



*Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy*

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents

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

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 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 Entrance Assessments, which are due to take place in November 2023. Attendance at this meeting is completely optional.

### **Maths and English Club**

The P6 Maths and English Club which began in January, will run until November 2023. The children will be revising topics in Maths and English in these classes. All the P6 children are welcome to attend. Please send in a healthy snack for your child to eat prior to these classes.

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

**Our next Feet First event is scheduled for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and everyone is invited to walk/cycle/scoot to school or part of their journey.** While we are encouraging children to walk/cycle/scoot to school, we are mindful that many of our roads, including Milltown Street, do not have continuous footpaths. Mr Declan McAteer (School Governor) is currently working with Roads Service, trying to secure funding for footpaths along Milltown Street. It would be very much appreciated if parents would write to or email the school to highlight the need for these footpaths, as these letters/emails will be used to strengthen the case being made for this project.

### **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. We are also asking parents to be patient when there is congestion at the school, at busy pick up/drop off times. We ask parents (where possible) to consider asking the children to walk up to/down from school to ease congestion up at the school.

### **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 and all those who support their fundraising efforts.

### **Grandparents Assembly**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 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.

### **Child Protection/NSPCC**

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. This term the Primary 6 and Primary 7 classes will be participating in the NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe programme. Speak Out, Stay Safe is a safeguarding programme, which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. 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 the Speak Out, Stay Safe programme, you can find information on the NSPCC's website [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout).

### **Hurling and Camogie News**

Well done to the Camogs from Carrick Primary School who played in Round 1 of the Indoor Camogie Competition on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Burren. The panel included: Saorla Rowntree, Niamh Farrell, Aoife Farrell, Elsie McClorey, Róise Moore and Ellie Franklin.

The girls really enjoyed this competition and represented themselves very well. They played against St Colman's, Mayobridge, St Dallan's, Maghermayo and Attical but unfortunately didn't qualify for Round 2 of this competition.

Well done to the hurlers from Carrick Primary School who played in a hurling blitz in St Colman's College on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The boys played exceptionally well, playing against Saval, Castlewellan, Camlough, Dechomet, Ballymaghera and Cloughreagh. The children were given 30 minutes coaching from an Armagh Senior player, Oisín O'Hare, which they all enjoyed. The panel included: Thomas Rohrs, Darragh Murney, Máirtín McMahon, James McKernan, Conor McManus, Pádraig McMahon, Conor Day, Caolan McBride, Aidan O'Hare, Fionn O'Loughlin and Charlie Downey. Well done to all the boys and girls and many thanks to Mrs A O'Hare, Mrs B O'Grady, Mr D McConville, Mr O Murney and Miss K McGilligan 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.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> February the girls participated in Round 1 of the Indoor Football Competition. The girls performed very well, playing against Kilbroney Integrated, Rostrevor and St Columban's. The girls have qualified for Round 2 of this competition, so we wish them good luck. The panel included: Cayleigh Ward, Sorcha Collins, Saoirse Morgan, Carla Cunningham, Annie McMahon, Sophie Short, Beibhinn Rocks and Molly Doherty.

### **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. 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 27<sup>th</sup> January sixteen of our P6/P7 pupils participated in the Annual Credit Union Quiz. The children represented the school very well and P6 Team 2 won their section and now go forward to represent the school in Round 2.

The quiz teams were as follows:

<b>P6 Team 1</b>	<b>P6 Team 2</b>	<b>P7 Team 1</b>	<b>P7 Team 2</b>
Grace Bradley	James Rooney	Daniel Byrne	Aoibhinn Mulligan
Elsie McClorey	Grace McGovern	Eva Rose Kenny	Thomas Rohrs
Daniel McCartan	Erin Kelly	Hollie Benson	Padraig McMahon
Cayleigh Ward	Dara Grant	Sophie Short	Saorla Rowntree

### **Road Safety NI Quiz**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February four of our Primary 7 children participated in the Road Safety NI Quiz. The children performed very well and really enjoyed this event.

The Quiz team consisted of Cathal McVeigh, Kelsey Mulvenna, Matthew Rooney and Faye Gaffney.

### **Valentine's Disco**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February there will be a Valentine's Disco and the children are invited to wear something red/pink for Valentine's Day and to bring in £2 for the disco. The money raised is in aid of Fr William Stuart who is working in Lebanon with the Syrian Refugees and school funds, which are used to buy birthday rewards and rewards for effort and good behaviour.

### **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.

### **Visit by Mrs Koulla Yiasouma, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Mrs Koulla Yiasouma, will be visiting our school. She will be meeting the School Councillors and will attend an assembly on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Mrs Yiasouma will be hearing all about the school's Rights Respecting School Project and the great work being done in classes, as part of this project.

### **Primary 7 Readathon**

The Primary 7 children are preparing for a Readathon event on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. 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.

P7 Readathon books: 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 Mass**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February three of our pupils attended the Diocesan Mass in the Church of St Therese, Banbridge. The Archbishop concelebrated this Mass and spoke about the important faith development work being done in Catholic schools. He thanked the pupils for attending and also thanked staff and parents 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 Cinderella**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (P3/4) and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (P5-7), the pupils visited the Grand Opera House to see Cinderella. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Panto and are already asking about next year's show!

### **Panto – P1-P2 Pupils' Visit to the Newry Town Hall to see The Wizard of Oz**

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Primary 1 and 2 pupils went to Newry Town Hall to see the pantomime, The Wizard of Oz. The children really enjoyed the Panto and loved the experience.

### **Online Payments**

The Education Authority is currently scoping an online payment solution for school. It is hoped that a contract will be in place by March 2023 and schools will not have to pay for this service. We will keep you updated about this much anticipated development.

### **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 First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6pm (Both P7 classes)	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11.00am (Mrs O'Hare's Class)
	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 1.00pm (Mrs O'Grady's Class)

### **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	Maths and English Club	3.00-4.15pm
Tuesdays	P4-7	Art	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

### Holidays

February -	Wednesday 15/02/23 -	Mid-Term Holidays for Children (Inclusive)
	Monday 20/02/23	
	Monday 20/02/23	School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday)
March -	Friday 17/03/23	Holiday
	Monday 20/03/23	Holiday
	Tuesday 21/03/23	School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday)
April -	Friday 07/04/23 –	Easter Holidays (Inclusive)
	Monday 17/04/23	
	Monday 17/04/23	School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 18/04/23	Term 3 starts for Children
May -	Monday 01/05/23	Holiday
	Monday 08/05/23	Holiday (Coronation)
	Thursday 18/05/23	Holiday (Local Elections)
	Monday 29/05/23	School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 30/05/23	School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

- Carrick Primary School is due to close for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **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.

### **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 [Easy Fundraising page](#) 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 2022 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)