



Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy

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7th April 2025

Dear Parents

Healthy Me Week/Healthy Schools Initiative

Healthy Me Week took place from Monday 10th March-Friday 14th March 2025. The children participated in a wide range of activities which promote good physical and mental health. The winners of the Healthy Me Art Competition were: Arya Hanratty, Caoimhe Reilly, Orlaith McGovern, Sophie Grimes, James Toman, Oscar Farrell, Nola Kerr, Evie Walsh, Alice Bransbury, Erin Donnan, Ailbe McGovern, Michael McArdle, Kayla Doherty, Aston Aguero, Shea Dickson, Áine McAteer, Rhys O'Rourke, Mollie McDevitt, Nadia Abouda and Roise Moore.

Carrick Primary School is involved in the Healthy Schools initiative. Could parents please continue to send in healthy snacks for break time and lunch time. The children are also encouraged to bring in a bottle of water to school each day.

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme/Big Walk and Wheel Event

Well done to all those who participated in our Feet First/Fruit Friday event on Friday 28th March 2025 and our Big Walk and Wheel Initiative. Congratulations to those who won prizes in the Big Walk and Wheel Draw including: Nadia Abouda, Aoife Donnan, Eva McKernan, Lauren Begley, Sam Threlfall, Liam Rooney, Molly Mathers, Arthur Kelly, Saoirse Murtagh, Jasmine Annett, Erin Collins, Clíodhna McMahon, Ollie Morgan and Orlaith McGovern.

Bring 'n' Buy Sale

On Tuesday 15th April 2025, 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 as soon as you can, which the P7 pupils and the School Councillors can sell. Please send in any buns or perishable items for the Bring 'n' Buy Sale on Monday 14th April or Tuesday 15th April 2025. Please put your name on any tins/trays/containers which you would like to be returned to you.

Easter Raffle

The Friends of Carrick Committee Members have organised the Annual Easter Raffle and it will take place on Wednesday 16th April 2025. Raffle tickets are 50p each. 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, a beautiful Easter Bunny, two lovely teddy bears (with Easter eggs) 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 16th April 2025, 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. The children in each class will also be

hunting for a Golden Egg and whoever finds it will receive a special Gold Bunny. Thank you to Friends of Carrick and staff for sponsoring this event and also for donating prizes for the Easter raffle.

St Patrick's Day Concert

Well done to all those who participated in our Annual St Patrick's Day Concert on Friday 14th March 2025. The P2 classes performed a lovely assembly and told the story of St Patrick's life and his work in Ireland, spreading Christianity. Those assembled also enjoyed Irish Dancing, singing and music. Thanks to Mrs Duffin for coordinating the concert and to the staff, pupils and parents for their hard work preparing for the event.

Boys' Indoor Football

Round 2 of Boys' Indoor Football Competition took place on Friday 7th March 2025 in Burren Hub. The boys played some great football and won the County title. The results were as follows:

Match 1	Carrick Primary School	1 - 5	V	St Joseph's, Carnacaville	1 - 2
Match 2	Carrick Primary School	2 - 3	V	St Patrick's, The Meadow	1 - 3
Match 3	Carrick Primary School	1 - 5	V	Cedar IPS, Downpatrick	0 - 3
Match 4	Carrick Primary School	2 - 7	V	St Brigid's, Downpatrick	0 - 0
Match 5	Carrick Primary School	1 - 3	V	St Colman's Kilkeel	1 - 5
Draw	Carrick Primary School	2 - 3	V	St Joseph's, Carnacaville	2 - 3
Extra Time	Carrick Primary School	2 - 4	V	St Joseph's, Carnacaville	0 - 2

The panel included: Thomas Short, Cillian O'Connor, Leo Byrne, James Murney, Darragh Murtagh, Harrison Threlfall, Darragh McMeel, Cormac Doherty and Connor O'Hare.

Thanks to Mr J McGivern, Mr D McCartan, Mr D Keenan and Mr S Murdock for all the coaching and encouragement.

Ulster Competition

On Wednesday 19th March 2025 the boys and girls participated in the Ulster Finals. They played some great football and represented Down well but unfortunately didn't qualify for the semi-finals.

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 or send in a note detailing the size required.

Burren Football Gear

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

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.

Confirmation

Well done to all the Primary 7 children who made their Confirmation on Thursday 20th March 2025. The children worked really hard in preparation for this Sacrament and were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Thank you to Mrs Harty for the lovely music and to the choir who sang beautifully and really enhanced the Confirmation Ceremony. Thanks also to Monsignor Connolly for all his help with preparing the children for Confirmation.

First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion Ceremony will take place on Saturday 3rd May 2025 at 11.00am. We wish the Primary 4 classes the best of luck with their preparations for First Holy Communion.

Feis

Well done to all the boys and girls who participated in the Speech section and in the Music section of Warrenpoint Feis. Congratulations to those who won certificates, medals and cups.

Good Manners Week

Good Manners Week will take place from Monday 7th April - Friday 11th April 2025. The children will be busy completing a variety of activities highlighting the importance of good manners and promoting the use of good manners throughout the school.

Sports Day

Sports Day has been scheduled for Friday 30th May 2025 (weather permitting), at St Mary's GAC, Burren. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Cycling Proficiency Lessons

Cycling Proficiency Lessons will be available for the Primary 7 children during Term 2 and 3, as part of our Road Safety Programme. We would encourage as many of the P7 children as possible to avail of these lessons, which are always very enjoyable and most beneficial.

Primary 5 Readathon

The Primary 5 children are preparing for their Readathon event which will take place on Monday 10th April 2025. The children are reading the ten books listed below and will compete in a quiz based on the books they have read.

The P5 Readathon books include: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Twits, Big Boots the Spider, The Dancing Bear, The Iron Man, The Flick of a Switch, The Hodgeheg, The Champion Storyteller, Floods and Ancient Egypt. Good luck to the Primary 5 children with their final preparations for the Readathon.

Join the Library

Many of our pupils participated in Warrenpoint Library's Summer Reading Challenge last year 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.

Maths and English Club

The P6 and P7 Maths and English Club began in January 2025. The children are busy 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Credit Union Quiz

On Saturday 8th March 2025, eight of our P6/P7 pupils participated in Round 2 of the Annual Credit Union Quiz. The children performed very well and represented themselves, their families and their school exceptionally well.

The quiz teams were as follows:

P6 Team 2	P7 Team
Ollie Laverty	Darragh McMeel
Sean Gribben	Roise Moore
Ryan Matthews	Harrison Threlfall
Eimear McCaul	Selina Leddy

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.

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 about their own safety/welfare or the safety of another person. If you would like to know more about our safeguarding programme, please contact the school.

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
Fridays	P4/5 P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm/ 3.00-4.00pm

Calendar 2024-2025 (April-June)

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 27th 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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)