



Principal: Dr Anne Cassidy

**61Ballydesland Road
Burren
Warrenpoint
NEWRY
Co Down
BT34 3QA**

☎ (028) 41752448

✉ (028) 41752448

acassidy452@c2kni.net

7th May 2024

Dear Parents

First Holy Communion

Well done to all the Primary 4 children who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 4th May 2024. The children worked really hard in preparation for this Sacrament and were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Thank you to Mrs Harty for the lovely music and to the choir who sang beautifully and really enhanced the First Holy Communion Ceremony. Thanks also to Monsignor Connolly and Canon Powell for all their help with preparing the children for this Sacrament.

Good Manners Week

Good Manners Week took place from Monday 15th April - Friday 19th April 2024. The children completed a variety of activities highlighting the importance of good manners.

The winners of the Good Manners Art Competition were: Amira Abouda, Daithi Nagle, Gemma McStay, Daniel Coulter, Summer Leddy, Kerri McAteer, Aoibhínn McAllister, Harrison Threlfall, Eva McKernan, Rhys O'Rourke, Aidan McGovern, Emer McVeigh, Ava Matthews, Siofra McConville, Meabh Doran, Evie Madden, Emma Knapton, Tara Byrne, Cian Varagnat, Nina Farrell, Saoirse Murtagh, Ella McQuaid, Erin Collins, Kilian Fegan, Peter McGovern, Rosie McGovern, Oisín Burns and Cliodhna McMahan.

The children who were nominated by staff and tutors for consistently showing good manners were: Caitlin McGovern, Aideen Trainor, Harrison Threlfall, Shay McLoughlin, Róise Moore, Ollie Laverty, Grace McManus, Flynn Connolly, Noah McMahan, Oisín Downey, Saoirse Dunbar, Phelim O'Brien, Oisín Walsh, Holly Armstrong, Turlough O'Hare, Leo Byrne, Eoin Rice, Charlie McMahan, Finn O'Prey, Leo Byrne, Darcey Cousins, James McArdle, Caragh Coulter, Logan Burns, Freya Rohrs, Arthur Kelly, Conor Taggart, Liam Rooney, Thea Berger Dynes, Clara McCartan, Zac Bottell, Aideen Trainor, Charlie Smyth, Eoin Rice, Aston Aguero, Grace Coulter, Charlie McMahan, Peter Ward, Charlie Kelly, Molly Rafferty, Daniel McCartan, Siofra McConville, Mia Quirke, Shea O'Hare, Erin Collins, Harry O'Hare, Arthur McGovern, Siofra Trainor, Grainne Lennon, Alex Malone, Aoibhínn McAllister and Aoife Ennis.

Visit by Specsavers

On Tuesday 23/04/24 some of the Specsavers staff came to Carrick to talk to the Primary 4 and Primary 5 children about good eye health and the importance of limiting screentime in order to keep their eyes healthy. The children really enjoyed this session and learned so much! Thank you to the Specsavers staff for coming into Carrick.

Red and Black Day

On Friday 26th April 2024 the school held a Red and Black Day in support of the Down GAA Senior Footballers who took on Armagh in the Ulster Semi-Final on Saturday 27th April 2024. There was a special Down Assembly and the staff and pupils were joined by Mr Paddy O'Rourke, Mr Dan McCartan and Mr Noel Millar. The children demonstrated a good sound of knowledge of the history of Down football. Some lucky children (who were randomly selected) won Down socks and Down

shorts and Danny Kelly, from Primary 1, won the star prize, which was a Down jersey which had been signed by all the Down Footballers.

Entrepreneur Fair

On Thursday 25th April the P7 pupils held an Entrepreneur Fair. The P1-P6 pupils were all invited to visit the fair and to buy some of the goods, food and drinks which the P7 children were selling. Well done to our Primary 7 for their planning and delivery of this project. Thank you also to all the P7 parents who helped the children with sourcing, buying, pricing and advertising their stock.

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.

Sports Day

Sports Day has been scheduled for Friday 31st May 2024 (weather permitting), at St Mary's GAC, Burren. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Cycling Proficiency Lessons

Our P7 children are currently involved in Cycling Proficiency Lessons as part of our Road Safety Programme. We are delighted that the children are availing of these lessons, which are always very enjoyable and most beneficial. Thank you to Mrs Kelly, Mrs Murray and Ms Keenan for taking the Cycling Proficiency lessons.

Representative Matches and Skills Days

Well done to Jack Ryan who played at half-time at the Down v Antrim Championship match on Saturday 13th April 2024 and represented himself, his school and his family very well. Congratulations to Sorcha Collins, Ellie Franklin and Aaron Mohan who will be representing Carrick Primary School at the Down Skills' Day on Tuesday 7th May for Girls' Football, Camogie and Hurling. Well done!

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 and Mr D McCartan for taking the football training sessions.

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).

Primary 5 Readathon

Well done to the Primary 5 children who participated in a Readathon event on Friday 19th April 2024. The children read up to ten books and competed in a quiz based on the books they had read.

The winning teams were as follows:

1st Place Teams

Mrs Doyle's Class – Ciara Kelly, Lauren Begley, Philip Ward, Annie Evers, Frankie O'Hare, Grace McManus and Eoghan Reilly.

Ms Keenan's Class – Charlie Hurson, Olivia Devlin, Ryan Matthews, Turlough Rowntree, Darcey Cousins, Cormac Doherty and Rosa McManus.

2nd Place Teams

Mrs Doyle's Class – Annie McKinney, Alfie Friel, Lottie Benson, Aidan McGovern, Polly McCoy and James McConville.

Ms Keenan's Class – Fionn Heaney, Eimear McCaul, Sophie Hurson, Ollie Laverty, Jack Toner and Sorcha Ruddy.

Join the Library

Many of our pupils participated in Warrenpoint 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.

School Fees

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in school fees so far. 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.

Maths and English Club

The P6 Maths and English Club, which began in January 2024, will run until November 2024. The children will be revising topics in Maths and English. All the P6 children are welcome to attend these classes, which are optional. If your child is attending, please send in a healthy snack for him/her to eat prior to each class.

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 have been putting together a display for their trip to the Balmoral Show on Wednesday 15/05/24. The children are really enjoying the project and are looking forward to showcasing their great work.

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.

Sustrans Active School Travel Programme

Our Feet First Event took place on Friday 19th April 2024 and many of the children walked/cycled/scooted to school or part of their journey despite the bad weather. Well done to all those who participated! **Our next Sustrans event is the Big Walk and Wheel Challenge, which takes place between Tuesday 7th May and Friday 10th May 2024.** During this week the children are invited to complete 10 Active Journeys/Active Sessions. Each active journey/active session must be at least 15 minutes in duration. **Please encourage all the children to get involved.**

St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul can provide assistance for any family in need. Please contact St Vincent de Paul on 028 302 67590 or on 07562069337 if you would like any further information. **We recently received a donation of £1500 from St Vincent de Paul. This money will be used to reduce the cost of each child's end of year school trip by £4.** This will be of great benefit to many families. We would like to thank St Vincent de Paul for this generous donation and all those who support their fundraising efforts.

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 2023-2024 (May-June)

Monday 27/05/24	School Development Day 4 (Children on Holiday)
Tuesday 28/05/24	School Development Day 5 (Children on Holiday)

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

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.

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

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 will be participating in an ICT Coding Workshop in Our Lady's Grammar School. The children will be learning about coding and programming and will be discussing 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 will be participating in cookery classes, which are being provided by the Livestock and Meat Commission. The children will have the opportunity to prepare, observe and sample the food!

Rights Respecting Week

Rights Respecting Week will take place from Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May 2024 and the children will be participating in a wide range of activities which will promote their awareness of children's rights and the work of the United Nations. The children will also be 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 will be meeting all the children and discussing children's rights with the School Councillors.

Food and Fitness Event

On Friday 26th April the Northern Ireland Dairy Council came into school and held Food and Fitness Events for the Primary 5 and Primary 6 classes. The children really enjoyed the event and learned so much about how to stay healthy.

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 Teachers Awards.

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.

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.

Annual Concert

We will be holding our Annual Music Concert on Thursday 13th June 2024 at 7.00pm. The woodwind, string and brass instrumentalists are all working hard in preparation for their performances at this event. We wish them the best of luck!

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.

Archived Videos

We have archived videos of over 47 school plays and events from 1994 onwards. These are available via the internet. Please google Carrick Primary School Vimeo to access these lovely memories!

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Amanda Duffin

Mrs Mary McCann

Dr Anne Cassidy (Leadership Team)