



Principal: Dr A Cassidy

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23rd September 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 to 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 4th October 2024, via the school app.

Healthy Me Parents' Evening

There will be a "Healthy Me" Parents' Evening on Thursday 26th September 2024 from 7.00-8.00pm. The presenter will be Mrs Claire McMahon who is always inspiring about how parents can help children and adults to improve their diet and their wellbeing. Please come along and enjoy the evening. A selection of children will be making healthy snacks for parents to sample after Claire's presentation.

Healthy Eating

As you know for many years now, we have had a healthy eating policy here in Carrick Primary School. Children are asked to bring in water or milk and a piece of fruit, yoghurt or a sandwich for their break time snack. We encourage children to only eat healthy food at break times and lunchtimes. There are many more advantages to eating a healthy balanced diet and recent research suggests that a good diet can positively affect children's behaviour and their ability to learn. You may wish to look at the 'Healthy Eating' resources as listed below. This week we are hosting "Healthy Eating" Assemblies to promote healthy packed lunches and healthy breaks.

Are you packing a healthy lunch?

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/are-you-packing-healthy-lunch-english-and-irish-translation>

Healthy breaks for schools

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/healthy-breaks-schools-leaflet-english-and-irish-translation>

Healthy Choices – Choose wisely: advice for parents on nutrition and activity for primary school children

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/healthy-choices-choose-wisely-advice-parents>

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

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 2024 is online and is open in 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.

Friends of Carrick

Thank you to the Friends of Carrick Committee and to the parents for the funds raised during 2023-2024. As a result of these fundraising efforts, we were able to purchase some fantastic resources including seven additional iPads. These iPads are of great benefit to all the pupils. If you would like to find out more about Friends of Carrick, ask at the office or email the principal on acassidy452@c2kni.net or by phone (02841752448).

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).

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. Information on eligibility for transport assistance and how to apply online can be found at www.eani.org.uk/transport. 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.

Altar Servers

We are currently recruiting Altar Servers from P5-7. Please get in touch if you would like to enrol your child for Altar Serving. The training for the new servers will take place on Friday 4th October from 5.30-6.30pm in the Church and the children will be presented with their certificates on Sunday 6th October 2024 at the 10.00am Mass.

Audit of Books

Thank you to those parents who returned school text books, 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.

Flu Vaccination Programme

The Flu Vaccination Programme (via nasal spray) is scheduled for Monday 21st October 2024. The School Nurses will provide this vaccination for all children whose parents have given their consent. This vaccination is offered annually and is given to help prevent the children from getting the flu.

Hallowe'en Raffle, Fancy Dress Parade and Disco

There will be a Hallowe'en Raffle on Tuesday 29th October 2024 and the tickets (which go on sale on Tuesday 22nd October 2024) cost 50p each. There are some fantastic prizes including 4 Hallowe'en Hampers! 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). **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 Times, PIPS and Daisy Lodge.** School resumes for the children on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

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 the standard of their 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.

Holidays:

September

Monday 30/09/24 Holiday

October/November

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

November

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

December

Monday 02/12/24 Holiday

December/January

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

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-
Tuesday 11/02/25 Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday)
 School Development Day 1
 (Children on Holiday)
Monday 10/02/25-Friday 14/02/25 Mid-Term Holidays for children (Inclusive)

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 27th September 2024. **We would encourage as many families as possible to walk/cycle/scoot to school (or part of the journey) on 27th September 2024 as it is the healthiest option and reduces congestion around the school.**

Summer Reading Challenge / Additional Reading Materials

Well done to all those children who participated in the Library's Summer Reading Challenge. All the children who participated in this scheme were presented with a certificate and a reward for their great efforts. Additional reading materials are also available from www.oxfordowl.co.uk. These materials are really excellent and are free!

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 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.

Traffic at Hometime

Can we ask all those dropping off or collecting children at the school, to be extra careful and **to observe the normal rules of a roundabout.** Could we also ask everyone to ensure that there is always at least one disabled parking space available. We appreciate that it can be very frustrating having to wait in the queue until the traffic moves on, but we would ask everyone to exercise caution so as to try and avoid accidents. **Please pass on this request to other family members and to others who may be collecting the children.**

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 Rd and up Milltown Street to Carrick Primary School each morning.

The bus then leaves the school at 2.40pm and goes as far as St. Mark's High School. If you would like more information about this bus service, please contact McAnulty's on 028 417 52228.

Primary 1-3 Classes

The school day for the P1-3 classes finishes at 2.00pm. If whoever is due to collect a child at 2.00pm is going to be late, could you please let the school know, as the children can become quite anxious and in some cases distressed if there is no one to collect them at 2.00pm

Useful Websites

We have compiled a list of websites which are very useful for reinforcing core concepts in Literacy and Numeracy, including:

Numeracy: www.topmarks.co.uk
www.mathsisfun.com
www.crickweb.co.uk

Literacy: www.oxfordowl.co.uk
www.topmarks.co.uk
www.crickweb.co.uk
www.primaryresources.co.uk
www.tes.co.uk

ICT: www.ictgames.com
www.starfall.com
www.squeebles.com (An app for iPads/iPods)

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 reception; and sign the exit book when collecting the child from reception.

Contact Numbers

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

Child Protection and Safeguarding

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.

Dinner Money/Cashless Payments

The cost of dinners is now £2.60 per day and this can be paid via the Online Payment System “School Comms,” which is used for all school payments, including dinners, trips, swimming, music etc. The menu is available on the school’s website (www.carrickprimaryschool.com).

Water Bottles and PE Bags

The “Carrick Primary School” water bottles cost £4 and the PE bags also cost £4. These are available from the office, if required.

Health Needs

A number of the children in our school have severe nut allergies. Consequently, we would ask you to avoid sending in nuts or nut products and would appreciate your co-operation with regard to this matter. If your child develops any allergies and/or any medical complaints during the course of the year, please contact the Principal to discuss these needs. **Please do not send any medicine into school without contacting the Principal.**

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 from 9.30am-12noon on Saturday 19th October for a mock SEAG/GL Assessment. An extra class will also be held on Saturday 26th October 2024 from 9.00-1.00pm in preparation for the SEAG/GL Assessment. These extra classes are optional.

Football Training/Hurling and Camogie Training

Gaelic Football Training sessions take place every Friday (weather permitting) for P4-P7 pupils. P4-P5 football training takes place from 2.00-3.00pm at the school, while P6-P7 football training takes place from 3.00-4.00pm at the club. Camogie and hurling training takes place every Monday from 3.00-4.00pm at the school. Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities.

Burren Football Gear

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

PE Uniform

P1-3: Burren club shorts or green shorts and black plimsolls or runners.

P4-7: Burren club shorts or green shorts (indoor PE / warmer weather), black tracksuit bottoms or Burren club bottoms (outdoor PE/ colder weather) and black plimsolls or runners.

Could parents please check that all items and PE bags are clearly labelled and that the children have their PE gear in school each day. The PE bags can be left in school during the week. The Burren club shorts and club tracksuit bottoms are available from Mr James McGrath who can be contacted on: 07720812991.

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.

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.

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.

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)

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 <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> 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)