



Principal: Mrs Anne Cassidy

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30th January 2018

Dear Parents

Retirement of Mrs O'Neill

As you may have heard Mrs O'Neill has retired after many years teaching in Carrick Primary School and Miss McArdle will be teaching the class. We are hoping to make presentations to Mrs O'Neill on 9th February 2018 on behalf of pupils, staff and Governors. If you would like to contribute to the pupils' retirement gift for Mrs O'Neill, please send in your donation for the attention of either Mrs Duffin or Mrs Cassidy by Friday 2nd February 2018. **To facilitate this retirement function, the P1-4 children will be going home at 11.45am and the P5-7 children will be going home at 1.30pm on Friday 9th February 2018.** Many thanks for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Grandparents' Assembly

On Wednesday 7th February 2018 the P3 children will be presenting a special Grandparents' Assembly at 1.30pm in the Assembly Hall. Grandparents, parents, friends and members of the community are invited to attend this special event. We thank God for the time and care Grandparents give to their grandchildren.

Parents' Evening: Healthy Me

A Parents' Evening has been organised for Monday 5th February 2018 from 7.00-8.00pm. The "Healthy Me" Programme is a mental health promotion programme which is delivered by the staff of Action Mental Health. It is designed to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing. The staff members of Carrick PS have already accessed "Healthy Me" training and found it really beneficial and very relevant and the children will also be participating in "Healthy Me" Workshops in February 2018. We would therefore invite all parents to attend the "Healthy Me" Parents' Night on 05/02/18 as it promises to be an informative and thought provoking event, which will equip parents with some of the skills which are needed to help children (and themselves) to maintain and improve their wellbeing and mental health.

Tea/coffee will be served from 6.45pm onwards in the Assembly Hall. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Irish News: Coaching Day Tokens

We are currently collecting Irish News Coaching Tokens and these will be printed in the paper each day. Please collect these tokens and send them into school as we need as many tokens as possible to be in with a chance of winning.

Commissioner for Children and Young People visits Burren

Mrs Koulla Yiasouma, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, visited Carrick Primary School in Burren on Tuesday 23rd January 2018, where the School Council presented a Rights Respecting Assembly for the Commissioner.

After the assembly, Commissioner Yiasouma met with the Council and talked to them about their role and how they contributed to the improvements in the school. She complimented the School Council on the great work on behalf of the children in Carrick Primary School.

The School Council is made up of P4-7 children including, Daire Carville, Aoife Gaffney, Ben Grant, Ben Ward, Amelia Magee, Eibhleann Moore, Fianna Murney, Jake McCabe, Katie Fitzpatrick, Lillie McClorey, Lorcan Rowntree, Niall Howlett, Patrick McAllister and Tara McGivern.

Headboy, Niall Howlett, and Headgirl, Amelia Magee, presented the Commissioner with a card and a gift to thank her for visiting Carrick Primary School.

Rights Respecting Schools (RRS): January 2018

Carrick Primary School aims to be a school where every child is developed holistically and children's wellbeing is a primary concern. As part of our school's aims to promote a happy and successful school, we are working towards a "**Rights Respecting School Award**" which is given to schools on behalf of UNICEF.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting **the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**. These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

The 'Rights Respecting School' award (RRSA) will help the children of our community to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens both in school and within the wider community. While learning about their rights, our pupils also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others and also consider their responsibilities.

In Carrick Primary School, pupils are encouraged to reflect on how their behaviour and actions affect those around them, which allows us to build and maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all, both in the classroom and around the school site. As part of our RRS work, in consultation with our school, charters which outline expectations in the classroom, around the school and beyond the school, have been rewritten in consultation with pupils and staff. Pupils have also worked with their classmates to create their own class charters and have started developing an understanding of their rights and responsibilities in school.

There is also a dedicated area on our school website www.carrickprimaryschool.com, which houses lots of information about our Rights Respecting School Project.

We really hope that you will feel able to support us in working towards our goal of being a 'Rights Respecting School'.

If you would like more information about the work of UNICEF or a Rights Respecting School then please visit: www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa.

Christmas Play DVD

A few copies of the P1/5/7 Christmas Plays 2017 are available from the school office at a cost of £6.

P6 Parents' Meeting re. GL Assessments

A meeting for the P6 parents has been organised for 14th March 2018 from 2.15-2.45pm in relation to the GL Assessments which will take place in November 2018. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Pyjamas Day

On Tuesday 13th February 2018, the school will be having a Pyjamas Day and will be enjoying a disco, cookies and milk/juice. Many thanks to Friends of Carrick for organising this event which the children always enjoy.

Blood Donation Event

The next Blood Donation Event is scheduled for 19th April 2018 from 2.30-4.00pm and from 5.15-8.00pm. Please come along to this event and make it even more successful than our previous sessions.

Holidays in Term 2 and 3

Arrangements for Mid-Term break are as follows:

Thursday 15th February 2018 – Children on Holiday

Friday 16th February 2018 – School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday)

Monday 19th February 2018 – School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)

Monday 19th March 2018 – Children on Holiday

Tuesday 20th March 2018 - School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Friday 30th March 2018 – Monday 9th April 2018 - (Inclusive) Easter Holidays

Monday 9th April 2018– Baker Day 3 (Children on Holiday)

Tuesday 10th April 2018 - Term 3 starts for children

Monday 7th May 2018 - Children on Holiday

Tuesday 8th May 2018– Baker Day 4 (Children on Holiday)

Monday 28th May 2018– Children on Holiday

Tuesday 29th May 2018– Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Preparation for Confirmation 2018

The Primary Seven children are preparing for their Confirmation. We will be including these young people in a special way in a number of our weekend Masses. By doing this we hope to show them our support and encouragement as they approach this important, religious moment in their lives. The details are as follows

Mass 1: Moved by the Spirit

Church: St Mary's Church, Burren

Date and Time: Sunday 11th February 2018 at 10.00am

Mass 2: Called by Name

Church: St Mary's Church, Burren

Date and Time: Saturday 28th April 2018 at 7.30pm

Confirmation Ceremony

Church: St Mary's Church, Burren

Date and Time: Thursday 10th May 2018 at 6.00pm

Preparation for First Holy Communion 2018

The Primary Four children are preparing for their First Holy communion and as part of their preparation, will be participating in two special masses as detailed below

Mass 1: Enrolment

Church: St Mary's Church, Burren

Date and Time: Saturday 3rd February 2018 at 7.30pm

Mass 2: We Celebrate Jesus' Love For Us

Church: St Mary's Church, Burren

Date and Time: Sunday 25th February 2018 at 10.00am

First Holy Communion Ceremony

Church: St Mary's Church, Burren

Date and Time: Saturday 5th May 2018 at 11.00am

Everyone is welcome to attend.

First Holy Communion

A number of parents have approached the school to say that they have Communion dresses which could be lent out to any family who wanted to borrow a dress for First Holy Communion. Please feel free to contact the Principal's office, and this can be arranged confidentially.

Ash Wednesday 14th February 2018

Pupils from Primary 4-7 classes are invited to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday in St Mary's Church, Burren at 9.00am. Pupils are encouraged to come into school early and walk up to the Church with their class teacher and classroom assistant (where relevant). Alternatively, pupils can be dropped off at the Church.

Ashes will be distributed to the Primary 1-3 classes following the Ash Wednesday Mass to those who wish to receive them.

Extra-Curricular Activities

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

Mondays	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays	P6	Maths and English Club	3.00-4.15pm
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	Gymnastics Class	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4-7	Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm
Fridays	P4/5	P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	(Indoor) 3.00-4.00pm

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

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Mrs Anne Cassidy

(Leadership Team)