



**Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy**

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents

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

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 there will be a meeting for P6 parents from 2.15-2.45pm 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 2024. Attendance at this meeting is optional.

### **Maths and English Club**

The P6 Maths and English Club, which began on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, will run until November 2024. The children will be revising topics in Maths and English. All the P6 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.

### **Warrenpoint Feis - Primary 6 and Primary 7 String Players**

Congratulations to the Primary 6 and Primary 7 string players who participated in Warrenpoint Feis on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and played really well. The children worked very hard in preparation for this competition and deserve great credit. Thanks to the tutors (Mrs Gemma McGrath and Mrs Ita Mathers) for all their hard work with the children and to the parents for all the support and encouragement. Both ensembles won prizes and some of the children, including Turlough Rowntree (P5) and Aoibh Macauley (P7), also won prizes for their individual performances. Well done to all the boys and girls.

P6 String Group – Highly Commended in Ensemble Class – Roise Moore, Leah White, Sarah Quinn (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Tilly Rafferty, Siofra Trainor, Niamh McManus, Aoibhinn McAllister, Cara Doyle, Ellie McPolin, Molly McDevitt and Isla Mohan.

P7 String Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ensemble Class - Amira Abouda (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Niamh Farrell, Aoife Farrell (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Erin Kelly, Caoimhi McGrory, Alex Malone (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Alicia Mooney (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Molly Magill, Grace McConville, Aideen Trainor, Grace McGovern, Daithi Nagle and Anna McGivern.

### **Family Bingo Night**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm there will be a Family Fun Bingo Night in Carrick Primary School. There will be Easter Eggs for all the “line” and “full house” winners. There will also be a raffle at the interval with some fantastic prizes. The Bingo books cost £5 and half books cost £2.50. If anyone would like to donate a prize for the bingo games or for the raffle, please send it into the office. Tea and biscuits will be served during the interval. Please spread the word about this Easter event which promises to be a great night for all ages!

### **Friends of Carrick**

Thank you to Friends of Carrick for sponsoring our “Money” Parents’ Evening which took place recently. Thanks also to Friends of Carrick for providing lots of lovely new art materials and classroom resources for the P1-7 classes. The Committee have also purchased basketballs of different sizes for each of the classes in preparation for our Sponsored Basketball Day on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024. These will be given out to the classes to use at lunchtime for practising their basketball skills.

### **Primary 7 Classes - Ulster Wool Innovators Project**

The Primary 7 classes have embarked on an Ulster Wool Innovators Project under the direction of Mr Gerard Hughes from Sentinus. The children will be learning all about wool, its different uses and also its properties. They will be experimenting with wool and natural dyes and will also be working with local sheep farmers and with businesses from NI who use wool to make different products. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and members of the community who came into Carrick on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to help the children with their knitting and craftwork. The children enjoyed this session and benefitted so much from the 1-to-1 help they received from more experienced knitters.

The children will be putting together a display for the Balmoral Show on Wednesday 15/05/24. The children are really enjoying the project and are really looking forward to their visit to Balmoral Show to showcase their great work.

### **Technology Week**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was Technology Week in Carrick and the children in each class enjoyed many technological challenges! Well done to everyone for participating so fully in the technology challenges. A special mention to our Primary 7 pupils who used the BBC Microbits to programme a range of messages, images and sounds. Well done!

### **Complaints**

Despite our best efforts, parents sometimes have complaints. However, we would ask parents to bring any complaints which 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 is available on the school’s website and from the office.

### **Bring ‘n’ Buy Sale**

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 there will be a Bring ‘n’ Buy Sale in the Assembly Hall and there will be books, toys, bric-a-brac and buns/biscuits for sale. Please send in any books, packets of biscuits, toys or bric-a-brac which the P7 pupils and the School Councillors can sell. Please send in any buns for the Bring ‘n’ Buy Sale on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March or Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **Easter Raffle**

The Friends of Carrick Committee Members have organised the Annual Easter Raffle and it will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Raffle tickets are 20p each or 6 for £1. Each class will have Easter Eggs as prizes for the class raffles. There will be a large Maltesers Easter Egg for each Key Stage Raffle and there will be a Lindt Gold Bunny Easter Egg and lots of other prizes for the whole school raffle.

The money raised from these events (Raffles and Bring ‘n’ Buy Sale) will go towards Trocaire and school funds and it will also be used to pay for the Down GAA football coach who is in school each week.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The School Councillors have organised an Easter Egg Hunt for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, immediately after the Class Raffles, the Key Stage Raffles and the Whole School Raffle. The children have to hunt high and low, for cardboard Easter Eggs and when they have found all the eggs, they can exchange them for a basket of chocolate eggs.

### **Sustrans Active School Travel Programme**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 we had a Feet First Event and 88% of the children participated in this event. Well done! Our next Feet First Event is scheduled for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and everyone is invited to walk/cycle/scoot to school or part of their journey.

### **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 and crossing roads safely. Please be patient when there is congestion at the school, especially at busy pick up/drop off times and consider (where possible) asking the children to walk up to/down from school to ease congestion at the roundabout.

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

Camogie/hurling training sessions take place every Monday from 3.00-4.00pm for P4-7 pupils. 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.

### **Boys' Indoor Football**

Good luck to the boys who will be representing the school in the Indoor Football Competition on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Camogie**

Well done to our panel of girls who took part in the Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Camogie Blitz on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. They all played brilliantly. The panel included: Ellie Franklin, Sorcha Collins, Elsie McClorey, Róise Moore, Aoife Farrell and Niamh McManus. The results were as follows:

Carrick Primary School	3	St Columban's Primary School	1
Carrick Primary School	0	St Dallan's Primary School	4
Carrick Primary School	0	Meadow Primary School	1
Carrick Primary School	2	Grange Primary School	0

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

### **Football Boots**

We have lots of football boots of all sizes in the ball store in school. If anyone needs a pair, please call at the office.

### **Burren Football Gear**

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

### **Healthy Me Week/Healthy Schools Initiative**

Healthy Me Week takes place from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The children will be participating in a wide range of activities which promote good physical and mental health. Thanks to Tesco for sponsoring this event by providing some water, bananas, oranges and apples for the children. Thanks also to Kayla Gorman (P7) for writing to Tesco to request this sponsorship. 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.

## **Primary 7 Readathon**

The Primary 7 children enjoyed their Readathon event on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The children read ten books and competed in a quiz based on the books they had read. The P7 Readathon book list was: 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.

The winning teams were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place (Mrs Doran's Class) **Mega Minds**

1<sup>st</sup> Place (Mr Murdock's Class) **Readers of Green Gables**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Mrs Doran's Class) **We Stole your Sausage**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Mr Murdock's Class) **The Battling Beasts**

Good luck to our Primary 5 children who will be participating in a Readathon on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## **Concussion Awareness – Who Needs to Know**

The Department of Education has requested that all schools should contact parents/guardians to highlight the dangers of a concussion injury. Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting one's head or by a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere: for example, during sports, in the school playground, or at home. Concussion must always be taken seriously and it is vitally important that any child/young person suspected of having concussion should **immediately** be stopped from continuing whatever activity they are doing and be assessed. A second injury, when a child has concussion, can be extremely serious and may even be fatal. Children should not resume physical activities such as Physical Education (PE), sports or games if they have concussion. Concussion may also affect your child's ability to learn at school. Medical clearance should be sought before the child returns to school. Symptoms vary from child to child and a graduated return to school may be needed. The '**Recognise and Remove**' leaflet produced by the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is available on the Department of Education's website <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/concussion-recognise-and-remove-leaflet> and provides guidance on the signs to look out for. Keeping everyone informed about concussion is in your child's best interests and parents/guardians have a key role in making sure that information is passed on to their child's teacher, sports coach, youth leader or other care provider.

## **St Vincent de Paul**

St Vincent de Paul can provide assistance for any family in need. Please contact St Vincent de Paul on 028 302 67590 or on 07562069337 if you would like any further information. **We recently received a donation of £1500 from St Vincent de Paul. This money will be used to reduce the cost of each child's end of year school trip by £4.** This will be of great benefit to many families. We would like to thank St Vincent de Paul for this generous donation and all those who support their fundraising efforts.

## **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.

## **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.

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

Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 6pm (Both P7 classes)	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11.00am (Both classes)

### **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.**

### **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	Maths and English Club	3.00-4.15pm
Tuesday	P7	Cookery	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P5-7	Choir	3.00-3.30pm
Fridays	P4/5	P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm/ 3.00-4.00pm

### **Calendar 2023-2024 (March-June)**

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.

### **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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

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