





Principal: Mrs A Cassidy

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26th September 2022

Dear Parents

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. Please send in the school fees by Friday 7th October 2022.

Free School Meals/ Uniform/PE Uniform Assistance Application Forms

Please remember to apply for free school meals/uniform allowances/PE uniform assistance. Additional information/help is available from the office for parents who wish to apply for meals, transport and/or uniform assistance for 2022-2023. Information on eligibility for assistance and how to apply online can be found at <https://www.eani.org.uk/home-to-school-transport-new/transport-online-applications/primary-school-transport-applications>

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.

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 annual Flu Vaccination Programme (via nasal spray) is scheduled for 28th September 2022. The School Nurses will provide this vaccination for all the children whose parents give their consent. This vaccination is given annually and is to help prevent the children from getting the flu. This is not a Covid-19 vaccine.

Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade and Disco

The children will be finishing for Hallowe'en on Friday 28th 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 £1 to participate in the Hallowe'en Parade and disco and all money raised will be going to the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust. School resumes for the children on Friday 4th November 2022.**

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 31/10/22 - Hallowe'en Holidays for Children (Inclusive)
Thursday 3/11/22

November- Thursday 3/11/2022 Baker Day 4 (Children on Holiday)

December Monday 05/12/22 Holiday

/January- Friday 23/12/22 - Thursday 05/01/23 Christmas Holidays for Children (Inclusive)

Thursday 05/01/23 Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Friday 06/01/23 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 88% of all the boys and girls participated in our Feet First event on Friday 23rd September 2022. The children and staff enjoyed this event. **The second event will take place on Friday 21st October 2022. On this day all pupils and staff are asked to walk/scoot/cycle to school or to park somewhere safe and walk/scoot/cycle the remaining part of the journey. 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.**

Summer Reading Challenge /Additional Reading Materials

Well done to all those 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 available from www.oxfordowl.co.uk. These materials are really excellent and are free!

Action Mental Health

The Primary 5 and Primary 6 pupils will be attending "Healthy Me" workshops on Monday 24th October and Tuesday 25th October as part of the school's strategy to promote good mental and physical health. In January 2023 the Primary 2 and Primary 3 pupils will also be participating in "Healthy Me" workshops as part of our Wellbeing Project.

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. Please visit our website to view the work we have done so far as part of the RRS Project (www.carrickprimaryschool.com) and also to see the children's RRS quizzes and games which are available on our website. At assemblies the children are learning about the 42 Rights from the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Friends of Carrick

Thank you to the Friends of Carrick Committee and to the parents for the funds raised in 2021-2022. As a result of these fundraising efforts we were able to purchase some fantastic resources which the pupils are already using. 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).

Board of Governors' Annual Report

The Board of Governors' Annual Report for 2021-2022 has been completed and will be uploaded to the school's website by Friday 7th October 2022. Hard copies are also available from Mrs Cassidy upon request.

Road Safety

Congratulations to Kelsey Mulvenna and Matthew Rooney 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 and will be planning activities and events for Road Safety Week which takes place between Monday 14th November 2022 and Friday 18th November 2022.

We are asking all parents of 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. Friday 18th November 2022 will be a "Ditch the Dark Day" and all the children are invited to walk/cycle/scoot to school or to walk/cycle/scoot part of the journey and to wear bright coats, fluorescent bands/bags to school on this day.

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.

Welcome to Carrick

We have started to create a "Welcome to Carrick" display along the main corridor. If your child's photograph is not already included could you please send in a photograph of your child(ren) to the class teacher. Please write your child's name on the back of the photograph and we will return the photographs to the children when we take the display down in June 2023.

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.taw.org
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

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 September onwards dinners cannot be provided if the dinner money owed exceeds £26.00. Thank you for your understanding with regard to this matter.

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 medicine into school without contacting the Principal.

Opus Photographs

The Primary 1 and Primary 7 group photographs will be taken on Thursday 29/09/22. The family and/or individual photographs will be taken on Thursday 02/03/23. More information will be sent out about the family/individual photograph options and prices closer to the time.

Access to Classes at the Back of the School

Following Health and Safety advice, parents/carers are asked to access the classes at the back of school via the right hand side of the school. The back gate (beside the oil tank etc) will be locked as a Health and Safety precaution.

Preparations for GL Assessments

The children who have applied for the GL Assessments on Saturday 12th November 2022 are invited into school at 9.15am on Saturday 22nd October for a mock GL assessment. An extra class will also be held on Saturday 29th October from 9.00-1.00pm in preparation for the GL Assessments. These extra classes are optional.

Youth Club

The Youth Club needs more volunteers. A few more volunteers helping out for 1 or 2 sessions a month will make all the difference. Please get involved. If interested, please contact Collie on 07866384123 or email: collie.l@btinternet.co.uk or contact Kieran on 07812859426.

The Youth Club opening times are:

Wednesday 7.00-8.15pm for P5, P6 and P7

Thursday 6.30-7.15pm for P1 and P2 and 7.30-8.15pm for P3 and P4.

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.

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. We also have some new Cul Camp school bags (also in the ball store) which have been donated to the school. 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/Mr Mullin'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 <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

A Duffin

M McCann

A Cassidy

(Leadership Team)