



September 2024



Message from the Principal

I wish to welcome all the pupils, staff and parents of St Clare's PS back for a new academic year. It doesn't seem that long ago since we were highlighting the success of our outgoing P7 pupils following the wonderful production of 'Beauty and the Beast' and the leavers mass. However, our summer (what ever that was in July and August) has raced by and once more we find ourselves at the start of a new term.

I have such high expectations for the year ahead and I wish to share some of these with you now. Firstly, I would like to thank Miss Welsh from P2 last year and congratulate her in her new appointment. We are going to miss her greatly and our loss is the gain of another school. We wish her every success in her career.

We also welcome Mr Delaney to P5 and Miss Gilhooly to P2 and we hope they are very happy with us this year in their new positions.

Attendance

Our children receive the best possible education in St Clare's. This is reflected in the number of pupils who attend our school and the numbers who choose to transfer to us. We are passionate about our children's learning and the only way we can guarantee that our children meet their potential is if they attend school every day. We work closely with our partners at the Educational Welfare Office and we will always be forward thinking to ensure that all our pupils attend school every day. This will be encouraged again by a monthly award for the class who displays the best attendance as a group.

Car Parking Partnership

We are delighted to have a progressive partnership with the Belfast City Council, Sinn Fein representatives and PSNI in relation to securing the one-way system around Cupar street.

We appreciate that in the setting down and picking up times it can be quite stressful. However, we ask that all drivers observe the one-way system around Cupar Street and Kashmir Road to ensure that all school traffic is dispersed as quickly as possible in the mornings and afternoons.

Staff Contact

We are very eager to maintain good lines of communication with you all. It is vital that we are able to be in contact with you during the school day. There is nothing more important to us than to celebrate the achievements of your child. That is why it is **vitaly** important that you remain in contact with us **via seesaw** and also to ensure that if you have a change of mobile number or address, that you let the office know immediately. Teachers cannot be contacted after 4.00pm on any day. There are some parents who choose to send messages late at night and I have to insist that this is unreasonable and teachers are instructed not to respond to such messages until normal working hours.



ETI and IQM

If you haven't read the inspection report from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) you can view it at the following address online:

<https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-st-clares-primary-school-and-nursery-unit-belfast-103-6630.pdf>

or by visiting the ETI website and search for 'St Clare's Follow up inspection'.

The school was also granted the award of 'Centre of Excellence' by the Inclusion Quality Mark assessors at the end of June. This is such a prestigious award for a school to receive and we are blown away by the amazing findings in that report.

If you would like a copy of both reports, they can be viewed on our Website at: www.stclaresps.com

For your
Calendar

Curriculum Meetings for all parents week
beginning 23rd September.

Transfer Meeting for P7 Parents
taking place 13th September 2.20pm

Sacraments for 2024-25

We appreciate that parents wish to know as early as possible the dates of the various sacramental ceremonies throughout the year. On Monday, the local Principals met to agree the various sacramental dates for each of the parishes.

The following dates are provisional but the only date which could change is the confirmation date if the Bishop wishes to be the main concelebrant.

The dates for the sacraments this year are as follows:

P3 Enrolment for First Confession- 28th January at 1.15pm

P3 First Confession- Tuesday 11th March at 11.00am

P4 Enrolment for First Communion 13th November 6.30pm in St Paul's Church.

P4 First Communion- Sunday 11th May at 11.30am

P7 Retreat and Service of Light- 22nd December at 2.20pm

P7 *Confirmation- Thursday 6th February at 11.00am

*

This date for confirmation is provisional. If a new Bishop is installed between now and then, this date may change. However, as it stands, this is the date we are working towards. We will be giving out reminders closer to each of these important dates. Please note that both St Paul's PS and St Clare's First Communions will be held on a Sunday this year due to the number of wedding taking place in the parish during the month of May.

Drop off and Pick up

At the start of the new school year, it is normal that some children feel anxious for one reason or another. This may be especially true for our new starts in Nursery or in P1. We are slowly getting the pupils into their routines. Parents also have a role to play in this. As the month progresses, we are encouraging more and more independence in our pupils. We are encouraging the pupils to make their way to the classrooms by themselves. This helps in the transition phase of back to school.

We also take our safeguarding and child protection responsibilities most seriously. At no stage can a parent enter the classrooms or walk around the corridors. Of course, if there is a scheduled meeting, parents can sign in at the front door. This is to always ensure that we know who is in the school building.

New Look Breakfasts at St Clare's.

We have always believed that we have the best cook in the country and the best kitchen staff of any school near or far. This year the same high-quality breakfasts are being served from 8.10am. There will be cooked food available as well from sausages and bacon to eggs and pancakes. All of this for £1.50 is extremely good value. It is also a great way for pupils to start their day.

Attendance Matters

Even missing a day from school can have a huge impact on a child's learning. There are times when that vital piece of teaching is missed and it is very hard to get it back. This year at St Clare's, we are putting a real effort into ensuring good attendance and punctuality. Each class will have their attendance tracked and the class with the best average attendance for each month will be given a treat and an additional night off homework!!

If a child has an attendance of 90%, that 10% absence is 18.5 days across a year. That's 18.5 school days which is almost a month of schooling. We recognize that any child can be sick and that is fine. However, we will be tracking carefully casual absenteeism this academic year. Again, as in everything we do, thank you for your support in this regard.

Forthspring/Springers

Our P7 pupils will be beginning their environmental work with a special gardening project up in Forthspring commencing on Tuesday 19th September. We would also like to draw attention to the wonderful opportunities for after school supervision in Forthspring at Springers. This would be very useful for many of our working parents. Why not call in and find out more about the Springers organization and the pricing policy per child.

Healthy Snacks

Just like the 1st January, the 1st of September is a time to push the reset button and remind ourselves of school expectations. Unlike a new year's resolution which are sometimes hard to keep, we want to ensure that all our pupils remain healthy and happy. Please ensure that your child has a healthy snack available for them for breaktime. This should be one item of food as the break period is very short and we do-not want food wasted or the pupils spoiling their lunchtime appetite. Alternatively, don't forget children can purchase a tasty bread roll filled with all sorts of goodness each day from the canteen at 10.30am.



PUNCTUALITY

Children should **NEVER** be picked up before the end of the school day unless previously agreed with the teacher.

All late arrivals and early pick-ups will be recorded in the school office.
This will affect your attendance.

HOMEWORK



Please help your child by ensuring that homework is completed every night and by showing an interest in what he/she is doing. Homework can be oral or written.

SCHOOL RULES

All our school rules are based on your child's right to learn in a safe environment and on the teacher's freedom to teach.



As always we will work in close partnership with you the parents to ensure a high standard of discipline is maintained in the school at all times.

St. Clare's Code of Conduct



MOVING THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

- We always keep to the left.
- We walk with our hands by our sides.
 - We walk in single file.
- We remain quiet at all times.



IN THE PLAYGROUND

- We will touch another person with only one finger or hand.
- We will not fight with or hurt anyone.
- When the bell rings we will stand still and remain quiet.
 - We will get into line class by class.
 - We will greet the teachers on duty.



IN THE DINING HALL



- We will be quiet in the line until we collect our dinner and sit down.
- We will not put our arms or hands on the serving hatch.
- When the bell rings we will sit still and remain quiet.
- We will be mannerly to all the adults who work in the dining hall.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals will return on 30/08/24.
No meals on 28th and 29th August

BREAKFAST CLUB

- St. Clare's Breakfast Club commences on 30th August 24 from 8.00-8.50 a.m. every morning at a cost of £1.50 per day. Cereal, toast and fruit juice is available every day as well as hot items. Menu will be available in September 2024.

BREAK

- As part of our Health Education Programme we encourage each child to bring one piece of fruit or a small sandwich daily.
- Break can be purchased at the Breakfast Club every day.

*Crisps and glass bottles are not allowed.
No Nut products*

DINNER



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

For anyone entitled to free school meals forms **MUST** be completed online. Failure to complete will result in a charge of £2.60 per day. This charge will be implemented from first day if no entitlement is found to exist. Paid dinners are also available at £2.60 per day. Price is subject to change and will be confirmed September 2024.

LUNCH

Please protect school books by putting lunches in a separate lunch box. Lunches are supervised. Children are allowed crisps at lunchtime only.

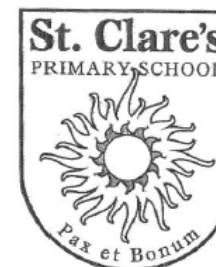
HOLIDAYS



August 24 – July 25

August	28 th /29 th 30 th full day	11.30am close School Re-opens
October	28 th 31 st	Halloween Break
November	1 st – 4 th	Halloween Break
December	23 rd – 31 st	Christmas Break
January	1 st – 3 rd	Christmas Break
February	10 th – 14 th	Mid-Term Break
March	17 th	St Patricks's Day
April	18 th - 25 th	Easter Holidays
May	5 th 26 th – 30 th	Bank Holiday Half Term
July	1 st - 31 st	Summer Holidays

*If there are any changes to these arrangements,
you will be notified.*



ST. CLARE'S P.S. 2024-2025

Principal: Mr O'Doherty
323 Cupar Street,
Belfast, BT13 2SE
Telephone: 028 90330852
SCHOOL HOURS

Assembly	8.55 a.m.
P.1 - 4	9.00 - 12.00 12.40 - 2.00
P.5-7	9.00 - 12.20 1.00 - 3.00

**Every Monday the whole school
will finish at 2.00 p.m.**

As a Catholic School we come together each day to pray. It is important that your child is in time for assembly at **8.55.a.m.**



MONDAY - FRIDAY
8.30 - 9.15AM
1.15 - 3.15PM

HELP US KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

