



**Principal: Mrs Anne Cassidy**

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents

### **Sustrans Active School Travel Programme**

We are encouraging pupils and staff members to walk/cycle/scoot to school as often as possible as it is the healthiest option and reduces congestion around the school. **Our most recent Feet First event took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and this was a great success, with almost 84% of our pupils participating. Our next event is scheduled for Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and we are aiming for 86% participation. Please encourage all the children to get involved with this initiative.**

### **Healthy Me Week**

Healthy Me Week takes place from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and the children will be participating in a wide range of activities which promote good physical and mental health.

### **Puffin Crossing**

We are delighted that work has commenced on the Puffin Crossing between the Village Green and our school (along the Bridge Road). Many thanks to the parents, staff, pupils and Governors for all their support and help with our application for this crossing. A special word of thanks to our school Governor Mr Declan McAteer, for all his work in relation to this project and to Ellen McCormick (one of our P7 pupils) who wrote to all the members of NMDDC to stress the need for this crossing. Well done to all concerned.

### **Car Park**

We are also delighted that our new car park is now operational and is reducing congestion at the school. Many thanks to the pupils, staff, parents and Governors for all their work in relation to this scheme. Thanks also to Mr Brendan Quinn for his help securing this car park. We are very grateful for all the help received.

### **Safety Classes**

In the next few weeks some of our classes will be availing of Safety Classes in relation to: Safety in the Home (P2 classes), Internet Safety (P6 classes), Drugs and Alcohol Safety (P7 classes) and Why we need Laws (P7 classes). The Primary 7 classes are also taking part in NMDDC's Bee Safe Programme as part of our Pastoral Care Programme.

### **Easter Raffle**

Friends of Carrick have organised an Easter Raffle on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Raffle tickets are 20p each or 5 for £1. Each class will have Easter Eggs as prizes for the class raffles. There will be Burren Gear and also a large Mini Eggs Easter Egg for each Key Stage Raffle.

For the whole school raffle the prizes will include a Down Kit (sponsored by a parent) and also a beautiful "Peter Rabbit" toy from Marks and Spencer (sponsored by Mr and Mrs Stephen Trainor).

The money raised from this raffle will be divided between Trocaire and will be also used to pay for the GAA football coaches who are in school each week. There is no Down GAA Schools' Draw this year.

### **Concussion Awareness – Who Needs to Know**

The Department of Education has requested that all schools should write to parents/guardians to highlight the dangers of a concussion injury. Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting one's head or by a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere: for example, during sports, in the school playground, or at home. Concussion must always be taken seriously and it is vitally important that any child/young person suspected of having concussion should **immediately** be stopped from continuing whatever activity they are doing and be assessed. A second injury, when a child has concussion, can be extremely serious and may even be fatal. Children should not resume physical activities such as Physical Education (PE), sports or games if they have concussion. Concussion may also affect your child's ability to learn at school. Medical clearance should be sought before the child returns to school. Symptoms vary from child to child and a graduated return to school may be needed. The '**Recognise and Remove**' leaflet produced by the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is available on the Department of Education's website [www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk) and provides guidance on the signs to look out for. Keeping everyone informed about concussion is in your child's best interests and parents/guardians have a key role in making sure that information is passed on to their child's teacher, sports coach, youth leader or other care provider.

### **Art Week**

Art Week took place from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022-Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and the children enjoyed lots of different art and craft activities. Well done to the children who won the Art competition. The children were presented with their awards on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022:

Grace Ward, Shea Ruddy, Pola Jaszczuk, Eden Shields-Morgan, Lily Magill, Darragh McCartan, Kayla Doherty, Kaiden Heath, Lauren Begley, James McConville, Sorcha Ruddy, Fionn Heaney, Aoife Donnan, Charlie Smith, Grace Magee, Noah McGivern, Emma Day, Daniel Coulter, Amira Abouda, Peter Ward, Noah Gray, Faye Gaffney, Lucy Magee, Eábha Duffy, Harry Rafferty, Megan Bottell, Emily McConville, Ryan Carragher, Sophie Magee and Rosa McGreevy.

### **Covid-19**

#### **Do you have a child aged 5 to 11 years in a clinical risk group?**

Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group can now be vaccinated against Covid-19. Children aged 5-11 living with someone who is immunosuppressed are also eligible. For all other eligible children, please see the link below to make an appointment at a children's vaccination clinic in the Southern Trust: <https://covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated/> For further information about the clinical risk group, please see the parents' guide at: [www.pha.site/5-11](http://www.pha.site/5-11) If you have any concerns please speak to your child's GP or to a Paediatrician.

### **Term 2 Resources**

Could parents please send in a glue stick and two whiteboard markers (labelled with the child's name), and also tissues, wipes and a small bottle of hand sanitiser for the children to use in class during Term 2 (if not already sent in). Many thanks to those who have already sent in these items.

### **Readathons**

The Primary 5 children will be participating in a Readathon on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The children will be reading the books below and will then compete in a quiz based on the books below. Good luck to our Primary 5 children as they prepare for this Readathon. The Primary 6 children enjoyed their Readathon at the end of January and benefitted so much from it.

The P5 Readathon books include:

- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
- Floods by Sally Prue
- Ancient Egypt by Fiona Macdonald

- The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
- The Iron Man by Ted Hughes
- The Twits by Roald Dahl
- The Dancing Bear by Michael Morpurgo
- Cup Winners by Martin Waddell
- The Hodgeheg by Dick King-Smith
- The Champion Storyteller Roald Dahl by Andrea Shavick



### **School Trips**

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the Primary 4 children visited the Palace Stables as part of their “World War II” topic, and on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 the Primary 5 children visited Navan Fort as part of their “Egyptians” topic. The children really enjoyed these school trips and learned so much about their topics. Photographs of both these trips have been added to the school’s website. The Primary 6 children visited Navan Fort on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 as part of their “Viking” topic and this was a very beneficial trip. Photographs of this trip will be added to the website in the next few days.

### **Holidays March – June 2022**

#### **March**

Wednesday 16/03/22	Holiday
Thursday 17/03/22	Holiday (St Patrick’s Day)
Friday 18/03/22	Holiday

#### **April**

Friday 15/04/22 – Monday 25//04/22	Easter Holidays (Inclusive)
Monday 25/04/22	School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday)
Tuesday 26/04/22	Term 3 starts for Children

#### **May**

Monday 02/05/22	Holiday
Tuesday 03/05/22	Holiday
Thursday 05/05/22	Assembly Elections (School Closed)

#### **June**

Thursday 02/06/22	School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
Friday 03/06/22	School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Carrick Primary School is due to close for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### **Maths and English Club**

The P6 Maths and English Club began in January 2022. Each Tuesday from 3.00-4.15pm the children will be revising P6 topics in Maths and English. All the P6 children are welcome. Please send in a healthy snack for your child to eat prior to these classes.

### **Join the Library**

Many of our pupils participated in Warrenpoint Library's Summer Reading Challenge 2021 and enjoyed reading some fantastic books. We would encourage all parents to enrol their children in Warrenpoint Library and to access a super selection of quality books. Children can borrow up to 9 books at a time and the service is completely free. For more information, please call into Warrenpoint Library or visit [www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk)

### **Confirmation and Communion Ceremonies**

- First Holy Communion is scheduled to take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 11.00am (Mrs O'Hare's Class) and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 1.00pm (Mrs O'Grady's/Mrs C Kelly's Class).
- Confirmation is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 6pm (Mr Murdock's Class) and on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 6pm (Mr Doran's Class).

### **School Dinners**

The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Please make cheques payable to Carrick Primary School. Prompt payment is very much appreciated.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

During Term 2 the following extra-curricular activities will be available:

Mondays	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays	P4-7	Art	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4-7	Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4/5	P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm/ 3.00-4.00pm

Notes will be circulated to the pupils, which will provide more details about the activities on offer.

### **Contact Numbers**

**We are currently updating our contact numbers on the school's computer system and would ask parents to inform the school of any changes in addresses, home telephone numbers, work telephone numbers and/or mobile numbers throughout the year.**

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin, Mrs Mary McCann and Mrs Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team).