



*Principal: Dr A Cassidy*

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23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

Dear Parents

### **Welcome Back!**

We hope you are looking forward to the new school year. We extend a very special welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils and to the new pupils who have joined Carrick Primary School.

- The school will reopen for pupils on **Friday 01/09/2023**. The new Primary 1 children have received separate information detailing their arrangements for starting school. During the first few weeks we will focus on the children's pastoral needs and settling them back into school and into their new classes.
- The "Drop off" timeslot is anytime between 8.30am and 9.00am. Supervision is available in the assembly hall from 8.30am-8.45am. At 8.45am the children will be escorted to their classes. Class begins with roll call at 9am.
- **As part of our Sustrans Active Travel Project, parents and children are asked, where possible, to walk to school, or to park and walk the last part of their journey. We would really appreciate this as it helps to reduce congestion at the school.**
- **On their first day back at school, could each pupil please bring in their pencil case, tissues and a packet of anti-bacterial wipes (all clearly labelled please) and leave these in school. Could they also bring in their PE gear.**
- School Dinners will be available from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 onwards.
- If parents have any particular pastoral, medical or safeguarding concerns or concerns about children's learning, please email the school ([acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)) to arrange to speak to the relevant member of staff.
- Gaelic Football Training resumes on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 from 2-3pm for P4/5 boys and girls at the school pitch and from 3-4pm for P6/7 boys and girls at the football club.
- The P7 Maths and English Club resumes on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 3.00-4.15pm.
- Hurling Training/Camogie Training for P4-7 pupils resumes on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 3-4pm at the school pitch.
- Art classes for P4-7 pupils resume on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 3-4pm and Soccer training for P4-7 pupils resumes on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 3-4pm. Notes for soccer and art classes will be sent home with the pupils asap.
- Many school uniforms and football boots (for pupils of all ages) were left into school during June, July and August. These are available for parents to collect. They are located in the Key Stage 2 Resource Area which is the area just outside the P5-7 classrooms. The school will be open on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August from 8am-4pm Please help yourselves to these uniform items and boots. The P7 side door will be left open to facilitate easy access.

- All classes have been allocated a door for entering and leaving the school building.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Entrance/ Exit Doors</b>
P1 Mrs Fitzpatrick's/ Miss McCaughey's Class	Door 1 (into Mrs Fitzpatrick's/ Miss McCaughey's Cloakroom at the back of the school. Please access the P1 classes via the path to the right hand side of the school. )
P1 Mrs Kelly's Class	Door 2 (into Mrs Kelly's Cloakroom at the back of the school. Please access the P1 classes via the path to the right hand side of the school. )
P2 Mrs Duffin's Class	Door 6 ( into the P2 Cloakroom Area at front of school)
P2 Mrs Murray's Class	Door 6 ( into the P2 Cloakroom Area at front of school)
P3 Mrs McCann's Class	Door 5 (into Mrs McCann's Cloakroom at front of school)
P3 Mrs McPolin's Class	Door 4 (into the P3/4 Resource Area at front of school)
P4 Mrs O'Hare's Class	Door 3 (into the P4 Cloakroom Area at LHS of school)
P4 Mrs O'Grady's Class	Door 3 (into the P4 Cloakroom Area at LHS of school)
P5 Ms Keenan's Class	Door 7 (into the P5/6 Cloakroom Area at back of school)
P5 Mrs Doyle's Class	Door 7 (into the P5/6 Cloakroom Area at back of school)
P6 Mrs Harkin's Class	Door 7 (into the P5/6 Cloakroom Area at back of school)
P6 Mr Keenan's Class	Door 8 (into the P7 Cloakroom area at front of school)
P7 Mrs Doran's Class	Door 8 (into the P7 Cloakroom area at front of school)
P7 Mr Murdock's Class	Door 8 (into the P7 Cloakroom area at front of school)

### **Opus Photographs**

The Opus photographer will be in school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September to take the P1 group photos, the P7 group photos and individual and/or family group photos, if requested. More information will be sent home shortly about the various options on offer and the prices.

### **Internet Safety Parents' Evening**

There will be an Internet Safety Parents' Evening on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 7.00-8.00pm. The presenter will be Mr Wayne Denner, whose presentations are always most informative and enjoyable. Please come along to find out about keeping children safe online. Tea/coffee will be served from 6.45pm.

### **Promoting Reading Parents' Evening**

There will also be a "Promoting Reading" Parents' Evening on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 7.00-8.00pm. The presenter will be Mrs Kate O'Hanlon who is always inspiring about how parents can help children to become readers and to improve their reading. Please come along and find out how children's reading can be developed. A selection of children will be reading short extracts from their favourite books as part of this event. Tea/coffee will be served from 6.45pm.

### **Annual Reports**

Thank you to all parents for returning the Annual Reports and for the very positive feedback and constructive comments which help us to continue to make improvements in Carrick.

### **School Calendar**

The school calendar for 2023-2024 is available on the school's website (<http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com/index.html>) and also on the school's Facebook page. If your child is unable to attend school on any day, please inform the secretary, who will inform the class teacher.

### **School Fees**

It has been the tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help supplement the school budget, which has been reduced significantly over the past few years. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45. All contributions will be gratefully received and will be used for the benefit of all the pupils.

### **Summer Reading Challenge / Additional Reading Materials**

Well done to all those children who participated in the Library's Summer Reading Challenge. All the children who read 9+ books over the Summer will be presented with a certificate and a reward for their great efforts on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Additional reading materials are also available from <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> These materials are really excellent and are free!

### **Rights Respecting School (RRS) Project**

Our Rights Respecting School Project is developing well, thanks to the great work of Carrick Council, the pupils, staff, parents and Governors. During our weekly assemblies, the children learn about the 42 Rights from the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### **Attendance**

The pupils' attendance rate for 2022-2023 was 94.2%. Well done to parents and pupils for ensuring that attendance rates in Carrick are as high as possible, as this is vitally important for the children's education.

### **Primary 1-3 Classes**

The school day for the P1-3 classes ends 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 no one arrives to collect them.

### **Early Exits**

If a child needs to be taken out of school early, could parents please: send in a note to inform the teacher or ring the school secretary who will let the teacher know; call at reception; and sign the exit book when collecting the child from reception.

### **Free School Meals/ Uniform/PE Uniform Assistance Application Forms**

Please see the Education Authority's website for information about free school meals/uniform allowances/PE uniform assistance. Additional information and help are available from the office for parents who wish to apply for meals and/or uniform assistance for 2023-2024. Please apply even if there is only a small chance of success, as the school budget increases significantly if more children are receiving free school meals.

### **Home to School Transport**

The Education Authority has introduced a new online application process for parents applying for home to school transport. Information on eligibility for transport assistance and how to apply online can be found at <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport>

### **Flu Vaccination Programme**

The Flu Vaccinations will be offered to all Primary 1-7 children on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The School Nurses provide this vaccination and will write out to parents in September/October to provide details about the programme and to seek parental consent.

### **Friends of Carrick**

The Friends of Carrick committee members meet about five times a year, to organise various fundraisers and social events. The fundraising activities enable the school to requisition resources for the children which are beyond the scope of the school budget. If you would like to find out more about Friends of Carrick, please contact the school by email ([acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)) or by phone (02841752448). **The AGM will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 7.00- 7.45pm. New members are very welcome. Tea/coffee will be served from 6.45pm.**

### **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

Mrs Claire Kelly is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection/Safeguarding while Mrs Patricia McPolin and Mr David Keenan are the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection/Safeguarding. Please contact the Designated Teachers or any member of staff if you have any concerns re Child Protection/ Safeguarding.

### **Dinner Money/Menu**

The cost of dinners is now £2.60 per day. It would be appreciated if dinner money could be paid on a Monday for the week ahead to ease the banking process and to reduce the risk of infection. Please make cheques for dinner money payable to Carrick Primary School. The monthly menu will be available on the school's website ([www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)). From September onwards dinners cannot be provided if the dinner money owed exceeds £26.00. Thank you for your understanding with regard to this matter.

### **Health Needs**

**A number of the children in our school have severe nut allergies. Reactions can be fatal.** Consequently, we would ask you to avoid sending in nuts or nut products and would appreciate your co-operation with regard to this matter. If your child develops any allergies and/or any significant medical issues during the course of the year, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can take any necessary action.

### **Healthy Schools**

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

### **Suggestion Boxes**

During 2022-2023 we received some great suggestions from parents and children about how to improve our school. There is a Suggestion Box in each classroom. If you have any ideas for improvement, please jot them down and ask your child to drop them into the suggestion boxes.

### **Water Bottles and PE Bags**

The "Carrick Primary School" water bottles cost £4 and the PE bags also cost £4. These are available from the office, if required.

### **PE Uniform**

P1-3: Burren club shorts or green shorts and black plimsolls or runners.

P4-7: Burren club shorts or green shorts (indoor PE / warmer weather), black tracksuit bottoms/leggings or Burren club bottoms (outdoor PE/ colder weather) and black trainers/ 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. Burren club shorts and club tracksuit bottoms/leggings are available from the club shop which is open each Thursday from 6.30pm-7.00pm.

### **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.

### **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. This extra reading can make a huge difference to children's progress in reading. Please encourage your child to avail of these lovely resources.

### **Children's Property/Lost Property**

Please remember to label your child's uniform and all of his/her belongings. Any lost items will be placed in the "Lost Property" cupboard which is adjacent to Mrs Doyle's P5 classroom.

### **Audit of Books**

Thank you to those parents who returned text books, library books, easy reads or reading books, as well as their own books which they no longer need. They are all very useful to supplement our existing resources. If you have any books belonging to Carrick Primary School or any books which you no longer need please send them into school.

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

Carrick Primary School is participating in the Sustrans Active School Travel Programme, which is an initiative which encourages pupils to choose an active and healthy journey to school. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school. The children will be busy planning various events for the year ahead, including "Feet First Fridays".

### **Flashing "School Ahead" Signs**

The flashing "School Ahead" signs, which are located along the Bridge Road and Ballydesland 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.

### **Traffic at Hometown**

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.

### **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 Rd and up Milltown Street to Carrick Primary School each morning. The bus then leaves the school at 2.40pm and goes as far as St. Mark's High School. If you would like more information about this bus service, please contact McAnulty's on 028 417 52228.

### **C2K News Desk**

The upgraded C2K News Desk 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](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)
- Kids area
- C2K Login
- Username and password
- C2Knewsdesk

### **Easy Fundraising**

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise funds for Carrick Primary School through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. We currently have 100+ supporters. Remember you can 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 [Carrick Primary School Burren](#) 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;
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 easyfundraising please contact the school and we will be happy to assist.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Amanda Duffin  
Mrs Mary McCann  
Dr Anne Cassidy  
(Leadership Team)