

St. Clare's Primary School Newsletter

April 2021

- Hey Hey, it's Time to Engage, Learn and Play



Reminder of School Operating Hours Term 3

We are delighted to welcome back our pupils for the third term. For the return to school, we remind parents of the staggered end of the day procedures:

Contents	Nursery & P1-	Finish at 1.30pm
Operating Hours	P2-	Finish at 1.45pm
Jean McKenna	P3-	Finish at 2.00pm
IQM Award	P4-	Finish at 2.30pm
Taha P7B	P5-	Finish at 2.45pm
Ramadan	P6 & P7 -	Finish at 3.00pm
One-Way system		P4-P7 finish at 2.00pm every Monday.

In order to keep all of us safe, we need to remember the following:

- Please be on time to collect your child as we are depending on the timings to keep numbers gathering to a minimum
- Please ensure that you are wearing a face mask at all times when at the school gates
- Ensure that you observe social distancing to keep our school community Covid free.
- To talk to a teacher or Principal or VP, please make a phone call or communicate through seesaw. If a face to face meeting needs to happen, it must be through appointment only.

Transition to Year 8 Meetings

Mr O'Doherty would like to thank all the Parents of the P7 pupils who took time to either meet with him or who undertook the transition forms themselves. A reminder that the schools will be announced on the 19th June. The school is here to support you in any way we can.



Jean McKenna

It is with the greatest regret and sadness that we report the death of Jean McKenna, this mother of Ms Aisling McKenna, our P7 classroom assistant. The funeral of Jean will take place tomorrow (Wednesday) at St Paul's Church at 1.00pm. This will be broadcast live on Church Services TV. Because of Covid restrictions, this ceremony is only available in person by invitation only. May Jean rest in peace.

Official IQM Award Recognition

We were delighted to receive our official award of the Inclusion Quality Mark in the post this morning. We have been explaining to you over the past few months how much this award means to us. It recognizes independently the amazing work which is achieved for all our pupils in the school regardless of ability. In particular, in a school with as diverse a population as we have in St. Clare's, we could not be more pleased with this assessment as it is not just us that is saying it but rather an international assessment panel. Well done to the whole of the St Clare's community.



Included in the picture are some of the pupils who took part in the assessment, Mr Birt, our Vice Principal and Mrs Logue the project co-ordinator.

Taha

We are so proud of all our pupils and never more so than today. We have been informed that Taha in P7B has gained the equivalent of a GCSE in Arabic. This is such an amazing achievement and is testament to the promotion of our cultural diversity, that there is still an opportunity for pupils to gain acknowledgement for their progress within their own cultures. This is an amazing achievement for Taha and we are sure that his family are so so proud of this accomplishment. Just wow!!!



*Photo left to right featuring
Mrs Shaw, class teacher
Taha P7B
Mrs Brennan, EAL Teacher
Mr O'Doherty, Principal.*



Ramadan

As we begin the month of Ramadan, we wish all our parents and friends who are participating in this feast well. We are aware of some of the children in the senior classes are also observing Ramadan. It is very important that the school is made aware of those children who are fasting so we can make the necessary arrangements for them during lunch and break times.

One way System during Set Down and Pick Up Times

We know that we are always stressing how important it is to observe the one-way system during times of set down and pick up. There is a very good reason for this. In the past eighteen months, two children have been hit by cars. Thankfully this has not resulted in serious injury but we fear it could be only a matter of time. The inconvenience it causes for all drivers when the street is blocked because some drivers insist on ignoring the advice is great and has led to frustrations while children are present. Also some members of staff have been verbally abused by some drivers, granted very few. However, when this is done in front of pupils, it is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Please, please, please for the safety of all who use the school premises, staff, pupils and parents, observe the one-way system by using Kashmir Road. It will make your journey so much easier. We also have the support of the community PSNI for these arrangements.

Vacation Closures

Please ensure that you read the school announcements regarding school holidays for the rest of the year.

Midterm break takes place 3rd-7th of May.

Sacramental Occasions

The dates for the various Sacraments have been agreed for the rest of the year. Obviously this is open to change depending on the circumstances in society. However, as it stands these are the important dates for your diary:

First Confession

St Clare's PS Thursday 29th April 2021
P3A - 11.00am P3B 12noon

First Holy Communion

St Clare's PS Saturday 22nd May 2021
P4A - 10.00am P4B 12noon

Each child will be permitted to have only two adults present with them in the church – these adults / parents must be from the child's bubble and must be able and willing to follow all health guidance appropriate for the ceremony.

Sacrament of Confirmation

St Clare's PS Tuesday 15th June 2021

P7A - 10.00am P7B 11.30am P7C 1.00pm

Each child will be permitted to have only two adults present with them in the church – these adults / parents must be from the child's bubble and must be able and willing to follow all health guidance appropriate for the ceremony. In most cases this means that children's sponsors will not be present in the church. Parents will bring their child to the altar to be confirmed in place of the Sponsors. Sponsors should therefore join the ceremony online.

