



**Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy**

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4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents

### **Wellbeing Day**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 is a Wellbeing Day and the children will be participating in a range of fun activities which are designed to improve wellbeing. The children will be attending a disco and can wear their Pyjamas/own clothes and will enjoy extra playtime, Golden Time, Art and PE/Sports on this day. They will also be enjoying juice and cookies which have been provided by Friends of Carrick.

### **Road Safety**

We are asking parents to continue to reinforce road and vehicle safety messages at home, particularly in relation to wearing seatbelts on the bus and in the car. We are also asking parents to be patient when there is congestion at the school, at busy pick up/drop off times. Please consider asking the children to walk up to/down from school to ease congestion at the front of the school.

### **Meeting for P6 Parents re. SEAG Entrance Assessments**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 there will be a meeting for P6 parents from 2.00-2.45pm in the Assembly Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information for P6 parents in relation to the SEAG/GL Entrance Assessments, which are due to take place in November 2025. Attendance at this meeting is optional.

### **Maths and English Club for Primary 6 and Primary 7**

The Maths and English Club, which began on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, will run until November 2025. The children will be revising topics in Maths and English. All the P6 and P7 children are welcome to attend these classes, which are optional. If your child is attending, please send in a healthy snack for him/her to eat prior to each class.

### **Friends of Carrick**

Thank you to Friends of Carrick for sponsoring our two new Clevertouch Interactive Panels. Thanks also to Friends of Carrick for providing lots of lovely new art materials and classroom resources for the P1-7 classes.

### **Friendship Week**

Friendship Week took place in Carrick between Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The children took part in many different activities in relation to making friends, sustaining friendships and also resolving conflict. They participated in a "Friendship Art Competition" and the winners were:

Thomas Short, Summer Rose Annett, Aaron Strigockis, Tilly Rafferty, Sorcha Ruddy, Ollie Laverty, Lauren Begley, Frankie O'Hare, Finn Murtagh, Meabh Doran, Ava Strigockyte, Flynn Connolly, Caleb White, Molly Mathers, Philip McCartan, Aoife Cunningham, Grace Fegan, Charlie McMahon,

Meabh Nugent, Oisín Walsh, Luke Rooney, Ava Shields, Sarah McMenamin, Callen Byrne, Ollie Morgan, Hannah McGovern, Conlaoth Magee and Grace Knapton.

### **Grandparents Assembly**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 the Primary 3 pupils presented a lovely assembly for all their grandparents. The children really enjoyed getting the opportunity to say thank you to their grandparents for all the love and care they give, and to remember all those who weren't able to attend and those who are no longer with us.

### **School Nurse**

On 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 the school nurse will be in school to see the Primary 1 pupils and to check their hearing and eyesight.

### **Art Week**

Art Week took place from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The children participated in a whole range of art activities including an art competition. The winners included: Máia Kelly, Sheá Kelly, Muireann Evers, Tom Casey, Casidhe Mullin, Noah McKinley, Clara Savage, Connor McConville, Saoirse Murtagh, Olivia Curran, Emilia O'Hare, Georgia McManus, Moya Ennis, Ciaran Fegan, Amalia Zafir, Niall Devlin, Ellie Laverty, Liam Rooney, Ava Matthews, Danny Toman, Ciara Kelly, Louis Hughes, Ava Mackin, Sean Gribben, Elena Doran, Nadia Abouda, Leah White and Ellie McPolin.

They were presented with their prizes at assembly on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025. Well done!

### **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 G Murdock, Mrs P Sheehan and Mrs A Cassidy are the Designated Governors for Child Protection. Please contact the Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teachers or any of Designated Governors if you have any Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns. Through our safeguarding programme, children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or to Childline. If you would like to know more about our safeguarding programme, please contact the school.

### **Hurling News**

Well done to the hurlers from Carrick Primary School who participated in the Indoor Hurling Competition on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and played against St Dallan's, St Columban's, St Colman's and Grange. Every player put in a fantastic performance and the boys qualified for Round 2 which will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The panel included: Cillian McGivern, Cormac Cunningham, Daniel Nagle, Páidí Murney, Caolan McConville, Sean Gribben, Darragh Murney, Turlough Rowntree and Harrison Threlfall,

Well done to all the boys and many thanks to Mrs A O'Hare, Mrs B O'Grady, Miss N McGuigan, Mr D McConville and Darragh Murney for all the coaching and encouragement.

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

Camogie/hurling training sessions take place every Monday from 3.00-4.00pm for P4-7 pupils. Round 1 of the Indoor Camogie competition is scheduled for later in February.

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.

Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities.

### **Girls' Indoor Football**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 the girls participated in Round 1 of the Indoor Football Competition. The girls performed very well, playing against St Patrick's, Mayobridge, St Patrick's Hilltown, Annaclone and Rathfriland and won all their matches. The girls qualified for Round 2 of the competition, which took place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The girls played against Meadow,

Kilcoo, Ballyholland and St Columban's and beat Our Lady and St Patrick's, Downpatrick in the final. The girls now go forward to represent Down in the Ulster round of the competition. Well done to the girls and thanks to Mr McGivern, Mr McCartan, Mr Keenan and Mr Murdock for all their help and encouragement.

### **Football Boots**

We have lots of football boots of all sizes in the ball store in school if anyone needs a pair. We also have some new Cul Camp school bags (also in the ball store) which have been donated to the school. Please help yourselves.

### **Burren Football Gear**

Football gear for St Mary's Club, Burren is available from Mr James McGrath (07720812991).

### **Credit Union Quiz**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025, sixteen of our P6/P7 pupils will be participating in the Annual Credit Union Quiz. Good luck to all the boys and girls who will be representing our school.

The quiz teams are as follows:

#### **P6 Team 1**

Alfie Friel  
Áine McAteer  
Phillip Ward  
Ben Heaney

#### **P6 Team 2**

Ollie Laverty  
Sean Gribben  
Ryan Matthews  
Eimear McCaul

#### **P7 Team 1**

Anna Dunbar  
Oran McBride  
Freya Rohrs  
Cillian O'Connor

#### **P7 Team 2**

Darragh McMeel  
Roise Moore  
Harrison Threlfall  
Selina Leddy

### **Road Safety NI Quiz 2025**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 four of our Primary 7 children will be participating in the Road Safety NI Quiz.

Our Quiz Team consists of Cliona McStay, Mollie McDevitt, Tiernan Maguire and Erin Harris.

Good luck to all the boys and girls who are representing Carrick in this Quiz.

### **Rights Respecting School Project**

As part of our Rights Respecting School Project, the children focus each week on one of the 42 Rights from the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. They discuss what the rights mean and what can be done at home and in school by themselves and others to ensure that everyone's rights are being respected.

### **Primary 7 Readathon**

The Primary 7 children are preparing for a Readathon event on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The children have been reading the ten books listed below and will 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.

The P7 Readathon books are: Goodnight Mister Tom; The Sheep Pig; My Guineapig is Innocent; Race Against Time; Let's go to the Planets; Animals and Us; Cup Winners; The Spirit of the Titanic; Under the Hawthorn Tree and Fables from Africa.

### **Diocesan Service**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 three of our pupils attended the Diocesan Service in the Church of St Therese, Banbridge, as part of the Catholic Schools' Week celebrations. The Archbishop spoke about the important faith development work being done in Catholic schools and in the children's homes. He thanked the pupils and staff members for attending and also thanked staff, parents and grandparents for helping to develop the children's faith.

### **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.

### **Panto – P3-P7 Pupils’ Visit to the Grand Opera House to see Peter Pan**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (P3/4) and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (P5-7), the pupils visited the Grand Opera House to see “Peter Pan”. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Panto and are already asking about next year’s show!

### **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 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.

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

Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6pm	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025 at 11.00am

### **Lego**

There has been a great resurgence in the children’s interest in Lego. If any family has Lego which they no longer want, the school would certainly be able to put it to good use. Any donations of Lego would be very much appreciated.

### **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 throughout the year in relation to addresses, home telephone numbers, work telephone numbers and/or mobile numbers.**

### **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.

### **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 the office to collect your child; and also sign the exit book.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

During Term 2 the following extra-curricular activities will be available:

Monday	P4-7 Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesday	P6/P7 Maths and English Club	3.00-4.15pm
Wednesday	P4-7 Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P5-7 Choir	3.00-3.45pm
Thursday	P5-7 Basketball	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4/5 Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm
Fridays	P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	3.00-4.00pm

### **Calendar 2024-2025 (February-June)**

February	Monday 10/02/25-	Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 11/02/25	School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday)
	Monday 10/02/25-Friday 14/02/25	Mid-Term Holidays for children (Inclusive)

March	Monday 17/03/25	Holiday
April	Friday 18/04/25 – Monday 28/04/25	Easter Holidays (Inclusive)
	Monday 28/04/25	School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 29/04/25	Term 3 starts for Children
May	Monday 05/05/25	Holiday
	Monday 26/05/25	School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 27/05/25	School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
June	Monday 30/06/25	School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

- Carrick Primary School is due to close for pupils for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Archived Videos, Christmas Recordings 2024 and "A Day in The Life of Carrick Primary School"**

We have archived 43 videos of school plays and events from 1994 onwards. These are available via the school website ([www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)) in the Parents' Area (Video Archive). 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 is available on the website and on Facebook.

### **Easy Fundraising**

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise funds for Carrick Primary School through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. You can buy 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.

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 easy fundraising, please contact the school and we will be happy to assist.

### **Complaints**

Despite our best efforts, parents sometimes have complaints. However, we would ask parents to bring any complaints that they may have to the attention of the Principal, Leadership Team or any other member of staff so that we can deal with your complaint. This would be very much appreciated. The Parental Complaints Policy has been updated and is available on the school's website and from the office.

### **Join the Library**

Many of our pupils participated in Warrenpoint Library's Summer Reading Challenge 2024 and enjoyed reading some fantastic books. We would encourage all parents to enrol their children in Warrenpoint Library and to access a super selection of quality books. Children can borrow up to 9 books at a time and the service is completely free. For more information, please call into Warrenpoint Library or visit [www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk).

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)