



Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy

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6th March 2023

Dear Parents

Technology Week

Monday 27th February 2023-Friday 3rd March 2023 was Technology Week in Carrick and the children in each class enjoyed a number of technological challenges! Thanks to Mr Eamonn McPolin, Miss Mooney and the five GCSE Technology Students from St Mark's, who assisted the P5-7 classes with their projects. Well done to everyone for participating so fully in the technology challenges.

Meeting for P6 Parents re. SEAG Entrance Assessments

On Wednesday 8th 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.

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 4th April 2023 there will be a Bring 'n' Buy Sale and there will be books, toys, bric-a-brac and buns/biscuits for sale. From Monday 20th March 2023 onwards, 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 3rd April or Tuesday 4th April.

Easter Raffle

The Friends of Carrick Committee Members have organised the Annual Easter Raffle and it will take place on Wednesday 5th April 2023. Raffle tickets are 50p each. Each class will have Easter Eggs as prizes for the class raffles. There will be a large Smarties 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. There will be no Down GAA Schools' Draw this year.

Easter Egg Hunt

The School Councillors have organised an Easter Egg Hunt for Wednesday 5th April 2023, 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 10th February 2023 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 10th March 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. Thank you to those parents who have already sent in letters/emails to highlight their concerns.

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.

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 a great help to families. We would like to thank St Vincent de Paul for this donation and all those who support their fundraising efforts.

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.

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 10th February the girls participated in Round 2 of the Indoor Football Competition. The girls performed well, playing against Aughlisnafin, Saul, Barr, Kilbroney Integrated and the Meadow. However, the children were unfortunately beaten by two points by Aughlisnafin in the County Final. 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 take what you need or leave what you can.

Boys' Indoor Football

On Friday 3rd March 2023 the boys participated in Round 1 of the Indoor Football Competition, which took place in Burren Hub. They played very well and qualified for a place in Round 2 which takes place next Friday 10/03/23.

The results were as follows:

Carrick Primary School 1 - 7 St Columban's 2 - 2

Carrick Primary School 0 - 7 Attical 0 - 0

Carrick Primary School 2 - 3 St Dallan's 0 - 2

Carrick Primary School 3 - 6 Rostrevor 0 - 2

The panel included: Padraig McMahon, Charlie Downey, Darragh Murney, Maírtín McMahon, James McKernan, Mattie O'Hare, Conor Murtagh and Daniel Byrne.

Burren Football Gear

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

Credit Union Quiz

On Saturday 4th March four of our P6 pupils participated in Round 2 of the Annual Credit Union Quiz. The quiz team consisted of: James Rooney, Grace McGovern, Erin Kelly and Dara Grant. The children represented Carrick Primary School very well. Well done!

Valentine's Disco

On Tuesday 14th February we had a Valentine's Disco and the children were invited to wear something red/pink for Valentine's Day. The money raised (£700) was used to support Fr William Stuart who is working in Lebanon with Syrian Refugees and it was also used to boost school funds, which are used to buy birthday rewards, prizes and rewards for effort and good behaviour. Thank you for supporting our ongoing fundraising efforts.

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 13th February 2023, Mrs Koulla Yiasouma, visited our school. She met the School Councillors and attended an assembly on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Mrs Yiasouma heard all about the school's Rights Respecting School Project and the great work being done in classes, as part of this project.

Healthy Me Week/Healthy Schools Initiative

Healthy Me Week takes place from Monday 6th March-Friday 10th March 2023. 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 Lucy Magee (Primary 7) 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.

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.

Primary 7 Readathon

The Primary 7 children enjoyed their Readathon event on 1st March 2023. The children read the ten books listed below and competed in a quiz based on the books they had read.

The P7 Readathon books included: 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:

1st Place (Mrs Doran's Class) 'Rocking Readers': Mary O'Loughlin, Ella Green, Isla Dunbar, Beibhinn Rocks, Harry Rafferty and Aoife Reilly.

1st Place (Mr Murdock's Class) 'Spider Pigs': Finley McCartan, Lucy Gribben, Daniel Byrne, Sophie Short, Shane McGovern, Conor McManus and Maisie McFerran.

2nd Place (Mrs Doran's Class) 'Goldie': Saorla Rowntree, Annie McMahon, Sarah Byrne, Daniel Doran, Cathal McVeigh, Megan Bottell and Fionn O'Loughlin.

2nd Place (Mr Murdock's Class) 'Mickey D's': Molly Doherty, Eva O'Prey, Conor Day, Aidan O'Hare, Darcey O'Leary, Connor Woods and Mattie O'Hare.

Good luck to our Primary 5 children who will be participating in a Readathon in Term 3.

Online Payments

The Education Authority is currently scoping an online payment solution for school. It is hoped that a contract will be in place shortly 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 th March 2023 at 6pm (Both P7 classes)	Saturday 6 th May 2023 at 11.00am (Mrs O'Hare's Class)
	Saturday 6 th 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.

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

www.education-ni.gov.uk 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.

Art Week

Art Week took place from Monday 6th February 2022-Friday 10th February 2023 and the children enjoyed lots of different art and craft activities. Well done to the children who won the Art competition. The children were presented with their awards on Monday 13th February 2023. The winners included: Logan Taggart, Alice Bransbury, Louisa McAnulty, Cillian Byrne, Erin Shields-Morgan, Hanna Jaszczuk, Shea Ruddy, Molly Mathers, Liam Rooney, Matty O'Hare, Jack McConville, Erin Mackin, Maria Grace Barlow, Grace Carragher, Frankie O'Hare, Annie McKinney, Shea Knox, Nadia Abouda, Jack Ryan, Caitlin McGovern, Gemma McStay, Elise McClorey, Lucy Gribben, Noah Gray, Ella Green, Ardan O'Loughlin, James Gallagher and Ellie McPolin.

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	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

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 – Monday 17//04/23	Easter Holidays (Inclusive)
	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 30th 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.

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.

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.

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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)