



**Carrick Knowe Primary School
Newsletter
September 2020**



Achieving Excellence Together

Dear Parents & Carers,

WELCOME BACK 2020-21

A very warm welcome back to all our returning children and families, and a special welcome both to our new P1 children and other new children and families who have joined Carrick Knowe PS this session. Although it has been a VERY different start to the school year than we are used to, everyone has settled very quickly and adapted to the (much used phrase) 'new normal'. Despite everything going on around us, we are still very much looking forward to another busy and productive year ensuring that all we do is continually improving outcomes for our learners.



Dates for your diary!

This section of our newsletter is much smaller than usual I'm afraid!

4th September ~ Virtual Assembly ~ Resilience

11th September ~ Virtual Assembly ~ Growth Mindset

18th September ~ Virtual Assembly ~ Celebrating Success

21st September ~ September Holiday ~ School closed. It will reopen on Tuesday 22nd September at 8.50am.

24th September ~ P1-P7 Flu Immunisations

25th September ~ Virtual Assembly ~ Resilience

Week beginning 28th September ~ Maths Week Scotland

1st October ~ Parent Council Meeting via Microsoft Teams. All welcome.

2nd October ~ Virtual Assembly ~ Values

Thank you!

Although I sent a note to you the other day, I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone for adhering to our new systems and processes in and around school. It really does make a difference and is key in keeping all of our children safe.



Road safety at the end of the school day remains a concern however and all children have been told that they **CANNOT** cross the road at the bottom of the drive. Instead they must walk to the crossing at the other school gate and cross safely there. This is mainly due to parked cars blocking the view of children and so they cannot see whether the road is clear. Similarly, motorists are unable to see children coming from between parked cars. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK NEAR THE SCHOOL GATES. IDEALLY PLEASE DO NOT PARK ANYWHERE ON LAMPACRE ROAD.** We have been in touch with colleagues from City of Edinburgh Council and are looking for their support in making the end of day arrangements safe for our children.



Our School Values

To all our new parents and children at CKPS - our school values are

KINDNESS, RESPECT, HONESTY and RESPONSIBILITY.

Over the coming year we will be promoting these values, embedding them within the school community and continuing to think about what they look like in our daily lives here in Carrick Knowe and beyond. Several of our assemblies throughout the year will be 'Values' focused and we use the language of our

values in discussions with children regarding behaviour - both positive and negative. We have decided to focus on 'Kindness' in this first term and being a 'Bucket Filler' (ask your child about it! P1s are sticking with their 'Bear' theme and are filling honeypots instead!)



Headteacher Drop-in

Last session on the first Monday of each month between 3.30pm and 4.30pm, there was a Headteacher Drop-in session. These sessions were to allow any parent/carer the opportunity to drop in to see me without the need to make an appointment. Unfortunately, in the current circumstances, the drop-in sessions cannot take place. I would however invite parents/carers to contact me either via email or phone if they would like to speak to me, or alternatively I am in the playground most mornings and you would be able to catch me there.

Assemblies

Unfortunately, our assemblies when we can gather together as a whole school have fallen victim to our current circumstances!

Instead we are having weekly 'virtual' assemblies where the children can watch the assembly on the whiteboard in their classroom. It's not quite the same but hopefully we will be able to do the real thing again soon! The focus of each of our assemblies is outlined in the 'dates for your diary' section.

Hallowe'en

At this time of year, the PTA would be organising a variety of different social and fundraising events for the children in school. This would usually include the annual Hallowe'en disco.

Obviously, this will not be able to go ahead. Some parents have asked whether classes will celebrate Hallowe'en individually. Hallowe'en is an extremely divisive 'celebration'. Some parents and children really enjoy it whilst others do not and do not wish to take part in any aspect of it. Having the Hallowe'en disco has allowed children and parents to make the decision whether they want to participate or not. Hallowe'en celebrations in class remove any

choice parents and children have. This means that individual classes will not be celebrating Hallowe'en.



A plea...

We have several children in school who have severe nut allergies. To keep all our children safe, we would ask for your support in ensuring nuts, or products containing nuts, are not brought into school for snacks or in packed lunches. This is especially important at the moment as children are eating lunch together in classrooms and are in very close contact. Thank you.

House/Sports Captains

Our P7s have been busy putting together their campaigns and filming their speeches in a bid to be elected either House or Sports Captains. The speeches have been shown to each class and the children have had the opportunity to vote for their choice. Watch this space for the results!!



Reassurance Teddies

During lockdown, Fiona Mathieson, the minister of Carrick Knowe church was in touch with me to ask whether we would like 'Reassurance Teddies' for our P1 and 2 children on their return to school. Many members and friends of the church then spent time knitting enough teddies for each child to have their own bear. This fitted in beautifully with the P1 Transition context which was 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'.

The children received their teddies when they came back into school and the P1 and 2 class teachers had planned different activities around the teddies. This has been very successful in helping the children settle back into school and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Carrick Knowe church who gave up their time to knit for us!! We really appreciate it.



PTA

You will have received a letter from Clare Grieve (Chairperson of the PTA) and Jeanette Ross (Chairperson of the Parent Council) earlier this week. This was to let you know that from this session, the PTA and Parent Council will no longer be separate groups but will come together as one. We require to have a meeting to officially agree to disband the PTA as it stands, and the details of how to join this meeting are contained within the letter sent out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the PTA, past and present, for the huge amount of work they have done for the school, both in giving up their own time to organise and supervise the many social events the children have enjoyed and in the fundraising they have done. This has enabled us to buy things for our school and enhance the experiences of children that we would not have been able to do otherwise. I am sure that the new combined group will continue with this great work in supporting Carrick Knowe PS.

Finally.....as always, we appreciate feedback from parents, carers and families in what we are doing well and how we can continue to improve. We will be issuing a short survey in the very near future and I hope as many of you as possible will complete it. This will provide us with important information which will feed into our School Renewal Plan. Watch out for the link which will be with you soon - thank you!



Gail MacLean
Headteacher

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@CarrickKnowe

P.S.

Remember....

...if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please come and speak to us!

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

"If plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters."

Claire Cook