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4th December 2018

Dear Parents

Open Day

An Open Day has been planned for Saturday 8th December 2018 from 10.00am-2.00pm. Prospective pupils, their parents, family members and friends are welcome to attend this event, to view the school and to meet the pupils and the staff. Please spread the word!

Friends of Carrick

The Friends of Carrick Committee has organised a “Christmas Fayre” in the assembly hall at the school’s Open Day on Saturday 8th December 2018 from 10.00am-2.00pm. There will be lots of different stalls, with something for everyone!

P1 Application Forms

The application process for places in Primary One in September 2019 will open online on 2nd January 2019 and will remain open until 31st January 2019. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Christmas Events 2018



- **Children’s Christmas Dinner - Thursday 6th December 2018.**
- Switching on of Christmas Lights at Community Centre and arrival of Santa – Sunday 16th December 2018.
- P1 and P5 Christmas Play for Parents, Friends, Family, Community Members and Guests - Thursday 13th December 2018 at 7.00pm, in the Assembly Hall.
- Staff Christmas Dinner - Friday 14th December 2018 – **School closing at 1.00pm. (Bus leaving at 12.45pm).**
- Annual Christmas Bazaar in St Mary’s GAC, Burren the in aid of St Vincent de Paul – Friday 14th December at 8.00pm.
- P6 Christmas Mass - Sunday 16th December 2018 at 10.00am in St Mary’s Church, Burren.
- P7 Christmas Play for Parents, Friends, Family, Community Members and Guests - Tuesday 18th December 2018 at 7.00pm, in the Assembly hall.
- Christmas Jumper Day/Movie Day- Thursday 20th December 2018. (non uniform day)

- **School closes for Christmas on Friday 21st December 2018 at 12 noon (Bus leaving at 11.45am). There will be no dinners on this day and it is a non- uniform day.**
- **Tuesday 25th December 2018** -The GOAL Mile takes place every year on Christmas Day and Boxing Day around the country. It is a family focused, locally organised event asking those who take part to make a donation to GOAL's work and run or walk their local GOAL Mile. To take part, go to **St Mary's, Burren, GAA Grounds** any time on **Christmas Day between 11am and 1pm**. Please go to www.goalglobal.org/goalmile for more information. GOAL would like to thank everyone who has organised, taken part and generously supported the Burren GOAL Mile over the years.
- **Wednesday 26th December 2018** – Annual Boxing Day Run/Walk
- **Saturday 29th December 2018** – Fundraiser in Burren Social Club
- The children return to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Easy Fundraising

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise over **£700** for Carrick Primary School since October 2017 through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. We currently have 74 supporters. Remember you can buy Christmas presents, 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. Please remember to use this if you are ordering online for Christmas 2018!

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.

St Louis Technology Challenge

Good luck to Joe McGovern and Eoin McCormick who will be participating in the Annual St Louis Technology Challenge on 14th December 2018. This competition aims to promote scientific and technological skills and to foster an interest in technology.

Down GAA Draw

Over the next few weeks, representatives from Burren GAC will be calling at houses selling Down GAA tickets. Over the last six years, this draw has raised £300000 for our club and has facilitated:

- the redevelopment of the main field and the training pitch;
- the purchase and installation of lights for the training pitch and also the main pitch; and
- the refurbishment of the Social Club.

Thank you to all who have purchased tickets previously.

Book Fair

Thank you to all those who supported the Scholastic Book Fair which was in school for one week mid-November. The Book Fair raised £2755.60 and the commission raised was £1650. This money was used to buy new Easy Readers for all the classes.

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 makes a huge difference to their progress in reading. Please encourage your child to avail of these lovely resources. When the children have read another 10 Easy Reads, please let the class teacher know, as the children are then given a certificate and reward at assembly.

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 Mr Dave Wiggans, who is the Sustrans Active Travel Officer and they will be busy planning various events for the year ahead. Thank you to all those who are participating in our "Journey to Santa" campaign (15 active travel journeys or part journeys to school) and to those who participated in our Feet First Event on 23rd November 2018 (310 out of 395) and also our Ditch the Dark Day on Friday 30th November 2018.

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in school fees so far (66% of families). It has been the tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help to supplement the school budget, which has decreased by £71000 over the past 3 years. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45 and this is used to buy essential school resources. Thank you so much for all your support, it is very much appreciated. If you haven't yet sent in your school fees, could you send them in as soon as possible please.

Road Safety Week: 19th-23rd November 2018

During Road Safety Week the children participated in many different activities to highlight the importance of road safety. All classes participated in a poster competition and there was also a Road Safety Quiz P4-7. Mr Keenan's class also presented an assembly with important Road Safety messages.

Thanks to Charlie Denner and Caolan Serridge, who are our Junior Road Safety Officers in Carrick Primary School, are busy working alongside Mrs Kelly (Road Safety Coordinator) planning activities and events to keep us all safe.

Blood Donation Event

Thank you to all those who attended our Blood Donation Event on 19th October. Your support is very much appreciated. 98 donors attended this event. Our next event is scheduled for 13th February 2019. Please put this date in your diary.

Anti-Bullying Week: 12th – 16th November 2018

During Anti-Bullying week the children discussed the issue of bullying and explored, through Art, Circle Time and other class activities, how to counteract bullying. There were also Anti-Bullying Assemblies to help the children develop the skills needed to deal with all forms of bullying.

Please talk to your children about this issue and feel free to contact the Principal if you have any ideas or concerns.

Bus Bay

In the interest of Health and Safety, could we ask everyone dropping off and/or collecting children to avoid parking in the bus bay as parked cars are preventing the bus from pulling into the bus bay. As a result, children cannot board the bus nor disembark from the bus safely. Please avoid parking in this area.

St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul has asked us to let parents know that they can provide assistance to any family in need. Please contact St Vincent de Paul on 028 302 67590 or on 07562069337 if you would like any further information.

Useful Websites

We have compiled a list of websites which are very useful for reinforcing core concepts in Literacy and Numeracy, including:

Numeracy: www.topmarks.co.uk
www.taw.org
www.mathsisfun.com
www.crickweb.co.uk

Literacy: www.literactive.com
www.oxfordowl.co.uk
www.topmarks.co.uk
www.crickweb.co.uk
www.primaryresources.co.uk
www.tes.co.uk

ICT: www.ictgames.com
www.starfall.com
www.squeebles.com (An app for iPads/iPods)

C2K News Desk

The upgraded C2K News Desk 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:

- www.carrickprimaryschool.com
- Kids area
- C2K Login
- Username and password
- C2Knewsdesk

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.

Pantomime

The Grand Opera House has announced this year's must-see pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk", starring the Queen of Comedy, May McFettridge. Packed with all of the traditional ingredients Grand Opera House audiences expect, Jack and the Beanstalk features, laugh out loud comedy, stunning scenery, beautiful costumes and plenty of boos and hisses.

P3 and P4 – 10th January 2019

P5, P6 and P7 – 11th January 2019

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.

Supervision for Pupils arriving between 8.30-8:45am

School opens for pupils at 8.30am. Supervision is available for pupils from 8:30- 8:45am in the assembly hall. The Key Stage 2 ICT suite is also open from 8.30am onwards for use by the pupils. At 8.45am the children go to their classrooms and registration takes place at 9.00am. Please try to ensure that the children are in class prior to 9.00am.

Primary 1-3 Classes

The school day for the P1-3 classes finishes 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 there is no one to collect them at 2.00pm

Early Exits

If a child is 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.

Healthy Schools

Carrick Primary School is involved in the Healthy Schools initiative. Could parents please send in healthy snacks for break time. The children are also encouraged to bring in a bottle of water to school each day.

Contact Numbers

We are currently updating our contact numbers on the school's computer system and would ask parents to inform the school of any changes in addresses, home telephone numbers, work telephone numbers and/or mobile numbers throughout the year.

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. Mr M Keenan, Mrs P Sheehan and Mrs A Cassidy are the Designated Governors for Child Protection.

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 to help the banking process. 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.

Football/ Hurling/ Camogie Training

Football, hurling and camogie training sessions take place every Friday (weather permitting) for P4-7 pupils. P4-5 football training takes place from 2.00- 3.00pm while P6-7 football training will take place from 3.00- 4.00pm. Hurling and camogie training sessions take place from 3.00- 4.00pm. Please encourage the children to join up and avail of these free extra-curricular opportunities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

During December 2018 the following extra-curricular activities will be available:

Tuesdays	P4-7	Art	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesdays	P5-7	Choir	3.00-3.30pm
Fridays	P4-5	Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm
Fridays	P6-7	Gaelic Football Training	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4-7	Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm

Notes will be circulated to the pupils, which will provide more details about the activities on offer.

Eco Schools Project

As part of our Eco Schools work, we are still collecting used ink cartridges and toners, on behalf of Southern Area Hospice. The collection box is located in the min foyer. For every cartridge/toner collected, the Hospice receives £1.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

A Duffin

M McCann

A Cassidy

(Leadership Team)