



**Principal: Mrs A Cassidy**

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9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents

### **Welcome Back**

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school on **Tuesday 13/04/21 (Monday 12/04/21 is a School Development Day so no school for pupils)**. Let's hope we will have a good settled Term 3 with minimal disruption to the normal school routines and events.

**Trocaire Campaign 2021** Thank you for the donations for Trocaire on Thursday 01.04.21. We handed in a grand total of £485 for the Trocaire Campaign on Holy Thursday evening.

**Covid-19** The pupils can arrive at school each morning **from 8.45-9.15am. There is no facility to drop the children off any earlier due to the current restrictions. School finishes for pupils at 2.00pm (P1-3) and at 2.45pm (P4-7).**

**Please do not send a child to school** if he/she or anyone in the household has any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- **a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.**

If a child or anyone in the household has any of the symptoms above, they should get a test for Covid-19. Details on how to do this can be found via the Public Health Agency. **Please be mindful that children who have Covid-19 can display other less common symptoms, including a sore stomach, cramps, headache etc.** For more information, please contact your GP or the Public Health Agency or phone 119. Covid-19 is still in our communities and we need parents, pupils and wider society to stay vigilant to **“Keep It Out”** of our schools.

- **Covid-19 Home Testing Kits are available from the school. Please email the school on [acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net) if you require a kit.**

- **In order to reduce the risk of infection, avoid congestion and reduce the risk of accidents, 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 your help with this issue.**
- Pupils are asked to wear a fresh school uniform every day, if at all possible, to reduce the risk of infection.
- Parents are also asked to remain outside the school building, in an effort to reduce footfall and the risk of infection. If you have any particular pastoral, medical or safeguarding concerns, please email the school ([acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)) to arrange to speak to the relevant member of staff.

### **GAA**

We hope to resume GAA training for P5-7 boys and girls on Friday 16/04/21 and will confirm this as soon as possible.

If anyone has football boots at home which their sons or daughters have outgrown, please leave them into school as we have some pupils who occasionally forget their boots and need to borrow some from the store. We would appreciate this.

### **Art Week**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 will be Art Week and the children will be busy at a whole range of art activities and will be invited to take part in art competitions (where age appropriate).

### **Sustrans**

The school has been awarded the Silver Sustrans Award for the promotion of Active Travel. We are delighted to have achieved this award and have begun our work in preparation for the Gold Award.

**The next Feet First/ Fruit Friday is on Friday 30/04/21 and all the pupils and staff are asked to walk/cycle/scoot (where possible) to school or to walk/cycle/scoot part of the journey. The children are also asked to bring some fruit for their break on this day.**

### **Holidays in Term 2 and Term 3**

April -	Friday 02/04/21 – Monday 12//04/21	Easter Holidays (Inclusive)
	Monday 12/04/21	School Development Day 3
	(Children on Holiday)	
	Tuesday 13/04/21	Term 3 starts for Children
May -	Monday 03/05/21	Holiday
	Tuesday 04/05/21	School Development Day 4
	(Children on Holiday)	
	Monday 31/05/21	Holiday
	Tuesday 01/06/21	School Development Day 5
	(Children on Holiday)	

Carrick Primary School is due to close for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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

Please see the Education Authority's website ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)) 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. 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.

### **School Dinners**

The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Please make cheques payable to Carrick Primary School. Prompt payment is very much appreciated.

### **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 [www.eani.org.uk/transport](http://www.eani.org.uk/transport)

### **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.

### **Health Needs**

**Children in the Primary 1, 3, 4 and 5 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.

### **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 will resume after Easter. The bus normally 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. In the afternoon, the bus 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.

### **Parking Spaces for Disabled Drivers**

We would like to ask all drivers to remember to always leave at least 1 disabled parking space free, at the front of the school, for disabled drivers. We would really appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

## **Road Safety**

We are asking parents to reinforce road and vehicle safety messages at home, particularly in relation to wearing seatbelts on the bus and in the car and crossing roads safely.

## **Lego and Books**

There has been a great resurgence in the children's interest in Lego. If any family has any Lego or books which they no longer want, the school would certainly be able to put these resources to good use. Any donations would be very much appreciated. Thank you to all those families who have already sent in donations of books and lego.

## **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.**

## **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. **The next Fruit Friday/Feet First event will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

## **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.

## **Burren Football Gear**

Football gear for St Mary's Club, Burren is available from Mr James McGrath (07720812991).

## **Easy Fundraising**

Thank you for all those who have helped to raise almost **£1400** for Carrick Primary School since October 2017 through the Easy Fundraising Scheme. We currently have almost 70 supporters. Remember you can book hotels, flights, holiday tickets and can buy from many retailers including Tesco, Sainsbury, Amazon and make money for Carrick Primary School.

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!

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; and
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.

### **Archived Videos**

We have archived videos of over 34 school plays and events from 1994 onwards. These are available via the internet. Please google Carrick Primary School Vimeo to access these lovely memories!

### **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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Mrs Anne Cassidy

(Leadership Team)