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1st September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome Back

We hope you enjoyed the holidays and that you are looking forward to the new school year. May we congratulate you on how well the pupils are looking. 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 McAufield's P5 classroom. We enjoyed a very successful school year in 2016-2017. Your generosity throughout the year to our chosen charities was exceptional. Many thanks.

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 by £50000 this year. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Warrenpoint Library's Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all the children who participated in Warrenpoint Library's Summer Reading Challenge. The children will be presented with a certificate and a reward at a special assembly on Wednesday 6th September 2017.

St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul has also 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.

Friends of Carrick

The Friends of Carrick AGM has been scheduled to take place on Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Assembly hall. 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 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.

Christmas Shopping Trip to Kildare Village

On Saturday 25/11/17 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 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.**

Department of Education's Leaflet: Keeping Children Safe- Child Protection in Education

We have enclosed a copy of the Department of Education's Leaflet: Keeping Children Safe- Child Protection in Education, which provides useful information for parents and for staff members, in relation to keeping our children safe.

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

The cost of dinners is now £2.60 per day. It would be appreciated if dinner money could be paid on a Monday to ease 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. 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 medical complaints during the course of the year, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can take any necessary action.

Flu Vaccination Programme

The Flu Vaccination Programme will be offered to all Primary 1-7 children in Autumn 2017. The School Nurses will be in Carrick on Monday 16th October 2017 to provide this vaccination and will be writing out to parents in September to provide details about the programme and to seek parental consent.

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.

Annual Reports

Thank you to all parents for returning the Annual Reports and for making comments which will help us to continue to make improvements in Carrick.

School Calendar

Enclosed is our School Calendar for 2017-2018. The school calendar is also available on the school's website: www.carrickprimaryschool.co.uk. If your child is unable to attend school on any day, please inform Mrs O'Brien, who will subsequently inform the class teacher.

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	Tennis	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays	P4-7	Art	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesdays	P5-7	Choir	3.00-3.30pm
Thursdays	P4-7	HipHop	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.

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 £3 and the PE bags also cost £3. These are available from the office, if required.

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. Suggestions are discussed in classes, at 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.

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.

Missing Library Books and Text Books

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 in June 2017.

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.

Extra Uniforms/ Lost Property

We have many extra school jumpers, skirts and trousers which parents have handed in to school for use by other families. 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.

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. For every cartridge/toner collected, the Hospice receives £1.

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 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. 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

Sainsbury's 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

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

We look forward to seeing you during the year and we wish everyone a successful and rewarding year.

Yours faithfully

A Duffin

M McCann

A Cassidy

(Leadership Team)

Carrick Primary School
School Calendar 2017-2018

August -	Tuesday 29/08/17	Baker Day 1
	Wednesday 30/08/17	Baker Day 2
	Thursday 31/08/17	School Development Day 1 (Children on Holiday)
	Friday 01/09/17	Term 1 begins for pupils
October/November -	Monday 30/10/17	Holiday
	Tuesday 31/10/17	Holiday
	Wednesday 01/11/17	Holiday
December:	Monday 04/12/17	Holiday
December /January-	Monday 25/12/17 –	Christmas Holidays for Children (Inclusive)
	Monday 08/01/18	
January -	Monday 08/01/18	School Development Day 2 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 09/01/18	Term 2 starts for Children
February -	Thursday 15/02/18	Holiday
	Friday 16/02/18	School Development Day 3 (Children on Holiday)
	Monday 19/02/18	School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
March -	Monday 19/03/18	Holiday
	Tuesday 20/03/18	School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)
April -	Friday 30/03/18 – Monday 09/04/18	(Inclusive) Easter Holidays
	Monday 09/04/18	Baker Day 3 (Children on Holiday)
	Tuesday 10/04/18	Term 3 starts for children
May -	Monday 07/05/18	Holiday
	Tuesday 08/05/18	Baker Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
	Monday 28/05/18	Holiday
	Tuesday 29/05/18	Baker Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

Carrick Primary School is due to close for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 29th June 2018