



Principal: Mrs Anne Cassidy

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4th January 2022

Dear Parents
Welcome back to Term 2

The Passing of Aidan Carragher

In recent days, our whole school community was devastated by the news of the passing of Aidan Carragher, our beloved pupil and friend. Aidan was a beautiful, kind, sensitive child who enriched our school community and touched the lives of all those he met. We will miss Aidan so much but will always keep him in our hearts and in our prayers.



Over the last few days we have been working with the Education Authority's Critical Incident Response Team and the staff and the Response Team will be providing support for the children when they return to school on Thursday 06/01/22. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aidan's parents, Emma and Ronan, his brothers Ryan and Daithi, his sister Grace, his grandparents and the entire family circle.

Christmas 2021

On behalf of the staff members of Carrick PS, we would like to say thank you to the pupils and parents for all the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes received in December 2021. Your kindness is really appreciated. Thank you for your generosity to the Hospice in December 2021. We raised an amazing £546 for the Hospice through our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December 2021.

Christmas Bingo and Art Day

Many thanks to Friends of Carrick who organised a Christmas Bingo and Art Day for the children on Friday 17th December 2021. The event raised a fantastic £639 for Friends of Carrick. Thank you to all the parents, pupils and staff members who donated prizes for the Bingo. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Archived Videos and Christmas Recordings 2021

We have archived videos of over 34 school plays and events from 1994 onwards. These are available via the school website (www.carrickprimaryschool.com). The Christmas Recordings from 2021 for Primaries 1, 5 and 6 are also available to view via the school's website.

P1 Application Process

The application process for places in Primary One in September 2022 will open online on Monday 10th January 2022 and will remain open until Friday 28th January 2022. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please share these dates with friends and family who have Pre-School children, as we have 60 P1 places available in September 2022.

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.

Primary 6 Readathon

The Primary 6 children are preparing for a Readathon event on Wednesday 26/01/22. The children will be reading the books below and will then be competing in a quiz based on the books.

- Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo
- The Dancing Bear – Michael Morpurgo
- Anne Frank's Story – Carol Ann Lee
- The Hodge-Heg – Dick King-Smith
- The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Rauf
- The Silver Sword – Ian Serraillier
- The Paper Bag Princess – Robert Munsch

P7 Fundraising

Congratulations to Mrs Doran's P7 class who recently donated £50 to Newry Hospice and £50 to Cancer Research. The children raised this money recently when they ran a shop, during Maths Week 1.

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme

We are delighted that our "Journey to Santa" event went so well. The winners of the Journey to Santa draw were: Cara McKinley, Sophie Magee, Isla Dunbar, Caolan McBride, Aoife McGivern, Harry Coulter, Cara Doyle, Evie Connolly, Jessie-May McAteer, Ollie Laverty, Eve Murtagh, Niamh Morgan, Nina Farrell and Saoirse McMahan.

We would encourage as many families as possible to walk/cycle/scoot to school as often as possible as it is the healthiest option and reduces congestion around the school.

Special congratulations to Evie Connolly (P4 Mrs O'Hare's Class) who was the overall school winner. Evie received a £10 gift voucher.

New Car Park

Our new car park is now open and this will hopefully reduce some of the traffic congestion at the school. Please remind the children to be very careful if they are walking up to school from the car park.

Road Safety

We are asking parents to continue to reinforce road and vehicle safety messages at home, particularly in relation to wearing seatbelts on the bus and in the car and crossing roads safely.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings have been provisionally planned for Term 2 of 2021-2022. The teachers will be contacting parents to organise a suitable day/time. In the meantime, if parents have any issues or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher or the principal on acassidy452@c2kni.net

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in school fees so far (70% of families). It has been a tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help supplement the school budget, which has decreased significantly over the past few years. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45 and this is used to buy essential school resources. Thank you so much for all your support, it is very much appreciated. If you haven't yet sent in your school fees, could you send them in as soon as possible please.

Lego

There has been a great resurgence in the children's interest in Lego. If any family has Lego which they no longer want, the school would certainly be able to put it to good use. Any donations of Lego would be very much appreciated.

Child Protection Safeguarding Team

Mrs Claire Kelly is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection/Safeguarding while Mrs Patricia McPolin and Mr David Keenan are the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection/Safeguarding. Please contact the Designated Teachers or any member of staff if you have any concerns re Child Protection/ Safeguarding.

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 throughout the year in relation to addresses, home telephone numbers, work telephone numbers and/or mobile numbers.

Healthy Schools

Carrick Primary School is involved in the Healthy Schools initiative. Could parents please send in healthy snacks for break time. The children are also encouraged to bring in a bottle of water to school each day.

Early Exits

If a child is taken out of school early, could parents please: send in a note to inform the teacher or ring the school secretary; call at the office to collect your child; and also sign the exit book.

Mid-Term Break

Arrangements for Mid-Term break for the children are as follows:

Wednesday 16/02/22 Holiday

Thursday 17/02/22 Holiday

Friday 18/02/22 Holiday

Monday 21/02/22 Holiday

Covid-19

Thank you to all the pupils, staff, parents and Governors for making such a great effort to keep our whole school community safe in these challenging times. Everyone is still going to great lengths to ensure that the risk of infection from Covid-19 is as low as possible. We are very grateful for these efforts and for the expertise and guidance constantly available from both the Public Health Agency and from the Board of Governors.

Continued Covid 19 Mitigation Measures

Good handwashing, social distancing and the use of tissues, wipes and hand sanitisers are being promoted in all classes. **Could parents please send in tissues, wipes and a small bottle of hand sanitiser for their child to use during Term 2.**

- The “Drop off” timeslot is anytime between 8.45am - 9.15am. **There is no facility to drop the children off any earlier due to the current restrictions.**
- **In order to reduce the risk of infection, avoid congestion and reduce the risk of accidents, parents and children are asked, where possible, to walk to school, or to park and walk the last part of their journey. We would really appreciate your help with this issue.**
- Parents are also asked to remain outside the school building, in an effort to reduce footfall and the risk of infection. If you have any particular pastoral, medical or safeguarding concerns, please email the school acassidy452@c2kni.net to arrange to speak to the relevant member of staff.

Books

Thank you to those parents who have returned school textbooks, library books, easy reads or reading books and to those who have donated their own books which they no longer need. They are all very useful and are used to supplement our existing resources and make a huge difference to our class libraries.

Confirmation and Communion Ceremonies

- First Holy Communion is scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th May 2022 at 11.00am (Mrs O’Hare’s Class) and Saturday 7th May 2022 at 1.00pm (Mrs O’Grady’s Class).
- Confirmation is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26th May 2022 at 6pm (Mr Murdock’s Class) and on Friday 27th 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 (beginning 10/01/22)
Wednesday	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm (beginning 12/01/22)
Tuesdays	P4-7	Art	3.00-4.00pm (beginning 11/01/22)
Fridays	P4-7	Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm (tbc)
Fridays	P4/5	P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm/ 3.00-4.00pm (tbc)

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

Burren Football Gear

Football gear for St Mary’s Club, Burren is available from Mr James McGrath (07720812991).

McAnulty's Bus

McAnulty's Bus runs from the bottom of the Bridal Loanan, Warrenpoint (Leaving at 8.30am) and travels along the Upper Dromore Road and up Milltown Street to Carrick Primary School each morning and completes the reverse of this journey each evening, leaving the school at 2.40pm. If you would like more information about this bus service, please contact McAnulty's on 028 417 52228.

Easy Fundraising

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise funds for Carrick Primary School through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. We currently have 100+ supporters. Remember you can buy presents, book hotels, flights, holiday tickets and can buy from many retailers including Tesco, Sainsburys, Amazon and many others and make money for Carrick Primary School.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3....

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendscarrickps/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you have checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Another option is to:

1. Go into your App Store;
2. Search Easy Fundraising;
3. Download;
4. Create an Account/Log in;
5. Click "Support a good cause";
6. Search Carrick Primary School; and
7. Click Support

There are no catches or hidden charges and Carrick Primary School would be really grateful for your donations. If you experience any difficulty registering with easy fundraising, please contact the school and we will be happy to assist.

Football Training/Hurling and Camogie Training

Football, camogie and hurling training sessions take place every Friday (weather permitting) for P4-7 pupils. P4-5 football training takes place from 2.00-3.00pm at the school, while P6-7 football training takes place from 3.00-4.00pm at the club. Camogie and hurling training takes place from 3.00-4.00pm at the school. Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities.

Rights Respecting School Project

The children are working towards the Gold Rights Respecting School Award. Each week the children focus on one of the 42 Rights from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They discuss what the rights mean and what can be done at home and in school by themselves and others to ensure that everyone's rights are being respected.

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).