Principal: Mrs A Cassidy

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9th October 2017

Dear Parents

Student of the Month Awards
Congratulations to the following boys and girls who won Student of the Month Awards, Star Awards or ICT Awards for September: Sorcha Collins, Tyler Connolly, Gemma McStay, Ellie Franklin, Harry Coulter, Daniel Coulter, Aoife McGivern, Oran Byrne, Saoirse Treanor, Harry O'Hare, Matthew O'Neill, Liliana Armstrong, Saorla Rowntree, Éabha Duffy, Hollie Benson, Lucy Magee, Conor Murtagh, Aiden McGivern, Mhyrren Hughes, Lily Shields, Eve Woods O'Hanlon, Tomás McGivern, Daíthí McGovern, Ella Cunningham, Ethan Harty, Shane Quinn, Orla Byrne, Charlie Rafferty, Aaron O'Hare, Naoise Grant, Matthew McCartan, Eoin Coulter, Shane McGreevy, Ryan Murney, Emily Benson, Odhran, Trainor, Tara McGivern, Shea Trainor, Caoimhe Lundy, Ben Murphy, Kyle Connolly, Ava McArdle, Katie Hourican, Sinead Keohane, Daithi Fitzpatrick, Joe McGovern, Jessica Hynes, Katie Fitzpatrick, Caoimhe Ward, Jack Campbell, Lauren McSwiggan, Emily Glymond Magill, Danny McFerran, Morgan Doherty, Cliodhna Mackle, Fianna Murney, Luke Cunningham, Laura Doyle, Melissa Bradley, Katie Cunningham, Siomha Harbinson, Lillie McClorey, Cathal McKibben Shona McAteer, Emma Stephen, Petie Anderson and Rhys Berger.
Photographs of the winners have been added to the school's website. www.carrickprimaryschool.com

NI Anti-Bullying Forum
Well done to Shona McAteer who has been named as one of the winners in this year's Anti-Bullying Campaign. Shona will receive her prize on Monday 13th November 2017 in Belfast City Hall. Well done Shona!

St Vincent de Paul
St Vincent de Paul has asked us to let parents know that they can provide assistance to any family in need. Please contact St Vincent de Paul on 028 302 67590 or on 07562069337 if you would like any further information.

School Fees
Thank you to all the parents who have sent in school fees. It has been the tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help to supplement the school budget, which has decreased by £50000 this year. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45. Thank you so much for all your support, it is very much appreciated.

Blood Transfusion Service
Thank you so much to all those who attended the Northern Ireland Blood Donation Event in the assembly hall in Carrick Primary School. The number of donors rose to 104 which represents a significant increase on the last blood donation event. Well done!

Retirement of Mrs Frances McCann
As you may have heard, Mrs Frances McCann retired from working in the kitchen in Carrick Primary School. We are hoping to make a number of presentations to Mrs McCann on Friday 27th October 2017 on behalf of the pupils, the parents, the staff and the Governors. If you would like to made a contribution to Mrs Frances McCann's gift from the pupils and parents please send it in by Tuesday 24th October 2017.

National Lottery: Awards for All Grant
At the beginning of October we were delighted to learn that Carrick has been awarded £10.000 from awards for all (Northern Ireland) for an iPad Project. The children and staff are very excited about this award and we are looking forward to getting the project up and running as soon as possible!

Useful Websites
We have compiled a list of websites which are very useful for reinforcing core concepts in Literacy and Numeracy, including:

Numeracy: www.topmarks.co.uk
www.taw.org
www.mathsisfun.com
www.crickweb.co.uk

Literacy: www.literactive.com
www.oxfordowl.co.uk
www.topmarks.co.uk
www.crickweb.co.uk
www.primaryresources.co.uk
www.tes.co.uk

ICT: www.ictgames.com

www.starfall.com
www.squeebles.com (An app for iPads/iPods)

These will shortly be accessible via the school's website: www.carrickprimaryschool.com

Busy Bees Preschool: Celebrating 30 years
In 1987 Busy Bees opened their doors for the first time, providing a service for the preschool children of Burren. Physically a lot has changed in 30 years but the care and love for the children has remained the same.
To celebrate this momentous year Busy Bees will be hosting a complementary afternoon tea on Saturday 21st October from 2-4pm and we ask the community of Burren to join us. In particular we would love to see past and present staff, committee, parents, grandparents and pupils join us to celebrate what is an achievement of many!!
We look forward to seeing you all there!
Busy Bees Photographs
Do you have any photos relating to Busy Bees over the past 30 years? If so, we would love to get a copy of them to display on the day and throughout the year. Please call into Busy Bees where staff will take a copy of your photos to use.

Friends of Carrick
The Friends of Carrick AGM took place on Monday 18th September 2017 and the 2017-2018 committee was elected as follows: **Chairperson:** Mrs Roisin Macauley, **Secretary:** Mrs Orla McPolin, **Treasurer:** Mrs Aileen Garvey, **Committee:** Mrs Siobhan McAteer, Mrs Caroline Byrne, Mrs Rosaleen Grant, Mrs Martina O'Hare, Mr Sean Doherty, Mr Gary Dickson, Ms Elaine Montgomery, Mrs Maria McGrath and Mrs Anne Cassidy. The committee members meet about six times a year, to organise various fundraisers and social events. The fundraising activities enable the school to requisition resources which would otherwise be beyond the scope of the school budget. If you would like to find out more about Friends of Carrick, please ask at the office, or come along to the next meeting on Monday 6th November 2017 at 7.00pm.

Christmas Shopping Trip to Kildare Village
On Saturday 25th November 2017 McAnulty's buses will be leaving Carrick Primary School and heading to Kildare Village for some Christmas shopping. The buses will be leaving the school at 8.30am and will stop for a short comfort break in Avoca at 10.00am before travelling on to Kildare Village. The buses will be back at school by 6.30pm (approximately). **Bus tickets for this event are now on sale from the school at a cost of £20 each.**

Friends of Carrick - Forthcoming Events
Christmas Cards/Tote Bags/Coasters/Mugs
A leaflet will be sent home in the next few days about personalised Christmas Cards/Mugs/Tote Bags/Coasters. If you would like your child to participate, please ask them to draw their picture within the box on the A4 sheet (please do not stick anything on to the templates e.g. glitter, sequins, googly eyes etc.). Please fill in the order form **if** you wish to order Christmas Cards, Mugs, Tote Bags and/or Coasters and bring in the money needed for the order. Please return all forms, art work and money to the Principal's office.

Easy Fundraising
Thank you to the parents and staff who have already registered with easyfundraising.org. **and have raised £36.85 already**. Every time you shop online with Amazon, Marks and Spencer, Smyths, Tesco, Sainsbury etc these companies give a percentage of the money spent to the school.
There are no catches or hidden charges and Carrick Primary School would be really grateful for your donations.
If you would like to get involved, please follow these 3 easy steps:
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!

Welcome to Carrick
We have started to create a "Welcome to Carrick" display along the main corridor. If your child's photograph is not already included could you please leave a photograph of your child(ren) in the Principal's office. Please write your child's name on the back of the photograph and we will return the photographs to the children when we take the display down in June 2018.

Road Safety
Congratulations to Sean Ryan and Maebh Sherry who have been appointed as Junior Road Safety Officers in Carrick Primary School. The children will be working alongside Mrs Kelly who is the Road Safety Coordinator and will be planning activities and events for Road Safety Week which takes place between Monday 20th November 2017 and Friday 24th November 2017.
We are asking all parents of children who travel to and from school by bus, to emphasise to their children the importance of safely boarding the bus, going to a seat, remaining seated, wearing a seatbelt for the duration of the journey and behaving appropriately at all times. We appreciate your support in ensuring that these road safety messages are conveyed to our pupils, for their own safety and for the safety of others on the bus. Friday 24th November 2017 will be a "Be Bright Be Seen Day" and all the children are invited to wear bright coats and fluorescent bands and bags to school.

Book Fair
The Book Fair will be in Carrick from Friday 24th November 2017 until Thursday 30th November 2017. The School Councillors (Carrick Council) and the Primary 7 children will be helping to organise and run the Book Fair. The Hospice Christmas Cards will also be on sale at the Book Fair.

Pantomime
The Grand Opera House has announced this year's must-see pantomime Peter Pan, starring Queen of Comedy May McFettridge. Packed with all of the traditional ingredients Grand Opera House audiences expect, Peter Pan features laugh out loud comedy, stunning scenery, beautiful costumes and plenty of boos and hisses.
P3 and P4 – 11th January 2018
P5, P6 and P7 – 12th January 2018
St Vincent de Paul will be paying for the buses for the Panto trip and we are very appreciative of this.

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.

Rights Respecting School (RRS)Project
In June 2018 we will undergo a Rights Respecting School Level 1 Assessment . Please visit our website to view the work we have done so far as part of the RRS Project (www.carrickprimaryschool.com). There are many RRS quizzes and games available on our website, which are excellent for children.

Supervision for Pupils arriving between 8.30-8:45am
School opens for pupils at 8.30am. Supervision is available for pupils from 8:30- 8:45am in the assembly hall. The Key Stage 2 ICT suite is also open from 8.30am onwards for use by the pupils. At 8.45am the children go to their classrooms and registration takes place at 9.00am. Please try to ensure that the children are in class prior to 9.00am.

Flu Vaccination Programme
The Flu Vaccination Programme will be offered to all Primary 1-7 children in Autumn 2016. The School Nurses will be in Carrick on Monday 16th October 2017 to provide this vaccination for all the children whose parents have given consent.

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.

Primary 1-3 Classes
The school day for the P1-3 classes finishes at 2.00pm. If whoever is due to collect a child at 2.00pm is going to be late, could you please let the school know, as the children can become quite anxious and in some cases distressed if there is no one to collect them at 2.00pm

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 in addresses, home telephone numbers, work telephone numbers and/or mobile numbers throughout the year.

Sainsburys Tokens
Thank you to all those who sent in Sainsburys Active Kids tokens as we have redeemed these for excellent PE and play resources.

C2K News Desk
The upgraded C2K News Desk has been launched recently and is available to all pupils both in school and at home. The C2K News Desk provides many enjoyable opportunities for pupils to express their views and develop their interest in reading and writing articles about subjects across the curriculum. It also offers readers the opportunity to have their own views and opinions published. It is a great resource for developing children's Literacy both in school and at home and we would ask you to encourage the children to access the News Desk. The children need to have their C2K school login details and password in order to log in.
How to access the news desk:

- www.carrickprimaryschool.com
- Kids area
- C2K Login
- Username and password
- C2Knewsdesk

Flashing "School Ahead" Signs
The flashing "School Ahead" signs which are located along the Bridge Road have now been synchronised with the school opening hours and school holidays and should therefore be operational every school day. Please notify the school if the signage is not operational or is operational at the wrong times, so that this can be corrected.

Child Protection
The school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Kelly, Mrs McPolin and Mr Keenan are the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Mr M Keenan, Fr C Byrne, Mrs P Sheehan and Mrs A Cassidy are the Designated Governors for Child Protection.

Dinner Money
The cost of dinners is now £2.60 per day. It would be appreciated if dinner money could be paid on a Monday to help the banking process. Please make cheques for dinner money payable to Carrick Primary School. Menus will be sent home on a monthly basis and they will also be available on the school's website (www.carrickprimaryschool.com). From September onwards dinners cannot be provided if the dinner money owed exceeds **£25.00.** Thank you for your understanding with regard to this matter.

Health Needs
Children Pox, Shingles and Measles pose a significant risk to one of our Primary Five pupils, who is recovering from leukaemia. Could you please contact the school immediately if your child develops any of the above conditions, so that we can relay the information to the relevant family.
In addition children in the Primary 2, 5 and 7 year groups have severe nut allergies. Consequently I would ask you to avoid sending in nuts or nut products. I would appreciate your co-operation with regard to this matter. If your child develops any allergies and/or any medical complaints during the course of the year, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can take any necessary action.

Football/ Hurling/ Camogie Training
Football, hurling and camogie training sessions take place every Friday (weather permitting) for P4-7 pupils. P4-5 football training takes place from 2.00- 3.00pm while P6-7 football training will take place from 3.00- 4.00pm. Hurling and camogie training sessions take place from 3.00- 4.00pm. Please encourage the children to join up and avail of these free extra-curricular opportunities.

Extra-Curricular Activities
During Term 1 the following extra-curricular activities will be available:

Mondays	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays	P7	Maths and English Club	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays	P4-7	Art	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays	P4-7	Tennis	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesdays	P5-7	Choir	3.00-3.30pm
Thursdays	P4-7	HipHop Class	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4-5	Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm
Fridays	P6-7	Gaelic Football Training	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4-7	Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm

Notes will be circulated to the pupils, which will provide more details about the activities on offer.

PE Uniform
P1-3: Burren club shorts or green shorts and black plimsolls or runners, with Velcro opening.
P4-7: Burren club shorts or green shorts (indoor PE / warmer weather), black tracksuit bottoms or Burren club bottoms (outdoor PE/ colder weather) and black plimsolls or runners.

Could parents please check that all items and PE bags are clearly labelled and that the children have their PE gear in school each day. The PE bags can be left in school during the week. The Burren club shorts and club tracksuit bottoms are available from Mr. Jim McGivern who can be contacted on: 028 417 73655.

Water Bottles and PE Bags
The "Carrick Primary School" water bottles cost £4 and the PE bags also cost £4. These are on sale from the office.

Suggestion Boxes
Please feel free to make suggestions about how we can improve our new school. We received some great suggestions from parents and children during 2016-2017. A Suggestion Box has been placed in the foyer and there is also one in each classroom. All suggestions are discussed at the Leadership Team meetings and/or at the Board of Governors' meetings.

Birthday Party Invitations
Can we ask parents not to send birthday party invitations into school as they can cause distress and ill feeling in classes. Your cooperation with regard to this issue is very much appreciated.

Missing Library Books and Text Books
During the course of the 2016-2017 year a significant number of library books, reading books and text books were misplaced. Could you please check at home to see if there are any school books at home and if so, send them into school. We are always grateful for the return of books, even if they are from a few years ago. Thank you to those who returned books and to those who donated books last year. This has been a great hep as the books have been distributed among the class libraries.

Easy Read Project
The Easy Read Project is in operation in all P2-P7 classes. The children choose books from the Easy Read boxes for home reading and they can change the books as often as they like. Last year some children read in excess of 150 of these extra readers and this makes a huge difference to their progress in reading. Please encourage your child to avail of these lovely resources. When the children have read 20 Easy Reads, please let the class teacher know, as the children are then given a certificate and reward at assembly.

Extra Uniforms
We have many extra school jumpers, skirts and trousers which parents have handed in to school. These are stored in the Lost Property cupboard, which is adjacent to Mrs McAufield's P5 classroom. If you need some extra uniform items, please help yourself, as otherwise these will be sent for recycling.

Eco Schools Project
As part of our Eco Schools work, we are still collecting used ink cartridges and toners, on behalf of Southern Area Hospice. The collection box is located in the min foyer. For every cartridge/toner collected, the Hospice receives £1.

Lost Property
In the lost property cupboard, which is adjacent to Mrs McAufield's P5 classroom, there are many school trousers, skirts, jumpers, coats, lunchboxes etc. Please feel free to look in the lost property cupboard if your child has lost any item (s). If you need an extra sweatshirt, skirt or pair of trousers for your child please help yourself.

Transport/ Free School Meals/ Uniform Assistance Application Forms
Information about free school meals/uniform allowances/transport grants is available from the offices. If you need assistance with the completion of the forms, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal.

Traffic at Hometime
Can we ask all those dropping off or collecting children at the school, to be extra careful and **to observe the normal rules of a roundabout.** We appreciate that it can be very frustrating having to wait in the queue until the traffic moves on but we would ask everyone to exercise caution so as to try and avoid accidents. **Please pass on this request to other family members and to others who may be collecting the children.** The Board of Governors is currently working with a number of agencies, in an effort to secure additional car parking spaces at the school, which would help to alleviate the traffic congestion.

Flashing "School Ahead" Signs
The flashing "School Ahead" signs which are located along the Bridge Road have now been synchronised with the school opening hours and school holidays and should therefore be operational every school day. Please notify the school if the signage is not operational or is operational at the wrong times, so that this can be corrected.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully
A Duffin
A Cassidy
(Leadership Team)