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27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents

### **Blessing of Aidan's Bench**

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the granite bench which was installed in memory of Aidan Carragher RIP was 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. Thank you to Aidan's family for attending our prayer service and to those who attended and participated in the prayers and in the singing.

### **Dinner Money/Cashless Payments**

From 1<sup>st</sup> November onwards we will be moving to an Online Payment System and this system will be used for all school payments, including dinners, trips, swimming, music etc. Thank you to all those who have downloaded the School Gateway App. If you have not yet downloaded the app please do so as soon as possible. If you have any difficulty downloading the app, please email the Principal ([acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)) as soon as possible.

### **Cross Country Event**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Cross Country Event took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Downpatrick. In preparation for this event the children attended many training sessions and made significant improvements to their times. The children performed exceptionally well with a number of children finishing in the top ten. **Well done to the boys' team who finished in second place and to the girls' team who finished first and won the shield.**

The boys' team consisted of Dara Grant, Jack Ryan, Oran Byrne, Alex Malone, Daniel Coulter, Harry Coulter, Daniel McCartan and Jack McManus.

The girls' team consisted of Niamh Farrell, Aoife Farrell, Anna McGivern, Caitlin McGovern, Gemma McStay, Aoibh Macauley, Caitlin Byrne and Elsie McClorey.

Thanks to Mrs Medlicott and Mr Keenan who accompanied the children to Downpatrick. Thanks also to Mr Murdock and Mrs Doran who have been busy preparing the children for this event.

### **Promoting Reading Parents' Evening**

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October the school held a "Promoting Reading" Parents' Evening. This was a most informative and enjoyable event. Thank you to those who attended this evening and to those who evaluated it.

## **Board of Governors' Annual Report**

The Board of Governors' Annual Report for 2022-2023 has been completed and has been uploaded onto the school's website. Hard copies are also available from Mrs Cassidy upon request.

## **Dates for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

First Confession	Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00pm (Both Classes)	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 6pm (Both P7 Classes)	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11.00am (Both Classes)

## **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher meetings will take place in Oct/Nov 2023-2024. In the meantime, if parents have any issues or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher on 028 417 52448 or the principal on [acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)

## **Preparations for GL Assessments**

Best of luck to the P7's who have applied for the GL Assessments which will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

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

Carrick Primary School is holding 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. The application process for 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 2024 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 [www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com) or the school's Facebook page.

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

Friends of Carrick Committee members have organised a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 from 10am-2pm in the assembly hall. There will be a great selection of stalls, selling all kinds of arts, crafts, cosmetics and candles, with some great Christmas gifts ideas. If you would like to find out more about Friends of Carrick, please ask at the office or email the Principal on [acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net) or phone the school (02841752448). The money raised by Friends of Carrick during 2022-2023 has been used to purchase seven new iPads (10<sup>th</sup> Generation) and cases. These will be of tremendous benefit to all of the children in Carrick.

## **Action Mental Health**

The Primary 6 pupils attended "Healthy Me" workshops in October as part of the school's strategy to promote good mental and physical health. The children really enjoyed the activities on offer and benefitted significantly from them. The Primary 5 pupils will be attending "Healthy Me" workshops in November.

There was also a Parents' Evening on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October which focused on looking after your own Mental Health and your children's Mental Health. Thank you to all those who attended, to those who evaluated the event and to the Menssana Team for providing these workshops and the Parents' Evening.

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

During Anti-Bullying week the children will be discussing the issue of bullying and exploring, through Circle Times and other class activities, how to recognise bullying. There will also be activities which are designed to help the children 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 is Odd Socks Day. The children (and staff) are asked to wear odd socks on this day to highlight the importance of individuality and to promote acceptance and tolerance.

### **New School Council**

Congratulations to our new School Councillors who were elected recently. We wish the Councillors the best of luck in their new roles.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>
P4 Mrs O'Grady	Aston Aguero
P4 Mrs O'Hare	Charlie Kelly
P5 Mrs Doyle	Aidan McGovern
P5 Ms Keenan	Sean Gribben
P6 Mr Keenan	Sadie McFerran
P6 Mrs Harkin	James Gallagher
P7 Mrs Doran	James Rooney (Headboy) Harry O'Hare Aoife McGivern Caitlin McGovern Grace McGovern
P7 Mr Murdock	Grace Bradley (Headgirl) Gemma McStay Kayla Gorman Harry Coulter Dáire Gillespie

### **Altar Servers**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, seven of our P5-P7 pupils were enrolled as Altar Servers in St Mary's Church, Burren. Well done to the boys and girls. We wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

**Calendar 2023-2024 (November-June)**

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
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

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

Congratulations to Cayleigh Ward and Jack Ryan 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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. 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 10<sup>th</sup> November and the children are asked to wear bright coats/hats/scarves and reflective strips which are easily seen by drivers and other road users.

**Music**

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the String Group from Carrick Primary School participated in a Recital in Windsor Hill Primary school and performed exceptionally well. Well done to all the participants and thank you to the Music Tutors, Mrs Gemma McGrath and Mrs Ita Mathers for preparing the children so well.

### **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 remaining school fees by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **Books**

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

### **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.

Some of the money raised by Friends of Carrick during 2022-2023 has been spent on beautiful new Easy Read resources. These lovely new books have been distributed to every class in the school for the children to enjoy! Thanks to the committee members and to all the parents, grandparents and friends for supporting the events organised by Friends of Carrick.

### **Child Protection Assemblies**

Mrs Kelly spoke to both P1-4 and P5-7 assemblies on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September in relation to Child Protection and the school's Stay Safe Project. She also showed the children the Worry Boxes which are located in the three Key Stages and encouraged the children to use these if they have any concerns or worries about themselves or about another child.

### **ICT Online Safety Assemblies**

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Mrs O'Hare and Mrs Doran spoke to the P1-P4 and the P5-P7 assemblies respectively about staying safe online. They encouraged the children to always tell if they encountered anything inappropriate online.

### **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. We are delighted that -% of all the boys and girls participated in our Feet First event on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **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>.

### **Parking at Carrick**

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

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

Camogie and Hurling Training sessions take place every Monday (weather permitting) for P4-7 pupils from 3-4pm at the school. Each Friday 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. Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities.

Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who coach the hurling, camogie and football.

### **Panto: P3-P7 Annual Visit to the Grand Opera House**

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 to see the Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The children are looking forward to their Annual Trip to the Opera House.

### **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.

### **Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade and Disco**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the children enjoyed the Hallowe'en Raffle, a Fancy Dress Parade and a Hallowe'en disco. The children were asked to bring in a minimum donation of £2 to participate in the Hallowe'en Parade and disco and the money raised will be divided between the Air Ambulance and Newry Hospice. Thank you to Friends of Carrick for organising these events. Thanks also to the parents, staff and Friends of Carrick committee members for providing raffle prizes.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs A Duffin  
Mrs M McCann  
Dr. A Cassidy

(Leadership Team)