



Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy

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3rd January 2024

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 2!

Christmas 2023

On behalf of the staff members of Carrick PS, we would like to say thank you to the pupils and parents for all the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes received in December 2023. Your kindness is really appreciated.

Christmas Bingo and Art Day

Many thanks to Friends of Carrick who organised a Christmas Bingo and Art Day for the children on Wednesday 20th December 2023. The event raised a fantastic £730+ for Friends of Carrick. Thank you to all the parents, pupils and staff members who donated prizes for the Bingo. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Archived Videos, Christmas Recordings 2023 and “A Day in The Life of Carrick Primary School”

We have archived videos of over 37 school plays and events from 1994 onwards. These are available via the school website (www.carrickprimaryschool.com). In November 2023 we recorded a video entitled “A Day in the Life of Carrick Primary School”. This shows a selection of activities which take place in Carrick and will be available on the website very shortly. An abbreviated version will also be available on Facebook.

Journey to Santa

We are delighted that our “Journey to Santa” event went so well. The winners of the Journey to Santa draw were: Grace Fegan, Daire Lawson, Cillian McCartan, Patrick McConville, Alice Bransbury, Shauna Byrne, Niamh Hurson, Molly Murney, Elsie McClorey and Annie McKinney. We would encourage as many families as possible to walk/cycle/scoot to school as it is the healthiest option and it reduces congestion around the school. Thank you for all your cooperation in relation to our Sustrans project.

Virgin Media Christmas Colouring Competition

Well done to all the pupils who participated in the Virgin Media Christmas Colouring Competition. Congratulations to the winners of the competition who included: Niamh McGovern, Peter McGovern, Saoirse Murtagh, Kilian Fegan, Olivia McHale, Lucy Hurson, Ava Matthews, Erin McGivern Markey, Fern Doorley, Ryan Matthews, Leah White, Kerri McAteer, Oran Byrne, Cayleigh Ward and Evie Connolly.

Thanks to Mrs Doyle and Mrs McGreevy for organising the competition.

Primary 6 Maths and English Club

The Primary 6 Maths and English Club will begin on Tuesday 16th January 2024 from 3.00-4.15pm in preparation for the GL Assessments in November 2024. These extra classes will continue each Tuesday until November 2024. These classes are completely optional.

Friends of Carrick's Christmas Fayre

Thanks to everyone who supported the Friends of Carrick Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9th December 2023 which raised £1150 for Friends of Carrick. Thanks also to the children who brought in Jazzy Jars which were sold at the Christmas Fayre. Hospice Christmas Cards and gifts were sold by the School Councillors and this raised £180 for the Hospice. The councillors also raised £110 for the Benedictine Monks by selling candles on behalf of the Monks. Thank you to the Friends of Carrick Committee for organising this event and thanks to those who made donations to this fundraising event. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Christmas Plays and Christmas Mass

Well done to all our Primary 1 and Primary 7 pupils who performed Christmas Plays and to our Primary 6 pupils who have worked so hard in preparation for the Christmas Mass. The children were brilliant and were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school.

St Louis' Technology Challenge

Well done to Dara Grant and Conor Taggart who participated in St Louis' Technology Challenge on Friday 15/12/23. The children's design received high praise from the judges and the vehicle they designed and constructed was of a very high standard.

Applications for P1 Places in September 2024

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

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 24th November. All the children received a reward for reading up to 10 books as part of the Readathon. Congratulations to those who won prizes in the Readathon Quiz including: Kerri McAteer, Anna Dunbar, Grace Magee, Tiarnan Stuart, Summer-Rose Annett, Tiernan Maguire, Darragh Dickson, Megan Brown, Aoibhinn McAllister, Harrison Threlfall, Daniel Harkin, Isla Mohan, Emma Egan, Darragh Murtagh, Cliona McStay, Sadie McFerran, Ella Gray, Tommy Armstrong, Nadia Abouda, Summer Leddy, Dara Cunningham, Scarlett Kenny, Leah White, Selina Leddy, Joe Toman, Fionn Magee, Estelle Woods, Oran McBride and Cillian O'Connor.

Primary 7 Readathon

The Primary 7 children will be participating in a Readathon Quiz on Monday 26th February. The children will be reading ten books and will then be competing in a quiz based on the books they have read. We wish the Primary 7 children good luck with their preparations for the Readathon Quiz.

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in school fees so far. It has been a tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help supplement the school budget, which has decreased significantly over the past few years. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45 and this money is used to buy essential school resources. Thank you so much for all your support, it is very much appreciated. Please send in any remaining school fees.

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 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.

Calendar 2023-2024 (January-June)

January -	Thursday 04/01/24 Friday 05/01/24	Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday) Term 2 starts for Children
February -	Monday 12/02/24- Tuesday 13/02/24	School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday) School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday)
	Monday 12/02/24-Friday 16/02/24 (Inclusive)	Mid-Term Holidays for children
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 28th June 2024.

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

On Thursday 11th January 2024 (P3/4) and Friday 12th 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 Friday 19th January 2024 the Primary 1 and 2 classes will be visiting Newry Town Hall to see “Beauty and the Beast”. We hope the children enjoy their visits to the Pantomime.

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.

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>.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Amanda Duffin
Mrs Mary McCann
Dr Anne Cassidy
(Leadership Team)