



Carniny Primary School

Parents' Newsletter



No:01 16 17

www.carninyprimary.co.uk

Date: 07/09/2016

Welcome

I hope you all had a very enjoyable Summer vacation and are ready to begin a new school year at Carniny Primary. A special welcome to parents of our new pupils. We hope you will spend many happy years with us.

The School Premises

Special thanks to Mr Peacock, Mrs Davison and Mrs Hueston for working so hard to ensure the school is ready for the new academic year.

Parent Information

Meetings

Teachers in each year group have scheduled short information meetings (3.10 - 3.25pm) for parents at the beginning of the term. The purpose of the meeting is to inform parents of the routines and procedures in their child's new class/year. We hope you will be able to attend what should be an informative meeting. The dates of the meetings are as follows:

P1 - 12 Sept (3.10pm)

P2 - 31 August (3.10pm)

P3 - 5 Sept (3.10pm)

P4 - 1 Sept (3.10pm)

P5 - 7 Sept (3.10pm)

P6 - 8 Sept (3.10pm)

P7- 30 Aug (3.10pm)

Uniform

It is encouraging to see all children looking so smart in their school uniform.

Please remember children are expected to wear black shoes to school (not trainers).

All items of clothing should be appropriately labelled.

Uniform Recycling

Please bring in any school uniform you no longer require for re-sale by FOCPs. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Swimming Programme

This year's swimming programme commences for Primary 6 pupils on Tuesday 13th September. Primary 7 and Primary 5 will be participating in the School's Swimming Programme in the Spring and Summer terms respectively.

Carniny Carers at Carniny Primary (Wraparound Childcare Facility)

Carniny Carers



The school's wraparound child care facility is available in the mornings (7.45-8.30am) and afternoons (2.00-6.00pm). If you are interested in your child availing of this facility please speak to Miss McCartney. She can be contacted on the following mobile number - 07936454949 or through the school office (normal working hours).

New Pupils for Tuition on String Instruments (P4) Wind Instruments (P4&5) and Percussion (P5-7)



Any parent wishing their child to be considered for music tuition (Strings - P4 Woodwind & Brass - P4 & P5 & Percussion P4-P7) should make their request in writing to Mrs McCombe by Friday



2nd September 2016.
Peripatetic staff will assess the children's suitability to receive tuition. As the availability of woodwind and brass instruments is limited we may not be able to accommodate all requests. Please note there is a charge for tuition (payable in September) and also for hire of musical instruments. The school offers a bursary for our new start P4 pupils.

Music Exams

The following children were successful in Associated Board Exams in June 2016.

Pupil	Instrument/Grade
Sophie Hill	Violin Music Tracks Grade 1
Evan Andrews	Violin Music Tracks Grade 1
Sarah Oliver	Violin Music Tracks Grade 1
Stewart Paul	Trombone - Grade 1
Lucy McAllister	Flute - Grade 1
Sarah Stirling	Flute - Grade 3
Kate Wylie	Flute - Grade 3
Emma Weir	Flute - Grade 3

Congratulations to all.

School Stationery

It would be helpful if each child could bring his/her own pencils, colouring pens/pencils, eraser, ruler and prittstick glue.



P7 E&M Club

Children in Primary 7 have the opportunity of attending a weekly English and Maths after school Club commencing Thursday 1st

September (3.00-4.00pm). The club will be taken by Mr Church. Further details to follow.

Child Protection - Consent Forms

As part of our Child Protection Policy we ask you to read the attached document regarding Consent Forms and complete and return to school the relevant pro formas by Friday 2nd September.

Policy for Use of Computers / Ipad / Internet

Parents and children must all be aware of our policy concerning Responsible Computer/Ipad/ Internet Use.

Please read the attached policy and return completed pro forma to school by Friday 2nd September.

Child Protection / Volunteers

In accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy I would ask all parents who are interested in assisting voluntarily in any aspect of school life during 2016/2017 academic year (FOCPS, Transport, Library, School Visits etc.) to complete the online Access NI form. Before beginning the online application you will require an instruction form including a PIN number. This can be obtained from the office. On completion of the online form you will receive a Unique Access NI Number

which should be brought into school with relevant ID documents for verification.

This procedure must be repeated annually.

Calendar 2016 2017

A calendar for the school year has been attached and updated on the website.

School Hours

Classes begin at 8.45am with Roll Call. In the interest of safety pupils should not arrive in school before 8.30am

Primary 1 and Primary 2 remain in school until 2pm (Monday-Thursday and 1.45pm on Friday).

Primary 3 children remain in school until 3pm on Monday and Tuesday, 2pm on Wednesday and Thursday and 1.45pm on Friday.

School finishes at 3.00pm (Monday-Thursday) for all P4 - 7 pupils and 2.00pm on Friday.

Arrival in School (8.30-8.45 am)

Children enter the school grounds through one of the pedestrian gates on the Old Cullybackey Road and Carnview Park. For safety reasons the school driveway is only for vehicular access and **must not** be used by pedestrians at any time.



School doors will be opened at 8.30 am. Pupils should not arrive before this time when formal supervision begins. Children will enter the building through the entrance adjacent to their classroom. Mr Armstrong's Primary 5 and Mr Church's P6 pupils will walk to the rear of the school and enter their mobile classrooms. Pupils should leave coats and school bags in the cloakroom and then proceed to the playground.

Children must always bring a coat to school for outside play in inclement weather conditions.

On wet days (8.30-8.45am) all children will remain in their classrooms.

Morning Drop-Off

In an effort to promote independence we would encourage parents to allow their children to make their own way into the classroom each morning.

In the Foundation Stage pupils should be encouraged to begin this process of fostering an independent approach. After an initial settling in period, children could be accompanied to the main door and allowed to proceed to the cloakroom / classroom independently.

By Primary 3 we would like to see children being dropped

off in the playground which is supervised from 8.30am, and making their own way into the classroom. Please allow your child to be more independent.

End of School Day

Please refer to the arrangements for the End of the School Day which have been detailed in the attached document "Child Protection - Consent Forms"

From the beginning of this school year all P4-7 children exiting the school grounds at 3pm will be lead to the pedestrian gate on either the Old Cullybackey Road or Carnview Park by a member of staff, from where they can be collected by their parents or walk home.

Attendance Policy

Carniny Primary School recognises that punctual and regular attendance is an essential prerequisite to effective learning and is therefore committed to maintaining high levels of attendance and punctuality.

The school's Attendance Policy (attached) outlines our policy and procedures in more detail. Please take time to read this document.

Car Parking

When leaving children off in the morning and collecting



again in the afternoon I would ask parents to show consideration to local residents by **not** obstructing driveways. Parents should **not** use school car park to drop off pupils (Only cars displaying Disabled Badges are permitted to park in the Disabled Parking bay). In the interest of safety please do not park on the double yellow lines and Keep Clear Zones on the Old Cullybackey Road.

Eco School Club - Walking to School



The members of our Eco School Club have been discussing the benefits of exercise and walking.

At Carniny we would encourage more children to walk to and from school or partway.

The benefits of walking include:

- Developing safe road awareness in time for independent walking as a teenager
- Improvement in a child's concentration, making it easier to focus in class.
- Creating good habits for an active life as an adult



- Engaging with peers socially as they walk together
- Saving the environment If we all swapped one car journey a week for walking, car traffic levels would reduce by at least 10%.

By encouraging children to walk all, or part of the journey, to and from school it will not only be beneficial from a health perspective but also alleviate some of the parking issues we are experiencing at Carniny PS.

At the start of a new school year why not make a special effort to change old habits and give your children the opportunity to walk a greater distance to school.

Traffic Congestion in Carnview Park and Old Cullybackey Road

A committee comprising representatives from Education Authority, School Transport, Transport NI, PSNI, The Board of Governors, Parents and local residents has been meeting to discuss the parking issues on Carnview Park and Old Cullybackey Road.

Residents of both Carnview Park and the Old Cullybackey Road are concerned with the number of drivers parking their vehicles on the road causing obstruction to them

entering and leaving their premises. The problem is aggravated with some cars being parked from 2-3pm each day.

The matter has been raised in several newsletters with no significant change in some driver's attitudes.

The Committee's goal is to encourage drivers collecting children from school to be more considerate in their choice of parking area.

At the committee's recent meetings on 29 June and 23 August some options were discussed:

(1) Walking Bus

One possibility is to consider the creation of a **walking bus** between the school and Carniny Road in Carnview Park. Parent volunteers would walk a group of children along Carnview Park in the morning and at 3pm. This is something the working group wishes to explore.

(2) Creation of Bus Service

Another option to reduce traffic in the vicinity of the school is the creation of a **private bus service** to bring children to and from school each day. This would be a private service and the cost of daily travel, depending on the number of interested children would be in the region of £3-£5 per day.

Please see attached two potential bus routes. Final routes will be dependent on interest.

Please complete and return the attached pro forma to the school office to express your interest with the above options.

The school wants to find a solution that is acceptable to both parents and local residents. Your support in this matter will be very much appreciated.

Car Share

Another way to reduce the number of cars competing for parking spaces near the school is to "Car Share". This is an option families living in the same locality could consider. A simple change like this could make an enormous impact.

Car Park Proposals at School

I am pleased to report that the Education Authority is progressing plans to create 25 additional car parking spaces and drop off area at the front of the school. This will impact considerably on the parking situation. However until the project is completed we all need to play our part in the alleviation of the current tensions between parents, residents and the school.



Collecting Children Following Participation in Extra Curricular Activities (4pm)

Pupils must be collected on the Old Cullybackey Road at 4pm following participation in after school activities.

Visitors in School

To ensure safety of pupils we ask all visitors (parents/friends/teachers / Education Authority personnel) report to the office on entry to the school.

Parents wishing to collect children from school during the school day (ie for medical appointments) must first report to the school office. Your child will be collected from the classroom by a member of staff.

Dinner Money

Primary 1 -7 children have the option of choosing a set dinner costing £2.50 . All parents are encouraged to pay for School Dinners in advance using the ParentMail +Pay system. Alternatively pupils can pay by cash on Monday mornings. Dinner money **must** be in an envelope clearly marked with the child's full name and class. Envelopes are available from the office. Please note that payments can be made for periods longer than one week. The monthly menu can be viewed on the school website

or copies are available opposite the office door.

Toast Money

Children in P1-7 have the option of buying toast for morning break from the School Meals Kitchen. Toast money should be paid each Monday or the first day of the week the child has returned following an absence. The cost of toast for a school week is £1.25 (25p per day - adjusted as required). Refunds are not given for days children have been absent from school. Please do not place Dinner and Toast money in the same envelope. Toast money can **not** be paid via +Pay.

School Milk Scheme

Pupils have the opportunity of purchasing milk within the EC Milk Scheme. 1/3 pint cartons will cost 20p. The total payment for the school year will be **£33.50** and should be paid by Monday 13th September. This can be paid either by cash, cheque (made payable to Carniny Primary) or +Pay. There will be no refunds for absent days. Please complete the pro forma granting your child permission to purchase milk for this term. Milk will be available from Monday 19th September. Additions **cannot** be added after the above date.



Healthy Break Policy



As a school we hope for your support in our continued efforts to promote healthy eating at break time. Our Healthy Break policy has been established to ensure an on-going focus on this area.

Why is a healthy break important?

- Childhood is an important time to establish good eating and drinking habits for future health.
- The promotion of a healthy break policy within school gives pupils the knowledge and opportunity to make healthy choices.
- A healthy snack at break time can help with pupils' concentration and behaviour in the classroom.

What is included in a healthy break?

- Drinks - it is important that children drink enough during the day, so they do not become dehydrated and tired. Water dispensers are available throughout the school, and pupils may drink from their water bottle freely during class. A drink should also be

included for break / lunch, water (unflavoured) or milk being the most suitable.

- Fruit and Vegetables - fresh fruit and vegetables make a very healthy break time snack.
- Bread-based snacks - these can help to meet your child's extra energy needs and help your child feel more satisfied. Care should be taken to not use spreads or fillings which are high in sugar and fat. Our school kitchen offers toast with a thin spread of butter each break time, if you wish to order this for your child.

At various stages throughout the school year we will be conducting a survey of how each class has adopted a healthy break ethos. We would greatly value your support in this very important area.

Drinking Water

We realise the health and educational benefits of allowing children to drink still water (with no additives) during the school day.

We encourage children to drink the purified drinking water available in school.



Children will require their own drinking bottles which are available from the school office at a cost of £2.

Peanut Allergies

There are a number of children in school who have an allergy to peanuts.

To minimise the risk of children taking severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts we would ask that children do not consume peanut products in school.

Pupils Record Changes

I wish to remind parents of the importance of notifying the school of any changes to pupil records during the school year (address, telephone number, emergency contact numbers, mobile phone numbers etc.).

Website

Please remember to access our school website regularly during the year:

www.carninyprimary.co.uk

Any suggestions regarding the website will be greatly appreciated.

School Handbook

Parents of new pupils have received a copy of the School Handbook.

Additional copies of the Handbook may be obtained from the office or

downloaded from the school website.

ParentMail PMX

Our ParentMail has been upgraded to a more user friendly system. Parents can now download a Parentmail PMX App on their smart devices for greater convenience. I would encourage all parents to make use of this facility.

Sponsored Walk

Our Sponsored Walk at Portglenone Forest in June raised £1956. Thank you to everyone for your tremendous support.

Raymond Ross (Principal)



