



**Principal: Dr A Cassidy**

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27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Thank you to all the parents for attending the Parent Teacher meetings in October/November. If parents have any issues or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher or the principal on [acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)

### **Sustrans Active School Travel Programme**

Our "Journey to Santa" event began on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and will run until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The children are asked to complete 20 Active sessions, of at least 15minutes per session. **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.** All those who complete the Journey to Santa Challenge will be entered into a Christmas Draw which will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### **P6 Readathon**

Well done to all our P6 pupils who participated in a Readathon during October and November in preparation for the Readathon Quiz which took place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. All the children received a reward for reading up to 10 books as part of the Readathon. Congratulations to all those who won prizes in the Readathon Quiz.

### **Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Awards**

The Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Award provides recognition to school communities who have demonstrated exceptional effort, supporting the pastoral care of pupils and making a real difference to the lives of pupils. If you would like to nominate Carrick Primary School for the help and support provided to the children and young people, in 2022-2023, please click on the link <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/derrytrasna-award-pastoral-care> and nominate our school.

### **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 Christmas gifts 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/carrickprimary/> 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 (Carrick Primary School) 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.

### First Confessions

Congratulations to the boys and girls in P4 who made their First Confessions in November 2023. The children worked extremely hard and were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Thank you to Monsignor Connolly and Father McGivern for making the children's First Penance so special and to our school choir, whose lovely singing enhanced the First Confession ceremony.

### Dates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 6pm	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11.00am

### Christmas Events 2023



- **The Children's Christmas Dinner ("Christmas Happy Meal") will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023.** The meal costs £2.60 and will include chips, chicken nuggets, cocktail sausages, orange juice and a choc ice or yoghurt or fruit for dessert. **The children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day. This is a non-uniform day.**
- Open Day and Christmas Fayre – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (10.00am-2.00pm)
- P6 Christmas Mass – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm
- P1 Christmas Play – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm
- Journey to Santa Draw – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Our Christmas Bingo/Christmas Art Day (Art resources sponsored by Friends of Carrick) is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.** The Bingo Books cost £2 and the money raised will go to Friends of Carrick. This is a non-uniform day and the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day. Juice and cookies will be provided for all the pupils. If any parent would like to donate a prize for the Bingo games, please send it in to the class teacher.

- P7 Christmas Play – Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7pm (tbc)
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 are non-uniform days.
- **The school will close for Christmas on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at 12 noon (Bus leaving at 11.45am). There will be no dinners on this day and it is a non- uniform day.**
- The children will return to school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### **Altar Servers**

Welcome to our New Altar Servers who were commissioned recently. We wish them the best of luck in their new role!

### **Open Day Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Carrick Primary School is having an Open Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 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. Please spread the word!

### **Applications for Primary 1 in September 2024**

The application process for new Primary 1 children who have reached or will reach their fourth birthday on or before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 is online and will be open from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (12 noon). If you need any assistance with this process, please contact the Principal on 028 417 52448. For more information about Carrick Primary School please visit our website <http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com>.

### **Friends of Carrick's Christmas Fayre**

The Friends of Carrick Committee members have organised a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 from 10am-2pm in the school's assembly hall. There will be lots of different stalls, selling a wide variety of gifts, including some lovely ideas for Christmas gifts. The Bell Ringers are returning to the Fayre and will be performing at 1.00pm. We are looking forward to welcoming them back to Carrick. There will also be a stall of products (soaps, oils, candles etc) made by the Benedictine Monks in Rostrevor. The Friends of Carrick Committee members have invited the Primary 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils to bring in a Jazzy Jar each. These will be sold for £2 at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to those who have already donated Jazzy Jars. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### **Football Training/Hurling and Camogie Training**

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/hurling training sessions take place every Monday from 3.00-4.00pm for P4-7 pupils. Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities.

### **Friends of Carrick Fundraising Efforts**

ICT resources (7 new iPads) and art resources have recently been requisitioned using the money raised by Friends of Carrick in 2022-2023. The art resources will be used for our Christmas Art Day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and throughout the year. The seven new iPads and all the art resources will be of great benefit to all the pupils. Thank you to Friends of Carrick for all their work on behalf of the school and our pupils.



### **Road Safety Week: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Road Safety Week took place from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Cayleigh Ward and Jack Ryan, our Junior Road Safety Officers, were busy planning events and updating our Road Safety Charter. The pupils were invited to participate in a Ditch the Dark Day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to highlight the importance of the Road Safety messages and in particular, good visibility.

Congratulations to the winners of the Road Safety Poster Competition including: Leo Mallon, Holly Armstrong, Clara Savage, Callen Byrne, Clara McCartan, Cillian McCartan, Olivia Curran, Bran Lennon, Chole Farrell, Grace Coulter, Shauna Byrne, Emma Knapton, Zac Bottell, Sophie McDevitt, Evie Madden, Tommy O'Hare, Grace McManus, James Murney, Sophie Hurson, Sean Gribben, Cliona McStay, Darragh Murtagh, Kerri McAteer, Darragh McMeel, Joe Lennon, Sorcha Collins, Charlie Rooney and Erin Treanor.

### **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.

### **Anti-Bullying Week: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

During Anti-Bullying week the children discussed the issue of bullying. They explored, through Circle Time and other class activities, how to recognise bullying. There were also activities which were designed to help the children to 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 was Odd Socks Day. Thanks to all those who wore odd socks on this day to highlight the importance of individuality and to promote acceptance and tolerance. Well done to the winners of the Anti-Bullying Week Competition including: Luka Rooney, Lily Kelly, Rocco Mallon, Ella Murphy, Meabh Nugent, Theo McDonnell, Phelim O'Brien, Ava Brennan, Lucy Hurson, Amalia Zafir, Molly Mathers, Saoirse McMahan, Jack McConville, Ava Matthews, Chloe Gee, Enda McGovern, Áine McAteer, Caleb Rafferty, Grace Carragher, Ryan Matthews, Cillian O'Connor, Amelia Mooney, Evie Connolly, Ella Gray, Anna McGivern, Aideen Trainor, Ellie Franklin and Jack McManus.

## Online Payments

Thank you to all parents for your cooperation in relation to our move to an online payment solution for our school. Please contact the school if you are experiencing any problems with the “School Gateway” app.

### Calendar 2023-2024 (December-June)

December /January-	<b>Monday 04/12/23</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
	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
February -	Monday 12/02/24-	School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 13/02/24	School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday)
	Monday 12/02/24-Friday 16/02/24	Mid-Term Holidays for children (Inclusive)
March -	Monday 18/03/24	Holiday
April -	Friday 29/03/24 – Monday 08/04/24	Easter Holidays (Inclusive)
	Monday 08/04/24	School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 09/04/24	Term 3 starts for Children
May -	Monday 06/05/24	Holiday
	Monday 27/05/24	School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 28/05/24	School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Carrick Primary School is due to close for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## 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. These donations are very much appreciated and are used to buy essential classroom and play resources. Please send in any other school fees before Christmas.

## Pantomime – Visits to the Grand Opera House and Newry Town Hall

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (P3/4) and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (P5-7) the pupils will be visiting the Grand Opera House in Belfast to see the Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 the Primary 1 and 2 classes will be visiting Newry Town Hall to see Beauty and the Beast.

## 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.

### **Child Protection**

The school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Kelly while Mrs McPolin and Mr Keenan are the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Mrs P Sheehan is the Designated Governor for Child Protection. Please contact the Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teachers or the Principal if you have any Child Protection or safeguarding concerns.

### **Football Boots / Uniform Items**

We have lots of football boots and many uniform items which have been donated to the school. Please contact us if you could use any of these items.

### **Action Mental Health**

The Primary 2 pupils attended "Healthy Me" workshops on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as part of the school's strategy to promote good mental and physical health. The Primary 5 pupils also attended a workshop on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The children really enjoyed the activities on offer and benefitted significantly from them.

Thank you to the Menssana Team for providing these workshops.

### **Books and Lego**

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 and Lego which they no longer need. These items are all very useful and are used to supplement our existing resources and make a huge difference to our class resources.

### **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. 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.**

### **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 <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport>.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Duffin

Mrs M McCann

Dr A Cassidy

(Leadership Team)