



*Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy*

**61Ballydesland Road  
Burren  
Warrenpoint  
NEWRY  
Co Down  
BT34 3QA**

**☎ (028) 41752448  
✉ (028) 41752448  
acassidy452@c2kni.net**

8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents

### **Confirmation**

Well done to all the Primary 7 children who made their Confirmation on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. 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 and Canon Powell for all their help with preparing the children for Confirmation.

### **First Holy Communion**

The First Holy Communion Ceremony will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11.00am. We wish the Primary 4 classes the best of luck with their preparations for First Holy Communion.

### **St Patrick's Day Concert**

Well done to all those who participated in our Annual St Patrick's Day Concert on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. 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 and pupils for their hard work preparing for the event.

### **Family Bingo Night**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm we held a Family Bingo Night which was great fun and which raised £2944 for school funds. Thank you to the parents, businesses (Annetts, Kellys, Whistledown, Friar Tucks and Bumpers) and staff members who donated prizes for the bingo games and for the raffle. Thank you to Mrs Kelly (P1 Teacher) and Mrs McPolin (P3 Teacher) for organising this event.

### **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.

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

Healthy Me Week took place from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The children participated in a wide range of activities which promoted 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.

The winners of the Healthy Me Art Competition were:

Daryl O'Reilly, Katie Rose O'Hare, Indi Robinson, Cody O'Prey, Eden Morgan Shields, Michael McArdle, Erin McGivern, Tilly McLoughlin, Eimear McCaul, Frankie O'Hare, Oran McBride, Erin Harris, Elsie McClorey and Grace McConville.

### **Good Manners Week**

Good Manners Week will take place from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The children will be busy completing a variety of activities highlighting the importance of good manners.

### **Sports Day**

Sports Day has been scheduled for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 (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 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.

### **Bring 'n' Buy Sale**

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 we held our annual Bring 'n' Buy Sale. Thank you to all those who sent in books, ornaments, packets of biscuits, buns, toys and bric-a-brac. Thanks to the School Council and the Primary 7 children who were very busy pricing and selling items.

### **Easter Raffle**

The Annual Easter Raffle took place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The money raised from these events (Easter Raffle and Bring 'n' Buy Sale) was given to Trocaire (£1000) and school funds (£300) and it was also used to pay for the Down GAA football coach (£1120 for 35 sessions) who is in school each week.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The School Councillors organised an Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The children in each class hunted high and low for cardboard Easter Eggs and when they found all the eggs, they exchanged them for a basket of chocolate eggs. Thank you to the School Councillors for organising this event and to Friends of Carrick for sponsoring the event.

### **Boys' Indoor Football**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the boys participated in Round 1 of the Indoor Football Competition, which was played in Burren Hub.

The results were as follows:

Carrick Primary School	2 - 7	St Patrick's Mayobridge	0 - 1
Carrick Primary School	3 - 4	St Patrick's Drumgreenagh	0 - 3
Carrick Primary School	7 - 3	St Mary's Rathfriland	1 - 2
Semi-Final:	Carrick Primary School	9 - 1	St Mary's Rathfriland 1 - 2
Final:	Carrick Primary School	4 - 2	St Patrick's Drumgreenagh 1 - 3

The boys then played in Round 2 of the competition on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and unfortunately were defeated in the semi-finals. The results were as follows:

Carrick Primary School	2-4	Ballyholland 0-2
Carrick Primary School	2-3	Saul 2-0
Carrick Primary School	2-2	St Colman's 0-3
Carrick Primary School	0-0	Kilcoo 2-4

Carrick Primary School            1-2     Teconnaught 2-2

Carrick Primary School            1-1     Ballyholland 1-4 (Semi-Final)

The panel included: Charlie Rooney, Daniel McCartan, Alex Malone, Harry Coulter, Daniel Coulter, Aaron Mohan, Dara Grant, Oran Byrne and Jack Ryan.

Congratulations also to Harry Coulter who was selected to play at half-time in the Down v Clare match in Pairc Esler on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Well done to all the boys and many thanks to Mr D Keenan, Mr S Murdock, Mr D McCartan Mr J McGivern and Mr R Cunningham for all the coaching and encouragement.

### **Skills Day**

Well done to Jack Ryan who represented the school at the GAA Skills Day in Castlewellan on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and who was selected to play at half-time at the Down v Antrim Championship match on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **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.

### **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).

### **Primary 5 Readathon**

The Primary 5 children are preparing for their Readathon event on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. 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](http://www.librariesni.org.uk).

### **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.

### **Leggo**

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.

### **Maths and English Club**

The P6 Maths and English Club, which began in 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.

### **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>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to help the children with their knitting and craftwork. The children enjoyed these sessions and benefitted so much from the 1-to-1 help they received.

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.

### **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.

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

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.

### **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.

### **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 (April-June)**

April -	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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)