



Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy

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3rd June 2024

Dear Parents

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout the 2023-2024 school year. We have had a very productive and enjoyable year and we are looking forward to 2024-2025. Our school year draws to a close on Friday 28th June 2024 at 12 noon. The children can wear their own clothes on the last day. There will be no dinners/lunches on this day due to the early closure. McAnulty's bus will be leaving the school at 11.45am. We wish everyone a lovely summer break. School will reopen for pupils on Thursday 29th August 2024 for Group 1 of the P1's (9-12noon) and Friday 30th August 2024 for P2-7 children (9-12noon) and Group 2 of the P1's (9-12noon). The school calendar for 2024-2025 is available on the website. Could you please return any school text books or library books in the coming weeks as teachers will be auditing the number of textbooks and library books in each class in the coming weeks. If any additional books are found over the Summer, please send them into school in September. We are always grateful for the return of books.

Sports Day

Our school's Sports Day took place on Friday 31st May 2024 over at the club. All the children enjoyed the sports and had a great day. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who participated!

Primary 7 Classes - Ulster Wool Innovators Project

The Primary 7 classes have been participating in the Ulster Wool Innovators Project under the direction of Mr Gerard Hughes from Sentinus. The children have been learning all about wool, its different uses and also its properties. They experimented with wool and natural dyes and worked with local sheep farmers and with businesses from NI who use wool to make different products. The children enjoyed these sessions and benefitted so much from the 1-to-1 help they received from grandparents, parents and friends. The children put together a display for their trip to the Balmoral Show on Wednesday 15th May 2024. The children really enjoyed the project and received great praise from the judges for their creativity and for their extensive knowledge.

Visit by New Primary One Children to Carrick

On Tuesday 4th June 2024 the new Primary One children, who will be starting school in September 2024, will be visiting Carrick between 1pm and 2pm. Our current Primary 1 children will be finishing school at 12.00noon on this day and will be getting their lunch/dinner at 11.45am, before they go home.

ICT Coding Workshop

On Tuesday 14th May 2024 some of our Primary 6 girls participated in an ICT Coding Workshop in Our Lady's Grammar School. The children learned about coding and programming and discussed the various career opportunities within this field. Thanks to Mr Gartland from Our Lady's for the invitation.

The Livestock and Meat Commission Cookery Demonstration

On Wednesday 22nd May 2024, Thursday 23rd May 2024 and Friday 24th May 2024 some of the P5-P7 classes participated in cookery classes, which were provided by the Livestock and Meat Commission. The children had the opportunity to prepare, look and sample the food and really enjoyed the experiences on offer.

Rights Respecting Week

Rights Respecting Week took place from Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May 2024 and the children participated in a wide range of activities which promoted their awareness of children's rights and the work of the United Nations. The winners of the competition were: Nola Kerr, Ella Murphy, Tom Magee, Grace Carr, Bran Lennon, Johnny Shields, Rosie Walsh, Oisín Stuart, Roise Evers, Grace Coulter, Evelyn Berger-Dynes, Molly Murney, Ellie Jane Carragher, Niamh McCaul, Mya Mulholland, Matty O'Hare, Charlie Hurson, Ava Mackin, Louis Hughes, Kate McGovern, Mollie McDevitt, Noel McPolin, Sadie McFerran, Harry McCormick, Alex Malone, Aoife McGivern, Aaron Mohan and Ellie Franklin.

The School Councillors are preparing for a visit by Mr Chris Quinn, who is the new Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. Mr Quinn will be in Carrick on Wednesday 12th June and he will be meeting all the children and discussing children's rights and his work as the Children's Commissioner.

First Holy Communion Certificates

Congratulations to our P4 pupils who attended Mass on Sunday 12th May 2024 and received their First Holy Communion certificates.

Pentecost Sunday

Well done to our Primary 7 pupils who attended Mass on Pentecost Sunday on 19th May 2024 and received their Confirmation certificates. Thanks to Mrs Harty for providing the music for these Masses and to the choir for singing so beautifully.

Sponsored Basketball Fundraising Day 14th June 2024

The Friends of Carrick Committee members have organised a Sponsored Basketball Fundraising Day on Friday 14th June 2024. The children can bring in their own basketball if they wish (with their name on it please) to use for practice sessions and to use on the Basketball Day on Friday 14th June 2024 or they can use the school's resources. Each child has received a Sponsor Card. Please send in all Sponsorship money and cards by Monday 10th June 2024. When they are returning their card and sponsorship money, please ask the children to call at the office for their reward. Thanks to all the children (including Primary 2 children!) who volunteered to demonstrate some of their basketball skills at the assemblies. The School Councillors will be selling basketball resources each morning from 8.45-9.00am. Thanks also to a group of students from St Colman's College, who came in recently and gave a brilliant basketball display at both assemblies.

Thanks to the Friends of Carrick for all their fundraising efforts. The money raised last year has been used to buy seven new iPads, beautiful new play resources and art resources. The children are really benefitting from these resources. Thanks to all the parents for supporting the fundraising events. The Friends of Carrick Annual General Meeting is due to take place on Monday 16th September 2024 at 7pm. New members are very welcome.

GAA League Matches

On Tuesday 21st May 2024, the girls from Carrick Primary School played a league blitz in Burren and qualified for a spot in the league semi-final. Well done to the girls who played exceptionally well in all these matches with the following results:

Carrick Primary School 6-5	v	Ballyholland	1-3
Carrick Primary School 6-6	v	St Dallan's	0-1

Carrick Primary School 2-5 v St Patrick's, Mayobridge 0-0

The squad included: Emma Day, Erin Kelly, Anna McGivern, Aoife McGivern, Caitlin McGovern, Grace McGovern, Caoimhi McGrory, Caitlin Byrne, Sorcha Collins, Heidi Fegan, Elsie McClorey, Gemma McStay, Cayleigh Ward, Evie Connolly, Elena Doran, Anna Dunbar, Ella Gray, Erin Harris, Kerri McAteer, Sadie McFerran, Grace Magee, Sarah Quinn, Aoife Donnan, Cara Doyle, Emma Egan, Aoibhinn McAllister, Niamh McManus, Ellie Mae McPolin, Isla Mohan, Amelia Mooney, Aimee Murtagh and Siofra Trainor.

On Thursday 30th May 2024, the boys from Carrick Primary School played a league blitz in Burren. Well done to the boys who played some very good football in the matches but unfortunately were defeated in the semi-final by St Ronan's who scored some excellent goals.

The results were as follows:

Carrick Primary School	6 - 3	v	St Ronan's, Newry	3 -
Carrick Primary School	5 - 4	v	St Bronagh's Rostrevor	0 - 4
Carrick Primary School	2 - 2	v	St Patrick's, Mayobridge	1 - 6
Carrick Primary School	2 - 4	v	St Dallan's, Warrenpoint	0 - 1

Semi-Final

Carrick Primary School 1 - 1 v St Ronan's, Newry 4 - 1

The squad included: Harry Coulter, Daniel Coulter, Daire Gillespie, Joe Lennon, Daniel McCartan, Shay McLoughlin, Jack McManus, Aaron Mohan, Conor Taggart, Oran Byrne, Zac Gee, Dara Grant, Harry O'Hare, James Rooney, Jack Ryan, Pater Ward, Caolan Doorley, Darragh McMeel, Thomas Short, Tommy Armstrong, Darragh Dickson, Cillian Moore, Dara Cunningham, Shéa Knox, Harrison Threlfall, Oran McBride, Fionn Magee, Connor O'Hare, Cillian O'Connor, Darragh Murtagh, Leo Byrne.

Thanks to Mr J McGivern, Mr D McCartan, Mr D Keenan and Mr S Murdock for all the coaching and encouragement. Thanks also to Mr P McCarthy for refereeing.

Connor McConville Tournament

The children from Carrick will be participating in the Connor McConville Gaelic Football Tournament on Wednesday 5th June 2024. We wish the children the best of luck in this tournament.

Warrenpoint Library

Many of our pupils participated in the Library's Summer Reading Challenge last year and enjoyed reading some fantastic books. We would encourage all parents to enrol their children in Warrenpoint Library and to access a super selection of quality books. Children can borrow up to 9 books at a time and the service is completely free. For more information, please call into Warrenpoint Library or visit www.librariesni.org.uk.

Healthy Me: Gardening Sessions

On Thursday 2nd May 2024 and Thursday 9th May, our Primary 4, 5 and 6 pupils had the opportunity to choose plants and to pot them as part of our Wellbeing Project. The children really enjoyed the gardening activities and learned so much about how to look after their plants and how to look after themselves.

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme

Our Big Walk and Wheel Challenge took place between Tuesday 7th May and Friday 10th May 2024. Lots of the children completed 10 Active Sessions/Active Journeys (of at least 15 minutes duration) and the winners of the draw were: Peter McGovern, Rocco Mallon, Saoirse Murtagh, Louisa McAnulty, Kathleen McGovern, Pola Jaszczuk, Kaiden Donnelly Heath, Mya Mulholland, Alfie Friel, Julia Wolinska, Isla Mohan, Sarah Quinn, Emma Day and Caitlin McGovern. Well done to these winners and to all participants.

Music Concert

On Thursday 13th June 2024 at 7.00pm we will be having our Annual Music Concert. All our string, woodwind and brass musicians will be performing, and we will also be welcoming back some of our past pupils who are still making music! Good luck to the boys and girls who are working hard in preparation for this event.

Maths and English Club

The P6 Maths and English Club, which finishes for the Summer on Tuesday 11th June 2024, will resume on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 and will run until November 2024.

Road Safety

For the purposes of road safety, can we remind everyone not to exit down the hill from the school on to the Bridge Road. The only route for cars exiting from the school is onto the Ballydesland Road.

Skills Day

Congratulations to Sorcha Collins, Ellie Franklin and Aaron Mohan who represented Carrick Primary School at the Down Skills' Day on Tuesday 7th May for Girls' Football, Camogie and Hurling. Well done! Congratulations to Sorcha Collins who was selected to play at half time in one of the football matches in Croke Park during the Summer.

Hurling and Camogie Training/ Football Training

Camogie/hurling training sessions take place every Monday from 3.00-4.00pm for P4-7 pupils. Football training sessions take place every Friday (weather permitting) for P4-7 pupils. P4-5 football training takes place from 2.00-3.00pm at the school, while P6-7 football training takes place from 3.00-4.00pm at the club. Please encourage the children to avail of these great opportunities. Thank you to Mrs A O'Hare, Miss E Gallagher, Miss N McGuigan and Mr D McConville for taking the Camogie and Hurling sessions and to Mr D Keenan, Mr S Murdock, Mr J McGivern, Mr D McCartan and Miss L McCarthy for taking the football training sessions.

Annual Reports

The children's Annual Reports will be sent home with the pupils on Monday 10th June 2024. Please feel free to comment on these reports, as your comments help us to keep improving the school, and return one copy of the report by Wednesday 12th June 2024.

Football Boots

We have lots of football boots of all sizes in the ball store in school. If anyone needs a pair of boots, please call at the office.

Burren Football Gear

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

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in 2023-2024 school fees. It has been a tradition for parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school, to help supplement the school budget, which has decreased significantly over the past few years. The fee for one pupil is £25, two pupils £40 and more than two pupils £45 and this is used to buy essential school resources. Thank you so much for all your support, it is very much appreciated. Please send in any remaining school fees.

Lego

There has been a great resurgence in the children's interest in Lego. If any family has Lego which they no longer want, the school would certainly be able to put it to good use and donations would be very much appreciated.

Complaints

Despite our best efforts, parents sometimes have complaints. However, we would ask parents to bring any complaints which they may have to the attention of any member of the Leadership Team (Dr Cassidy, Mrs Duffin or Mrs McCann), so that we can deal with your complaint. This would be very much appreciated. The Parental Complaints Policy is available on the school's website and from the office.

Child Protection

The school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Kelly, while Mrs McPolin and Mr Keenan are the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Mr G Murdock, Mrs P Sheehan and Dr A Cassidy are the Designated Governors for Child Protection. Please contact the Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teachers or any of Designated Governors if you have any Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns. Through our safeguarding programme, children are taught to speak up for themselves and to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or to Childline. If you would like to know more about our safeguarding programme, please contact the school.

Books

Thank you to those parents who have returned school textbooks, library books, easy reads or reading books and to those who have donated their own books which they no longer need. They are all very useful and are used to supplement our existing resources and make a huge difference to our class libraries.

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

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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

During Term 3 the following extra-curricular activities will be available:

Monday	P4-7	Camogie/ Hurling Training	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesday	P6	Maths and English Club	3.00-4.15pm
Tuesday	P7	Cookery	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P4-7	Soccer	3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P5-7	Choir	3.00-3.30pm
Fridays	P4/5	P6/7 Gaelic Football Training	2.00-3.00pm/ 3.00-4.00pm

Calendar

Carrick Primary School is due to close for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on Friday 28th June 2024.

P7 Pupils – Programme of Events

As the Primary 7 children are in their last term in Carrick Primary School, they will be busy with a whole range of activities and events including:

Transition Programme: Moving On, Moving Up

Visit by the school's Education Welfare Officer to the P7 classes

Townlands Walk

Visit to Irwin's Ring

Movie Day

Games at St Mary's Club, Burren

Football Competitions

Leavers' Mass

Castlewellan Outdoor Pursuits Trip

Awards

On Thursday 13th June 2024 we will be holding our annual Awards Day. These awards complement our school's Awards Programme which runs throughout the school year and includes weekly and monthly awards, including, Student of the Month Awards, ICT Awards, Easy Read Awards, Star Awards and Head Teacher's Awards. Well done to all the boys and girls who won awards on Awards Day and throughout the year.

School Dinners

The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per day or £13 per week and dinners are booked and paid for via the School App.

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. 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.

Applications for Transport

The on-line application system for Primary and Post-Primary Schools has now opened via EA Connect. Please make an on-line application if you require assistance with transport for September 2024. This includes Translink services and also the Education Authority service buses and private contractor services, employed by the EA to cover bus routes.

Health Needs

Children in many of the 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.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)