



Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy

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6th February 2024

Dear Parents

Wellbeing Day

Friday 9th February 2024 is a Wellbeing Day and the children will participate in a range of fun activities which are designed to improve wellbeing. The children can wear their own clothes on this day and will enjoy extra playtime and extra Golden Time.

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme

Our next Feet First event is scheduled for Friday 9th February 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. 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.

Meeting for P6 Parents re. SEAG Entrance Assessments

On Wednesday 6th March 2024 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 2024. Attendance at this meeting is optional.

Maths and English Club

The P6 Maths and English Club, which began on Tuesday 16th 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.

Friendship Week

Friendship Week took place in Carrick between 15th January and 19th January 2024. The children took part in many different activities in relation to making friends, sustaining friendships and also resolving conflict. The winners of the poster competition were: Oran Byrne, Anna McGivern, Abbey Cunningham, Emma Day, Grace Magee, Tiernan Maguire, Cara Doyle, Daniel Harkin, Sorcha Ruddy, Turlough Rowntree, Finn O'Prey, Ciara Kelly, Meabh Murtagh, Danny Toman, Danny Clerkin, Lily Magill, Olivia McHale, Ciaran Fegan, Arthur Kelly, Lucy Hurson, Mia Quirke, Eva McKinley, Cillian Byrne, Louisa McAnulty, Jasmine Annett, Grace Carr, Niamh McGovern and Oscar Farrell.

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

Grandparents Assembly

On Thursday 25th January 2024 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.

Art Week

Art Week took place from Monday 29th January – Friday 2nd February 2024. The children participated in a whole range of art activities including an art competition. The winners were presented with their prizes at assembly on Monday 5th February 2024. The winners were: Caragh Coulter, Sarah McMenamin, Maggie Mathers, Ethan Harris, Alice Bransbury, Grace Fegan, Cillian Hurson, Layla Grant, Niamh Hurson, Isla Murtagh, Caden Trainor, Pola Jaszczuk, Niamh Morgan, Danny Smyth, Niamh McMenamin, Shea Dickson, Lottie Benson, Ellie-Rose Slater, Olivia Devlin, Charlie Hurson, Anna Dunbar, Shéa Knox, Selina Leddy, James Gallagher, Caitlin McGovern, James Rooney, Gemma McStay and Nicol Granat.

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 played in a hurling blitz in St Colman's College on Wednesday 17th January 2024. The boys played exceptionally well, playing against Bunscoil na Beanna, Boirche, St Joseph's Primary School, Bessbrook and St Dallan's Primary School, Warrenpoint. The hurlers also participated in the Indoor Hurling Competition on Friday 2nd February and played against The Meadow, Attical, Mayobridge, St Dallan's, St Columban's and Hilltown and secured 4 wins and 2 draws. Every player put in a fantastic performance ensuring Carrick Primary School qualified for Finals Day. The panel included: Daniel McCartan, Aaron Mohan, Daire Gillespie, Joe Lennon, Harrison Threlfall, Odhran McConville, Zac Gee, Cillian McGivern, Alfie Friel, Oran McBride and Caolan McConville.

Well done to all the boys and many thanks to Mrs A O'Hare, Mrs B O'Grady, 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 23rd February 2024.

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 19th January 2024 the girls participated in Round 1 of the Indoor Football Competition. The girls performed very well, playing against St Patrick's Mayobridge, St Bronagh's Rostrevor, St

Columban's Kilkeel, St Dallan's Warrenpoint and St Patrick's Hilltown. The girls qualified for Round 2 of the competition, which took place on Friday 26th January 2024. The girls played against St Ronan's Newry, St McCartan's Loughinisland, St Matthew's, Maghermayo, Our Lady's and St Patrick, Downpatrick and St Bronagh's Rostrevor. Despite playing some great football the girls were defeated by Rostrevor in the semi-final. The panel included: Sorcha Collins, Erin Kelly, Emma Day, Gemma McStay, Anna McGivern, Caoimhe McGrory, Elsie McClorey, Caitlin McGovern, and Caitlin Byrne. 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 / 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 16th January 2024, sixteen of our P6/P7 pupils participated in the Annual Credit Union Quiz. The children represented the school very well.

The quiz teams were as follows:

P6 Team 1	P6 Team 2	P7 Team 1	P7 Team 2
Darragh McMeel	Ellie McPolin	Grace Bradley	James Rooney
Sadie McFerran	Tilly Rafferty	Daniel McCartan	Grace McGovern
Anna Dunbar	Harrison Threlfall	Cayleigh Ward	Grace McConville
Freya Röhrs	Selina Leddy	Beth Casey	Alicia Mooney

Road Safety NI Quiz 2024

On Friday 2nd February 2024 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 Jack Ryan, Alex Malone, Jack McManus and Shea O'Hare.

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 26th February 2024. 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 24th January 2024 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 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 Cinderella

On Thursday 11th January 2024 (P3/4) and Friday 12th January 2024 (P5-7), the pupils visited the Grand Opera House to see “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”. 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 Friday 19th January 2024, the Primary 1 and 2 pupils went to Newry Town Hall to see the pantomime, “Beauty and the Beast”. The children really enjoyed the Panto and loved the experience.

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.

P7 CPR Training

On Monday 5th February 2024 Mr Murdock’s class attended CPR Training. This training was generously sponsored by the Gentle Dental Clinic in Warrenpoint. The children really enjoyed the training and benefitted so much from it. Mrs Doran’s class will be attending this training in April 2024.

Dates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Confirmation	First Holy Communion
Thursday 21 st March 2024 at 6pm (Both P7 classes)	Saturday 4 th 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.

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
Tuesday	P7	Cookery (20/02/24)	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 (February-June)

February -	Monday 12/02/24-	School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 13/02/24	School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday)
	Monday 12/02/24-Friday 16/02/24	Mid-Term Holidays for children (Inclusive)
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.

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 2023 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) 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 2023 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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)