



Principal: Dr A Cassidy

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21st October 2024

Dear Parents

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have paid school fees so far. It has been the tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help supplement the school budget. The money raised is used to purchase school essentials such as photocopying paper, glue, paint and PE resources. Please pay any remaining school fees by Friday 25th October 2024, via the school app.

New School Council

Congratulations to our new School Councillors who were elected recently. We wish the Councillors the best of luck in their new roles.

Class	Name
P4 Mrs O'Grady/Miss McGuigan	Olivia McHale
P4 Mrs O'Hare	Grace Coulter
P5 Mrs Doyle	Erin McGivern Markey
P5 Mrs Harkin	Ava Matthews
P6 Mr Keenan	Maeve McGovern
P6 Mrs Hanmore	Annie Evers
P7 Mrs Doran	Roise Moore (Headgirl) Freya Rohrs Darragh McMeel Thomas Short Elena Doran Ella Gray
P7 Mr Murdock	Harrison Threlfall (Headboy) Aoibhinn McAllister Emma Egan Siofra Trainor Leah White Estelle Woods

Dates for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation

First Confession	Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 7 th November 2024 at 7.00pm (Both Classes)	Thursday 20 th March 2025 at 6pm (Both P7 Classes)	Saturday 3 rd May 2025 at 11.00am (Both Classes)

Well done to our Primary 4 pupils who are working very hard in preparation for their First Penance which will take place on Thursday 7th November 2024.

Aine McAteer Meets Onjali Rauf- Author of the Award Winning Book "The Boy at the Back of the Class"

On Wednesday 9th October, Aine McAteer represented Carrick Primary School at a workshop in Holy Child Primary School in Belfast with the award-winning author, Onjali Rauf. The event was organised by Concern and was supported by the Education Authority and representatives from the Schools of Sanctuary project and Belfast City of Sanctuary Group. Onjali spoke to the young attendees about the realities of life for refugee children and their families and the hardships they face. Using her book "The Boy at the Back of the Class" Onjali engaged the young people in a fantastic session with many interesting and challenging questions emerging. Aine was a credit to her school, and was interviewed by the Concern Media Team. Well done!

Green Spaces Community Art Competition

Congratulations to Fern Doorley P7 (1st Place), Tara Byrne P4 (1st Place) and Olivia Devlin P6 (2nd Place) who participated in the Green Spaces Community Art Competition in September and won prizes. Well done to all those who participated.

Board of Governors' Annual Report

The Board of Governors' Annual Report for 2023-2024 has been completed and has been uploaded onto the school's website. Hard copies are also available from Mrs Cassidy upon request.

Healthy Me Parents' Evening

Thank you to all those who attended the "Healthy Me" Parents' Evening on Thursday 26th September 2024 from 7.00-8.00pm. Thanks also to Mrs Claire McMahon who was inspiring about how parents can help children and themselves to improve their diet and their wellbeing. Well done to the children who made lovely healthy snacks for parents to sample after Claire's presentation.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings will take place in Oct/Nov 2024-2025. In the meantime, if parents have any issues or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher on 028 417 52448 or the principal on acassidy452@c2kni.net to request a phone call or where necessary, to arrange a meeting.

Cross Country Event

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Cross Country Event took place in Kilbroney Forest Park on Tuesday 15th October 2024. Thirty six schools participated in this competition. In preparation for this event the children attended training sessions and made significant improvements to their track times. The children performed exceptionally well with a number of children finishing in the top ten.

Well done to the boys' team who finished in 3rd place and the girls' team who finished in 2nd place.

The boys who represented the school were: Tommy Armstrong, Harrison Threlfall, Thomas Short, Cillian O'Connor, Darragh Murtagh, Leo Byrne, Oran McBride and Fionn McParland
The girls who represented the school were: Elena Doran, Evie Connolly, Ellie McPolin, Freya Röhrs, Isla Mohan, Aimee Murtagh, Siofra Trainor and Niamh McManus.

Thanks to the staff who accompanied the children to this event and for preparing the children so well.

Hallowe'en Raffle, Fancy Dress Parade and Disco

There will be a Hallowe'en Raffle on Tuesday 29th October 2024 and the tickets cost 50p each. There are some fantastic prizes including four beautiful Hallowe'en Hampers! Thank you to the parents and staff who donated prizes. **The children are invited to wear their Hallowe'en costumes to school on this day (or their own clothes) and there will be a Fancy Dress Parade and a Hallowe'en disco. The children are asked to bring in a minimum donation of £2 to participate in the Hallowe'en Parade and Disco and all money raised will be divided between Life and Time, Daisy Lodge and PIPs.** There will be a special Theme Dinner on Tuesday 29th October featuring lots of spooky treats. The children will be finishing for Hallowe'en on Tuesday 29th October 2024 at the

normal times (P1-3 at 2pm and P4-7 at 2.45pm). School resumes for the children on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Holidays:

October/November

Wednesday 30/10/24 - Monday 04/11/24
(Inclusive) Hallowe'en Holidays for Children

November

Monday 04/11/24
(Children on Holiday) Baker Day 3

December

Monday 02/12/24 Holiday

December/January

Monday 23/12/24 - Friday 03/01/25
(Inclusive) Christmas Holidays for Children

January

Friday 03/01/25 Baker Day 4

(Children on Holiday)

Monday 06/01/25 Term 2 starts for Children

February

Monday 10/02/25 - Friday 14/02/25
(Inclusive) Mid-Term Holidays for children

March

Monday 17/03/25 Holiday

April

Friday 18/04/25 - Monday 28/04/25 Easter Holidays (Inclusive)

Monday 28/04/25 School Development Day 2

(Children on Holiday)

Tuesday 29/04/25 Term 3 starts for Children

May

Monday 05/05/25 Holiday

Monday 26/05/25 School Development Day 3

(Children on Holiday)

Tuesday 27/05/25 School Development Day 4

(Children on Holiday)

June

Monday 30/06/25 School Development Day 5

(Children on Holiday)

Carrick Primary School is due to close for pupils for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 27th June 2025.

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme

Carrick Primary School is participating in the Sustrans Active School Travel Programme, which is an initiative which encourages pupils to choose an active and healthy journey to school. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school. Our next Feet First Day/Fruit Friday is scheduled for Friday 25th October 2024. **We would encourage as many families as possible to walk/cycle/scoot to school (or part of the journey) on 25th October 2024 as it is the healthiest option and reduces congestion around the school.**

Rights Respecting School (RRS)Project

Our Rights Respecting School Project is developing well, thanks to the great work of Carrick Council, the pupils, staff, parents and Governors. At assemblies the children are learning about the 42 Rights from the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. On Wednesday 23rd October 2024 Mr Chris Quinn, NI Commissioner of Children and Young People will be visiting our school and he will be meeting all the children and talking to our School Councillors about the Rights Respecting School Project.

Flashing "School Ahead" Signs

The flashing "School Ahead" signs, which are located along the Bridge Road and Ballydesland Road, have now been synchronised with the school opening hours and school holidays and should therefore be operational every school day. Please notify the school if the signage is not operational or is operational at the wrong times, so that this can be corrected.

Anti-Bullying Week: Monday 11th November - Friday 15th November 2024

During Anti-Bullying week the children will be discussing the issue of bullying and exploring, through Circle Times and other class activities, how to recognise and deal with bullying. There will also be activities are specifically designed to help the children develop the skills which are needed to deal appropriately with bullying behaviour. Please talk to your children about this issue and feel free to contact the Principal via email if you have any concerns. Friday 15th November 2024 is Odd Socks Day. The children (and staff) are asked to wear odd socks on this day to highlight the importance of individuality and to promote acceptance and tolerance.

Preparations for SEAG/GL Assessments

The children who have applied for the SEAG/GL Assessments on Saturday 16th November and Saturday 23rd November 2024 are invited into school for an extra class on Saturday 26th October 2024 from 9.00-1.00pm in preparation for the SEAG/GL Assessment. This extra class is optional.

Friends of Carrick's Christmas Fayre

Friends of Carrick Committee members have organised a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December 2024 from 10am-2pm in the assembly hall. There will be a great selection of stalls, selling all kinds of arts, crafts, cosmetics and candles, with some great Christmas gift ideas. If you would like to find out more about Friends of Carrick, please ask at the office or email the Principal on acassidy452@c2kni.net or phone the school (02841752448).

Open Day: Saturday 7th December 2024

Carrick Primary School is holding an Open Day on Saturday 7th December 2024 from 10.00am-2.00pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity for prospective pupils and their families and friends to view the school and to meet pupils and staff members. Please feel free to come along to this event. It promises to be most enjoyable. The application process for children who have reached or will reach their fourth birthday on or before 1st July 2025 is online and parents can apply between Friday 10th January 2025 and Friday 24th January 2025. If you need any more information about Carrick Primary School, please visit our website www.carrickprimaryschool.com, the school's Facebook page or contact the principal on 028 417 52448.

Action Mental Health

The Primary 4 and 5 pupils attended "Healthy Me" workshops in October as part of the school's strategy to promote good mental and physical health. The children really enjoyed the activities on

offer and benefitted significantly from them. The Primary 5 pupils will be attending “Healthy Me” workshops in November.

Road Safety Week: Monday 18th November – Friday 22nd November 2024

Congratulations to Tiernan Maguire, Erin Harris, Mollie McDevitt and Cliona McStay who have been appointed as Junior Road Safety Officers in Carrick Primary School. The children will be working alongside Mrs Kelly who is the Road Safety Coordinator. They will be planning activities and events for Road Safety Week which takes place between Monday 18th November 2024 and Friday 22nd November 2024. We are asking all the parents of the children who travel to and from school by bus, to emphasise to their children the importance of safely boarding the bus, going to a seat, remaining seated, wearing a seatbelt for the duration of the journey and behaving appropriately at all times. We appreciate your support in ensuring that these road safety messages are conveyed to our pupils, for their own safety and for the safety of others on the bus. Ditch the Dark Day will take place on Friday 22nd November and the children are asked to wear bright coats/hats/scarves and reflective strips so that they are easily seen by drivers and other road users.

Music

On Thursday 24th October 2024 the Primary 7 String Group from Carrick Primary School will be performing in a Musical Recital in Windsor Hill Primary school. Thank you to the Music Tutors, Mrs Gemma McGrath and Mrs Ita Mathers, for preparing the children so well for this event. Well done to the children who have been working very hard in preparation for this event.

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.

Birthday Party Invitations

Can we ask parents not to send birthday party invitations into school as they can cause distress and ill feeling in classes. Your cooperation with regard to this issue is very much appreciated.

Easy Read Project

The Easy Read Project is in operation in all P2-P7 classes. The children choose books from the Easy Read boxes for home reading and they can change the books as often as they like. Last year some children read in excess of 150 of these extra readers and this made a huge difference to their progress in reading. We would appreciate it if parents would encourage the children to read the Easy Read Books as often as possible, so as to get maximum benefit from the Easy Read resources which are available in each class.

Some of the money raised by Friends of Carrick during 2023-2024 has been spent on beautiful new Easy Read resources. These lovely new books have been distributed to every class in the school for the children to enjoy! Thanks to the committee members and to all the parents, grandparents and friends for supporting the events organised by Friends of Carrick.

Free School Meals/ Uniform/PE Uniform Assistance Application Forms

Please remember to apply for free school meals/uniform allowances/PE uniform assistance, via the Education Authority’s website. Additional information and help are available from the office for parents who wish to apply for meals, transport and/or uniform assistance for 2024-2025. Please apply even if there is only a small chance of success, as the school budget increases significantly if more children are receiving free school meals.

Booking Dinners via the School App

Could all parents ensure that school dinners are paid for promptly via the app so that the bill for any child’s dinners does not exceed £26.00.

Home to School Transport

The Education Authority has introduced a new online application process for parents applying for home to school transport. Information on eligibility for transport assistance and how to apply online can be found at www.eani.org.uk/transport.

Parking at Carrick

Can we ask all those dropping off or collecting children at the school, not to park in the bus bay and block the entrance/exit of the bus.

Football Training/Hurling and Camogie Training

Camogie and Hurling Training sessions take place every Monday (weather permitting) for P4-7 pupils from 3-4pm at the school. Each Friday 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. Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities.

Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who coach the hurling, camogie and football.

On Friday 11th October 2024 our footballers (boys and girls) played friendly matches against St Patrick's Crossmaglen. This was a great experience for the children and great preparation for their forthcoming fixtures.

Panto: P3-P7 Annual Visit to the Grand Opera House

On Thursday 9th January 2025 (P3/4) and Friday 10th January 2025 (P5-7) the pupils will be visiting the Grand Opera House to see the Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The children are looking forward to their Annual Trip to the Opera House.

Donations by St Vincent de Paul

Thank you to St Vincent de Paul for their recent donation of £1500. This money will be used to reduce the cost of each child's End of Year School Trip by £4, and this will be a great help to families.

Football Boots

We have lots of football boots of all sizes in the ball store in school. If anyone needs a pair, please help yourselves. Thank you to parents for donating boots which they no longer need.

Children's Property/Lost Property

Please remember to label your child's uniform and all his/her belongings. Any lost items will be placed in the "Lost Property" cupboard which is adjacent to Mrs Doyle's/Mrs Harkin's P5 classroom.

Easy Fundraising

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise funds for Carrick Primary School through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. Remember you can 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 [Easy Fundraising](#) 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 easyfundraising please contact the school and we will be happy to assist.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully
Mrs A Duffin
Mrs M McCann
Dr A Cassidy
(Leadership Team)