



Principal: Dr A Cassidy

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25th September 2023

Dear Parents

Blessing of Aidan's Bench

On Wednesday 27th September 2023, the granite bench which was installed in memory of Aidan Carragher RIP will be blessed by Canon John Kearney. The bench is a fitting tribute to Aidan who was a beautiful, kind child. He enriched our school community and touched the lives of all those he met. May he rest in peace.

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in 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 send in any remaining school fees by Friday 6th October 2023.

Promoting Reading Parents' Evening

There will be a "Promoting Reading" Parents' Evening on Wednesday 27th September 2023 from 7.00-8.00pm. The presenter will be Mrs Kate O'Hanlon who is always inspiring about how parents can help children to become readers and to improve their reading. Please come along and find out how children's reading can be developed. A selection of children will be presenting short extracts from their favourite books as part of this event. Parents will also receive a list of recommended books for the various age groups. Tea/coffee will be served from 6.45pm.

Healthy Me Parents' Evening

There will also be a "Healthy Me" Parents' Evening on Monday 9th October 2023 from 7.00-8.00pm. The presenter will be Mrs Roisin Tallon who is always inspiring about how parents can look after their own and their children's mental health. Tea/coffee will be served from 6.45pm. The "Healthy Me" team will also be working with the P2, P5 and P6 classes during 2023-2024.

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 2023-2024. 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. 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 6th October from 5.30-6.30pm in the Church and the children will be presented with their certificates on Saturday 14th October 2023 at the 7.30pm 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 9th November 2023. The School Nurses will provide this vaccination for all children whose parents give 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 Friday 27/10/23 and the tickets (which go on sale on Tuesday 03/10/23) cost 50p each. There are some fantastic prizes including 3 Hallowe'en Hampers! The children will be finishing for Hallowe'en on Friday 27th October 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) as 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 the Air Ambulance and the Hospice.** School resumes for the children on Friday 3rd November 2023.

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.

Holidays:

October -	Monday 02/10/23	Holiday
	Monday 30/10/23 -	Hallowe'en Holidays for Children
		Thursday 02/11/23 (Inclusive)
November -	Thursday 02/11/23	Baker Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
December /January-	Monday 04/12/23	Holiday
	Monday 25/12/23	Christmas Holidays for Children
	Thursday 04/01/24	(Inclusive)

January -

Thursday 04/01/24 Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Friday 05/01/24

Term 2 starts for Children

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. The children will be working with Mr Dave Wiggins, who is the Sustrans Active Travel Officer and they will be busy planning various events for the year ahead. We are delighted that over 90% of all the boys and girls participated in our Feet First event on Friday 22nd September 2023. The children and staff enjoyed this event. **The second event will take place on Friday 20th October 2023.** 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. We would really appreciate this.

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 view the 'Healthy Eating' resources as listed below. On Wednesday 27th September 2023, we are hosting a "Healthy Eating" Assembly during which we will 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>

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.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place during October and November 2023.

Friends of Carrick

Thank you to the Friends of Carrick Committee and to the parents for the funds raised during 2022-2023. As a result of these fundraising efforts, we were able to purchase some fantastic resources which the pupils are already using. The money raised by Friends of Carrick will also be used to buy 7 iPads for the school. These iPads will be 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).

Road Safety

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 10th November 2023 and the children are asked to wear bright coats and hats/scarves which are easily seen by drivers.

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 Hometown

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.literactive.com
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.

Healthy Schools

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

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.

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. **It would be appreciated if dinner money could be paid on a Monday to ease the banking process.** Please make cheques for dinner money payable to Carrick Primary School. The menu is available on the school's website (www.carrickprimaryschool.com). From 1st November onwards we will be moving to an Online Payment System "School Comms," and this system will be used for all school payments, including dinners, trips, swimming, music etc. We will send out more information as soon as possible.

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 let us know as soon as possible, so that we can take any necessary action.

If your child has any medical needs (short term or long term), 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 11th November and Saturday 25th November 2023 are invited into school from 9.30am-12noon on Saturday 21st October for a mock SEAG/GL Assessment. An extra class will also be held on Saturday 28th October 2023 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 P4-7 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 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 / New Cul Camp School Bags

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/Ms Keenan'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 the [Easy Funding website](#) 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)