



October 2024



Parent/Teacher Meetings

The annual Parent/Teacher meetings have now begun. The vast bulk of these will take place on Monday 4th November. These are very important meetings as it allows teachers to have an in-depth conversation with parents about the progress of their children.

There are 472 pupils in St Clare's and that's a lot of meetings to arrange. It is so important if you have been given a specific time that this is observed. Every parent will be given the same amount of time. All teachers have met to ensure timetabling for parents with more than one child in the school. This is why again it is vitally important that you arrive on time for the meeting.

Communication

One of the things we are most proud of in St Clare's is the good line of communication that exists between the school and home. Seesaw plays a major role in this and we hope that everyone has the app on their phones as it is the main means of communication. We also have our social media posts on our website, Facebook page and X formally known as Twitter.

From a safeguarding point of view, we can never allow parents to enter the classrooms while the children are present. If you need to get a message to a teacher, it can be left at the office. You would not want your child's education disrupted because of unscheduled meetings which take place if a parent arrives at the door of the classroom to speak with the class teacher. Parents are reminded that they must remain at the gate and it is a serious breach of safeguarding procedures for any parent to enter the school without a prior appointment. We appreciate your understanding and support in this.

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 vitally 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. Please note, teachers are instructed not to respond to messages until normal working hours.

ETI

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'.

Sporting Success

The school soccer team had it's first outing of the season on Monday and what a successful start to the campaign with a resounding victory over the pupils of St Joseph's PS Ballyhackamore. We appreciate the work which Mr and Mrs Brennan has done with the team and we are looking forward to this good start being built upon in the coming weeks and months. We encourage all our pupils in KS2 to take advantage of the after schools clubs for the various sporting activities including soccer, gaelic football, hurling and camogie.

Return after Mid-Term

All pupils will return to school after the mid term break on Tuesday 5th November. School is closed to all pupils on Monday 4th November for Parent/Teacher interviews.

For your
Calendar

Parent/Teacher meetings have begun with the majority of them taking place on Monday 4th November.

School finishes for Halloween next Friday 25th October at 1.00pm.

Important Dates for the Diary

It is incredible to think we are almost up to half term already. This is to let you know that school will finish for Halloween next Friday 25th October. We are encouraging pupils to come in fancy dress for the day. Can we suggest some good old fashioned homemade costumes as these are the most fun. Think about the practical implications for your child having to wear the costume all day in school!! There is no charge for this as we are having our Halloween disco next Wednesday night instead (see below).

As this is the end of the half term and a special day in the school, the school will close at 1.00pm after dinners have been served.

Halloween Disco

We have had a lot of requests regarding the next Disco. We are delighted to tell you that this will take place in the school assembly Hall next Wednesday 23rd October. As usual there will be a tuck shop available and the price of admission is only £2.

Nursery- P3 pupils should attend from 6.00pm-7.00pm. P4-P7 pupils should attend from 7.15pm- 8.30pm. We would love to allow pupils to bring their friends and cousins from other schools but unfortunately, we are not insured for those children. Parents are free to stay or drop off the children. All we ask is that the pupils are picked up on time as staff who are volunteering deserve to get away as soon as possible. As the fancy dress is taking place in the school on the Friday, it will not be a fancy dress at the disco. This is in line with previous years as the darkness in the hall could result in costumes being damaged or misplaced. So normal clothes at the disco on Wednesday and Fancy dress in school on the Friday.

Friends of St Clare's

Like many schools, we rely on volunteering quite a lot when it comes to supporting the school, especially with it's funding raising ventures. Also as in other schools, this responsibility can fall on the shoulders of only a few people. We are hoping to change this at St Clare's PS.

If you have some spare time on your hands and you want to assist in the events being carried out in school by the Friends of St Clares, please contact Mr O'Doherty , Principal, Ms O'Hara classroom assistant or Mary Colton from the Board of Governors.

Breakfasts at St Clare's.

If your child has not yet tried the amazing breakfasts in the school, we encourage them to do so. We already have at least 40 pupils from Nursery right upto P7 who benefit from this club. As well as beautiful cereals and juice, there is cooked food available 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 as they get to sit with whoever they like, have a chat then move into the main hall where they can take part in sports until the bell goes at 8.50am. We find those pupils who attend the Breakfast Club are so much more alert for the rest of the day. Why not give it a go!!

New Chair of Board of Governors

Following Fr Devlin's move to Dunloy, the Board of Governors met to appoint a new chairperson and we are pleased to announce that Mr Conor McLaughlin, formally our head of Finance on the Board, has accepted the role. Being a Governor of a school is a huge undertaking and one that asks for a lot of input in terms of time and effort. We appreciate all the work and the challenge function which the Governors carry out. We also thank our Deputy Chair Mrs Mary Colton for acting as Chairperson during the inspection in June. Finally, we wish Mr McLaughlin every success in his new post and thank him for his prior service in Finance.

Fitness Freddy

One of the highlights of the year in school is the visit of Fitness Freddy. Freddy has been visiting St Clare's for many years and the children get such a great thrill from taking part in the annual danceathon. This is also a great opportunity for fundraising for the school and each year we are humbled by the generosity of our parents. Every penny counts and all money raised goes directly to the our purchase of resources with this year the focus being on sets of class novels and big boots for across the school. Sponsorship forms have been given to every pupil so if they haven't yet given it to you, please check their schoolbags!!!. Freddy will be in the school on Thursday 24th October.

Great News

Many congratulations to Mrs Campbell, our P1 teacher, who has given birth to her first born this week. We are pleased to report that mother and baby are doing great. We wish them every blessing.



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.

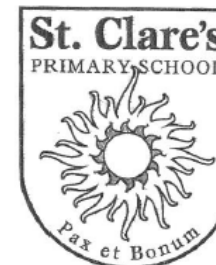
HOLIDAYS



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.**

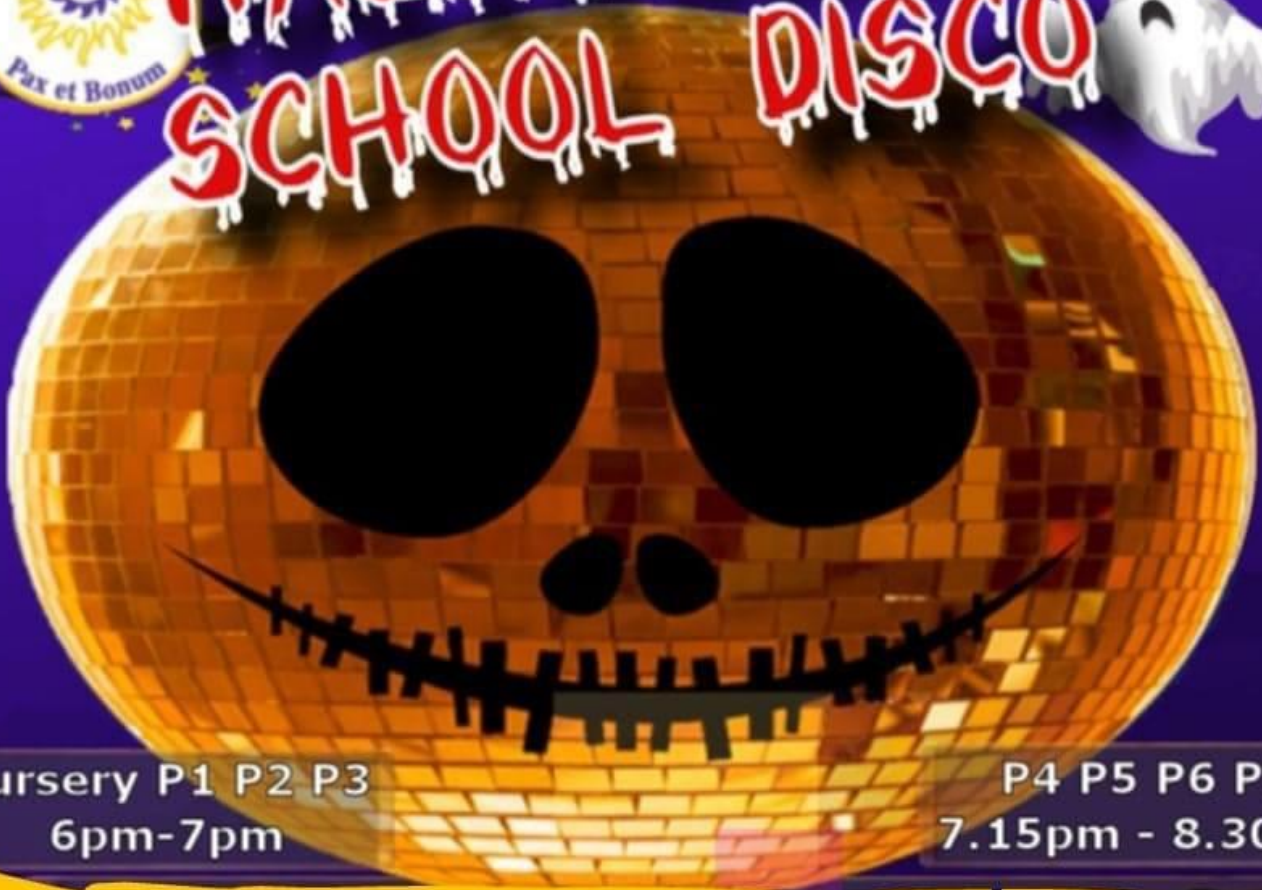
As a Catholic School we come together each day to pray. It is important that your child is in time for assembly at **8.55.a.m.**

Pupils of the Month, Rights Respecting Pupils and Bug Club Award Winners September





HALLOWEEN SCHOOL DISCO



Nursery P1 P2 P3
6pm-7pm

P4 P5 P6 P7
7.15pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 23rd October



323 Cupar St, Belfast BT13 2SE

Adm £2
Tuck Shop
Available...