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27th August 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome Back

We hope you are looking forward to the new school year. Let's hope everything will go according to plan and that there will be very little disruption to the normal school routines and events. An especial welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils and the new pupils who have joined Carrick Primary School.

Arrangements for the Reopening of Carrick Primary School

- The school will reopen on **Wednesday 01/09/2021**. The new Primary 1 children have received a separate letter detailing their arrangements for starting school. During the first few weeks we will focus on the children's pastoral needs and settling them back into school and into their new classes. We will also spend time reinforcing the good practice which you have been undertaking at home to help minimise the spread of the Corona virus. This will include good handwashing, social distancing and the use of tissues, wipes and hand sanitisers.
- The "Drop off" timeslot is anytime between 845am- 915am. **There is no facility to drop the children off any earlier due to the current restrictions.**
- **In order to reduce the risk of infection, avoid congestion and reduce the risk of accidents, parents and children are asked, where possible, to walk to school, or to park and walk the last part of their journey. We would really appreciate your help with this issue.**
- **On their first day back at school, could each pupil please bring in their pencil case, tissues, a packet of anti-bacterial wipes and a bottle of hand sanitiser (all clearly labelled please) and leave these in school.**
- **School bags/ water bottles (clearly labelled please) / breaktime snacks/ packed lunches/PE gear (clearly labelled please) can be brought into school.**
- **Pupils will be changing into their PE kits for PE lessons.**
- School Dinners will be available from 01/09/21 onwards.
- Parents are also asked to remain outside the school building, in an effort to reduce footfall and the risk of infection. If you have any particular pastoral, medical or safeguarding concerns, please email the school (acassidy452@c2kni.net) to arrange to speak to the relevant member of staff.

- All classes have been allocated a door for entering and leaving the school building.

Class	Entrance/ Exit Doors
P1 Mrs O'Hagan's Class	Door 1 (into Mrs O'Hagan's Cloakroom at the back of the school. Please access the P1 classes via the path to the right hand side of the school.)
P1 Mrs Kelly's Class	Door 2 (into Mrs Kelly's Cloakroom at the back of the school. Please access the P1 classes via the path to the right hand side of the school.)
P2 Mrs Duffin's Class	Door 6 (into P2 Claokroom Area at front of school)
P2 Mrs Murray's Class	Door 6 (into P2 Claokroom Area at front of school)
P3 Mrs McCann's Class	Door 5 (into Mrs McCann's Cloakroom at front of school)
P3 Mrs McPolin's Class	Door 4 (into P3/4 Resource Area at front of school)
P4 Mrs O'Hare's Class	Door 3 (into P4 Cloakroom Area at LHS of school)
P4 Mrs O'Grady's Class	Door 3 (into P4 Cloakroom Area at LHS of school)
P5 Mrs Fitzpatrick's Class	Door 7 (into P5/6 Cloakroom Area at back of school)
P5 Mrs Doyle's Class	Door 7 (into P5/6 Cloakroom Area at back of school)
P6 Mrs Harkin's Class	Door 7 (into P5/6 Cloakroom Area at back of school)
P6 Mr Keenan's Class	Door 8 (Door into P7 Cloakroom area at front of school)

P7 Mrs Doran's Class	Door 8 (Door into P7 Cloakroom area at front of school)
P7 Mr Murdock's Class	Door 8 (Door into P7 Cloakroom area at front of school)

School Fees

It has been the tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help supplement the school budget, which has been reduced significantly over the past few years. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Summer Reading Challenge / Additional Reading Materials

Well done to all those children who participated in the Library's Summer Reading Challenge. The challenge continues until 18/09/21. All the children who participated in this scheme will be 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!

Action Mental Health

On Tuesday 31/08/21 the staff of Carrick Primary School will be attending "Healthy Me" workshops which will focus on the importance of safeguarding children's and adults' wellbeing. The Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils will also attend "Healthy Me" workshops on Monday 13/09/21 and Tuesday 14/09/21 as part of the school's strategy to promote good mental and physical health.

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.

Attendance

The pupils' attendance for 2020-2021 was 96.8% which is higher than the NI average. Well done to parents and pupils for ensuring that attendance rates in Carrick are as high as possible, as this is vitally important for the children's education.

Primary 1-3 Classes

The school day for the P1-3 classes ends 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 no one arrives to collect them.

Early Exits

If a child needs to be 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.

Free School Meals/ Uniform/PE Uniform Assistance Application Forms

Please see the website for information about free school meals/uniform allowances/PE uniform assistance. Additional information and help are available from the office for parents who wish to apply for meals and/or uniform assistance for 2021-2022. 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 www.eani.org.uk/transport.

Flu Vaccination Programme

The Flu Vaccinations will be offered to all Primary 1-7 children in Autumn 2021. The School Nurses normally provide this vaccination and will write out to parents in September to provide details about the programme and to seek parental consent.

Friends of Carrick

The Friends of Carrick committee members meet about six times a year, to organise various fundraisers and social events. The fundraising activities enable the school to requisition resources which would normally be beyond the scope of the school budget. If you would like to find out more about Friends of Carrick, please contact the school by email (acassidy452@c2kni.net) or by phone (02841752448). Details about the AGM will be sent out to parents in the next few weeks.

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 for the week ahead to ease the banking process and to reduce the risk of infection. Please make cheques for dinner money payable to Carrick Primary School. Menus will be sent home on a monthly basis and they will also be 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.

Health Needs

A number of the children in our school have severe nut allergies. Reactions can be fatal. 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.

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.

Annual Reports

Thank you to all parents for returning the Annual Reports and for the very positive feedback and constructive comments which help us to continue to make improvements in Carrick.

School Calendar

The school calendar for 2021-2022 is available on the school's website: www.carrickprimaryschool.com and also on the school's Facebook page. If your child is unable to attend school on any day, please inform Mrs O'Brien, who will subsequently inform the class teacher.

Suggestion Boxes

During 2020-2021 we received some great suggestions from parents and children about how to improve our school. There is a Suggestion Box in each classroom. If you have any ideas for improvement, please jot them down and ask your child to drop them into the suggestion boxes which are in each class.

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.

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 (07720812991).

Football Boots

If anyone has football boots at home which their sons or daughters have outgrown, please leave them into school as we have some pupils who occasionally forget their boots and need to borrow some from the store. We would appreciate this.

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. This extra reading can make a huge difference to children's progress in reading. Please encourage your child to avail of these lovely resources.

Children's Property/Lost Property

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

Audit of Books

Thank you to those parents who returned text books, library books, easy reads or reading books, as well as their own books which they no longer need. They are all very useful to supplement our existing resources. If you have any books belonging to Carrick Primary School or any books which you no longer need please send them into school.

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 Dave Wiggans, who is the Sustrans Active Travel Officer and they will be busy planning various events for the year ahead, including “Feet First Fridays”.

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.** 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. The Board of Governors is currently working with a number of agencies, in an effort to secure additional car parking spaces at the school, which would help to alleviate the traffic congestion.

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.

C2K News Desk

The upgraded C2K News Desk has been launched recently and is available to all pupils both in school and at home. The C2K News Desk provides many enjoyable opportunities for pupils to express their views and develop their interest in reading and writing articles about subjects across the curriculum. It also offers readers the opportunity to have their own views and opinions published. It is a great resource for developing children’s Literacy both in school and at home and we would ask you to encourage the children to access the News Desk. The children need to have their C2K school login details and password in order to log in.

How to access the news desk:

- <http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com/about-us.html>
- Kids area
- C2K Login
- Username and password
- C2Knewsdesk

Easy Fundraising

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise funds for Carrick Primary School in the last three years through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. We currently have 100+ supporters. 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/causes/friendscarrickps/> 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 Amanda Duffin
Mrs Mary McCann
Mrs Anne Cassidy
(Leadership Team)