



Principal: Dr A Cassidy

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27th November 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 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 6th December 2024, via the school app.

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

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme

Our "Journey to Santa" event began on Monday 11th November 2024 and will run until Friday 13th December 2024. The children are asked to complete 20 Active Journey Sessions of at least 15 minutes 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 16th December 2024.

Road Safety Week: Monday 18th November – 22nd November 2024

Road Safety Week took place from 18th November 2024 – 22nd November 2024. Tiernan Maguire, Erin Harris, Mollie McDevitt and Cliona McStay have been appointed as our Junior Road Safety Officers. They were busy planning events and updating our Road Safety Charter. The pupils were all invited to participate in our Ditch the Dark Day on Friday 22nd November 2024 and to wear bright coats, hats and/or fluorescent strips, to highlight the importance of good visibility when out on the roads. Well done to the winners of the Road Safety Poster Competition including: Muireann Evers, Arya Hanratty, Caoimhe Reilly, Conor Nugent, Turlough O'Hare, Caragh Coulter, Maggie Mathers, Daryl O'Reilly, Cillian McCartan, Theo McDonnell, Eva McKinley, James Hughes, Oisín Downey, Moya Ennis, Arthur Kelly, Amalia Zafir, Rose McKernan, Matty O'Hare, Tilly McLoughlin, Jack McConville, Finn O'Prey, Tara Byrne, Grace Carragher, Cillian McGivern, Siofra Trainor, Emma Egan, Jacob Rafferty and Elena Doran.

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 our assemblies each week, 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, visited our school and he met with all the children at an assembly which was led by our School Councillors. Afterwards Mr Quinn talked to our School Councillors about the Rights Respecting School Project and their role within Carrick.

P6 Readathon

Well done to all our P6 pupils who were very busy with their reading during October and November, in preparation for the Readathon Quiz which took place on Friday 22nd November. All the children received a reward for reading up to 10 books as part of the Readathon. Congratulations to all those who participated in the Readathon Quiz and to those who won prizes including:

Winning Team Members (Mr Keenan's Class)

Turlough Rowntree, Maeve McGovern, Ava Mackin, Darragh Carragher, Maria Grace Barlow, Eoin Morgan, Caolan McConville and Cormac Cunningham.

Winning Team Members (Mrs Hanmore's Class)

Ciara Kelly, Ben Heaney, Annie Evers, Jessie May McAteer, Aidan McGovern, Frankie O'Hare and Polly McCoy.

Runner-Up Team Members (Mr Keenan's Class)

Olivia Devlin, Eva McKernan, Cillian McGivern, Jack Toner, Grace Carragher, Aaron Walsh, Cormac Doherty and Julia Wolinska.

Runner-Up Team Members (Mrs Hanmore's Class)

Annie McKinney, Lauren Begley, Philip Ward, Nicole Fensom, Emer McVeigh, Kealim McCabe and James Murney.

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 on 7th November 2024. The children worked extremely hard and were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Thank you to Monsignor Connolly, Monsignor Bickers, Canon Kearney and Canon Powell 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 20 th March 2025 at 6pm	Saturday 3 rd May 2024 at 11.00am

Christmas Events 2024



- **The Children's Christmas Dinner ("Christmas Happy Meal") will take place on Friday 6th December 2024.** 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 – Saturday 7th December 2024 (10.00am-2.00pm)
- Friends of Carrick Christmas Fayre – Saturday 7th December 2024 (10.00am-2.00pm) – All welcome!
- P1 Christmas Play – Thursday 12th December 2024 at 7pm
- P6 Christmas Mass – Saturday 14th December 2024 at 7.30pm
- P4 Pre-Communion Mass – Sunday 15th December 2024 at 10.00am
- Journey to Santa Draw – Monday 16th December 2024
- Our Christmas Bingo/Christmas Art Day (Art resources sponsored by Friends of Carrick) is on **Thursday 19th December 2024.** 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 18th December 2024 at 7pm
- Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December 2024 are non-uniform days.
- **The school will close for Christmas on Friday 20th December 2024 at 12 noon. There will be no bus and no dinners on this day and it is a non-uniform day.**
- The children will return to school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Altar Servers

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

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.

Open Day Saturday 7th December 2024

Carrick Primary School is having 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. Please spread the word!

Friends of Carrick's Christmas Fayre

The Friends of Carrick Committee members have organised a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December 2024 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 12noon. 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, 6 and 7 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.

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 2023-2024. The art resources will be used for our Christmas Art Day on Thursday 19th December 2024 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. Thank you to all the parents for supporting the fundraising events organised by Friends of Carrick.



Applications for Primary 1 in September 2025

The application process for new Primary 1 children who have reached or will reach their fourth birthday on or before 1st July 2025 is online and will be open from Friday 10th January until Friday 24th January 2025 (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>.

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.

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. 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 11th November - Friday 15th November 2024

During Anti-Bullying Week the children discussed the issue of bullying. They explored, through Circle Times 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 15th November 2024 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: Fiadh McEntee, Luke Montgomery, Olivia Byrne, Ailbhe Brien, Rocco Mallon, Niamh Mc Govern, Paul Cousins, Thea Berger Dynes, Layla Grant, Kilian Fegan, Ella McQuaid, Saoirse Murtagh, Caleb White, Rebecca Rooney, Daíthi Carragher, Chloe Farrell, Enda Mc Govern, Aoife Mc Govern, Zac Bottell, Siofra Mc Conville, James Murney, Lottie Benson, Julia Wolinska, Aaron Walsh, Kerri McAteer, Leah Creaney, Cliona Mc Stay and Robyn Mallon.

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. Please ensure dinner payments are made promptly with no bill for a child's dinners exceeding £26.00

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

On Thursday 9th January 2025 (P3/4) and Friday 10th January 2025 (P5-7) the pupils will be visiting the Grand Opera House in Belfast to see the Pantomime, Peter Pan. On Wednesday 18th December 2024 the Primary 1 and 2 classes will be visiting Newry Town Hall to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Calendar 2024-2025 (December-June)

December	Monday 02/12/24	Holiday
December/January	Monday 23/12/24 – Friday 03/01/25 (Inclusive)	Christmas Holidays for Children
January	Friday 03/01/25 Monday 06/01/25	Baker Day 4 (Children on Holiday) Term 2 starts for Children
February	Monday 10/02/25- Tuesday 11/02/25 Monday 10/02/25-Friday 14/02/25	Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday) School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday) Mid-Term Holidays for children (Inclusive)
March	Monday 17/03/25	Holiday
April	Friday 18/04/25 – Monday 28/04/25 Monday 28/04/25 Tuesday 29/04/25	Easter Holidays (Inclusive) School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday) Term 3 starts for Children
May	Monday 05/05/25 Monday 26/05/25 Tuesday 27/05/25 Monday 30/06/25	Holiday School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday) School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday) School Development Day 5

Carrick Primary School is due to close for pupils for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 27th June 2025

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 will be attending “Healthy Me” workshops on Tuesday 21st January 2024 as part of the school’s strategy to promote good mental and physical health. The Primary 4 and 5 pupils previously attended workshops on mental health in October 2024. The children really enjoyed the activities on offer and benefitted significantly from them. Thank you to the Menssana Team for providing these workshops.

Parking at Carrick

Can we ask all those dropping off or collecting children at the school, not to park in the bus bay and block the entrance/exit of the bus.

Donations by St Vincent de Paul

Thank you to St Vincent de Paul for their recent donation of £1500. This money will be used to reduce the cost of each child’s End of Year School Trip by £4, and this will be a great help to families.

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.

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 2024-2025. 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)