assessment process last week. Recipients of this award must demonstrate months in advance how they meet the multitude of criteria in order to be considered to be allowed to move forward for assessment.

Formal written feedback will be given to the school within three weeks but the oral feedback on Friday at the conclusion of the two-day assessment process highlighted a school whose "norms are other people's aspirations and how the school has workers performing "at the top of their game". Once we have an official copy of the report it will be shared with our whole school community. In particular, we would like to thank Mrs Logue who expertly coordinated the project from the beginning.

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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.

Halloween and Corona Virus

Sadly, for many of us Halloween will feel very different this year, as we are sure you are aware it will not be possible to 'Trick or Treat' around the doors, putting children and the elderly at risk of the virus. Large gatherings are also prohibited and this means that the risk of people using home fireworks will rise. Please speak to your children about fire safety and the importance of NEVER picking up a firework from the ground.

Entering and Exiting the School



A big thank you to all our Parents and pupils who have made the transition back into 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 do ask however that when you are coming to the school for the protection of yourself and others, please ensure that you are wearing a mask and where possible, try to maintain at least two metres distance to allow for social distancing that will give everyone some confidence.

Parent/Teacher Phone Chats



Please be advised that Parent/teacher meetings this year will take place by phone call. We will advise you to expect a call on Monday 2nd November for an update on your child's progress this year. This is an opportunity for the class teacher to touch base with you and check that they are coping well in the midst of this disruption. *If the enforced closure moves beyond two weeks, these parent/teacher consultations will be postponed until a later date. However, at present, your interview will be on Monday 2nd November. Check seesaw for your time.*

Online Activities at Home

A reminder that all parents and pupils should sign up to Seesaw, especially in these uncertain times. It is the best way for you and your child to stay in contact with the class teacher.

St Clare's also pays for a range of online resources to support your child's learning.

We offer Mathletics and Maths Seeds for the younger children and access to Active Learn which includes the Bug Club and Heinemann Maths. Pupils have all been given individual logins that cover maths seeds, AR etc. Please ensure that your Seesaw app is operational.

Opening Mass



On Tuesday 13th October, pupils, staff and teachers took part in an online Mass of thanksgiving in their classrooms to celebrate the re-opening of our school. You can still view the mass online by going to this link:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/fallsroad>

We were really hoping that we could allow for the sacrament of confession to be given to the P4 pupils and P3 pupils at some stage this term. With the current restrictions, that seems unlikely at present. No dates are set for First Communion or confirmation at this time either but as soon as there is a window of opportunity, we will let parents know immediately.

Congratulations

Huge congrats to our colleagues Ms Noleen Thompson and Ms Nicola McCauley on gaining their OCN Level 2 award recently

Stay in Touch

Website www.stclaresps.net



Friends of St Clare's



@ClaresPs

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