



**Carrick Knowe Primary School
Newsletter
January 2019**



"Achieving Excellence Together"

Dear Parents & Carers,
Welcome to the first school newsletter of 2019. Although Christmas and New Year seem like a distant memory, we would like to extend our best wishes for the coming year.

Dates for your diary!



- 1st Feb** - Scots Verse Assembly
- W.b.4th Feb** - World of Work Week
- 5th Feb** - German Education Trainee begins to work with P5 - P7 classes
- 5th Feb** - PTA Meeting 7pm in school. All welcome.
- 6th Feb** - World of Work Week Open Afternoon - Please join us in the Assembly Hall at 1.30pm before visiting your child's class to share their learning.
- 7th Feb** - PTA School Disco (see below for details)
- 8th Feb** - **School closes at 12.15pm (P1-P2) and 12.25pm (P3-P7)** for the February holiday week. We will re-open at **8.50am on Monday 18th February.**
- 19th Feb** - P4 excursion to Dynamic Earth
- 22nd Feb** - P3 Assembly - all P3 parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9.15am in the Assembly Hall.
- 27th Feb** - P7 classes to 'Art of Listening' workshop at The Hub
- 27th Feb** - P2/3 to visit Pizza Express
- 1st March** - P4 Assembly - all P4 parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9.15am in the Assembly Hall.

5th March - RSHPE information evening for P6 parents and carers at 6pm in school. More information will follow.

5th March - Parent Council Meeting - 7pm in school. All welcome.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Jennifer McNamara has joined the Carrick Knowe PS team as our Business Manager. Mrs McNamara will be based in school 2 days per week and we extend a warm welcome to her.



Cross Country Festival

On Monday 28th January, Mrs Ross (PSA) and Mrs Crawford (PSA) accompanied some of our P6 and P7 boys and girls to Saughton to take part in the P6/7 Cross Country Festival. Mrs Ross reported *"They all ran extremely well and had a great morning. A special mention to our medal winners - Hannah Innes - P6 who came 10th in the P6 Girls category; Amy Leccia - P7 who came 4th in the P7 Girls category and Charlie Spence - P7 who came 9th in the P7 Boys category. Each field had approximately 85 runners so a huge well done and congratulations to Hannah, Amy and Charlie. Everyone was on their best behaviour and they join me in thanking Mr Malone and Mr*

O Connell for their fantastic training session!"

Carrick Knowe PS are very proud of all the boys and girls who took part - well done and thank you to Mrs Ross and Mrs Crawford!



Headlice

Please remember to check your child's hair on a regular basis to help us reduce the number of cases of headlice. As you will be aware, headlice are passed extremely quickly and easily between children. Information leaflets are available via NHS, on-line and from Pharmacies.



Car Parking

As you will no doubt be aware, car parking outside our school remains an ongoing issue. As a school community we want to ensure that each and every one of our children is safe at all times on their way to and from school. You may have seen in the media recently that many schools have launched 'Park Smart' campaigns to encourage drivers to park further away from the school gates. Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's) will be looking at this in the near future, but in the meantime, please consider the safety of all and do not park near the school gates. We thank you for your support in this.



PTA Disco

The PTA disco will take place on Thursday 7th February in school. **The P1-3 disco will run from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.**

The P4-7 disco will take place from 7.45pm - 8.45pm.

Tickets cost £2.50 and include juice and crisps. These can be bought from the PTA

in the playground at the end of the school day from Monday 4th February.

Please be reminded that EVERY child at each disco must be collected by an adult.

No child will be allowed to walk home on their own.



Scots Verse Assembly

Tomorrow (Friday) we look forward to hearing the winners from each class recite their Scots poems at our assembly. A huge well done to both our winners and the rest of our boys and girls who worked hard to learn poems and recite them with expression, actions and confidence! Mrs Clark and I had a lovely morning listening to the three finalists from each of the classes and it was extremely difficult to choose winners! We will also hand out certificates for the winning pieces of Scots inspired artwork from each class and Scots writing from our P6 and P7 classes. Parents and carers of the verse winners from each class have been notified and invited to join us at the assembly. We look forward to seeing you there.

Scooters /Bikes

To support the healthy lifestyles of our children, we encourage children to cycle or scoot to and from school. It has been brought to our attention however that some of our nursery and P1 - 2 children are playing on bikes and scooters which do not belong to them at the end of the day whilst waiting for older brothers and sisters coming out of school. This has resulted in scooters being damaged and left lying in the playground, not in the scooter racks. Please do not allow your child to play on bikes and scooters which do not belong to them. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Values

On the In-Service day following the Christmas holidays, we took time as a whole staff to consider our current school values. We discussed whether these values - Compassion, Integrity, Justice and Wisdom - were the right values for Carrick Knowe PS and how relevant they were for our school community. Over the next few months, we will be consulting all of our school community about our school values - children, families and the wider community. This will result in agreed and shared values which will underpin and influence daily life in school. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to give their views during our parent interviews in March. Further information about this will be issued nearer the time.

Severe Weather (repeat message from our last newsletter!)



So far this winter we have been fortunate with the weather, however past experience tells us that often the worst of the winter hits in the coming months. We will always do our utmost to keep the school open in severe weather but on occasion, there may be times when, to keep everyone safe, we have to close. In the event that we have to close midway through the day, it is ESSENTIAL that we have up to date contact details for you. Please let Mrs Matear in the office know if any of your contact details have changed - particularly mobile phone numbers as we must be able to contact you in any emergency.

If there is a decision to close the school early in the morning or the night before, we will post this information as soon as possible on the school website and on our Twitter feed. Mrs Matear will also send an email via ParentPay to all parents. Keep listening to Forth FM as they update

on school closures too. Everyone keep their fingers crossed that there is no need for us to close at all!

Communication with parents

At Carrick Knowe PS we are very fortunate to have a committed and supportive school community. At our school the staff, parents and carers all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership between us.

Naturally there can be some occasions where there can be misunderstandings, issues or incidents which can cause frustration and can have a negative impact on relationships. When this does happen, we are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. School staff will always communicate with parents in a calm and respectful manner and I would ask that all parents afford school staff the same courtesy. Recently there have been several occasions where staff have been shouted at or spoken to aggressively by parents and carers. There is, and always will be, a zero tolerance to this type of behaviour. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact me in school or your child's teacher, who will always make time to meet with you to hopefully resolve it in a positive manner. Thank you.

School Uniform

As you will be aware, we encourage all children to wear school uniform. It promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school and reduces any competition there may be in wearing the most up to date clothes, brands etc. We have recently received a large donation of nearly new uniform in a variety of sizes from the Edinburgh School Uniform Bank and this is available to anyone who would like it. Please come into school to see myself or Miss

Inglis or contact us by phone if this could be of use to you.

As always, please let us know if you, or anyone you know, requires school information in a different language.

Gail MacLean
Headteacher

Website: carrickknoweprimary.com

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"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X