



**Carrick Knowe Primary School  
Newsletter  
November 2020**



***Achieving Excellence Together***  
**KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY**



Dear Parents & Carers,  
I hope this newsletter finds you all still safe and well. The issue date of the newsletter is slightly different from usual, but as Christmas rapidly approaches I thought it would be a good idea to let you all know what some of our Christmas activities will look like this year!



**Dates for your diary!**

**13<sup>th</sup> November** ~ 'Children In Need' dress down day

**Wk beg 16<sup>th</sup> Nov** ~ Book Week Scotland

**Wk beg 16<sup>th</sup> Nov** ~ NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe.

Online assemblies

**20<sup>th</sup> November** ~ Dress up as your favourite book character day & Book Week assembly

**4<sup>th</sup> December** ~ Celebrating Success Assembly

**11<sup>th</sup> December** ~ Christmas Jumper and On-line Pantomime Day!

**16<sup>th</sup> December** ~ Last day to buy Christmas Raffle Tickets

**22<sup>nd</sup> December** ~ School closes for Christmas holidays. We reopen for children at the usual time on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

\*Please note that Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January is a Staff Development Day.

**Christmas Parties**

Classes will still have a Christmas party! However, these will have to be held within individual classrooms. Any food and drinks supplied will be pre-packaged. Children can come to school that day with their party clothes on. Dates for the class parties will come direct from the class teachers, so look out for these.

**Christmas Jumper Day/Online Pantomime**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December will be Carrick Knowe PS Christmas Jumper Day. Children and staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers, Santa hats, Rudolph antlers etc, etc. This is purely for fun and not a fundraising event, so no money is required! We will also watch our online pantomime - Robin Hood - on this morning in our classrooms. Children can bring a snack and drink to have while watching the pantomime.



**Christmas Film**

In the last week of term, each class will have the opportunity to watch a Christmas film together. Again, the class teacher will make you aware of the exact date. We will provide a snack for the children to have while watching the film.



**Christmas Montage**

Unfortunately, there will be no nativity or Christmas Carol concert this year. Instead, we will put together a montage of the different Christmas things individual classes are doing so that we can share this with everyone in school.



**Christmas Jumper Swap**

Last year our 'Christmas Jumper Swap' was very successful. It meant that Christmas jumpers which



**Christmas!**

As you know, Christmas this year will look a bit different for us all. We are determined however to do as much as we can and get Carrick Knowe PS into the festive spirit!

were too small for your own children could be passed on to other children in school and those who needed one could receive a Christmas jumper from school. This year any donations of Christmas jumpers will need to be quarantined and washed before we offer them to other children. If you have any Christmas jumpers you would like to donate, there will be a box in the school foyer from **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November.** Please drop them off in here. Your support is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

### **Christmas Post**

Unfortunately, we will not have our 'Christmas Postbox' in school this year. In addition to children not bringing things in from home, we are unable to have children moving around the school delivering Christmas Post to the different classes. We would ask you NOT to allow children to bring in Christmas cards to hand out in school. Thank you for your support with this.



### **Parent Council Fundraising Christmas Raffle**

Despite there being no Christmas Fair this year, the Parent Council have organised an online Christmas raffle.

Raffle tickets will **only be available ONLINE via your ParentPay account.** For other family and friends who would like to buy tickets, they will have to do this through your account. There will be a comments box for you to write down the name or names you want on the tickets when you buy. The other major difference is that there will be **no physical tickets**. Instead, names will be put into a random name picker. You can still buy multiple tickets and your name will be included that number of times. There are lots of great prizes to be won including an I-pad! If you have any further questions, then please contact us rather than the school office using the following email: [CKPC.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:CKPC.fundraising@gmail.com)

### **Building Works Update**

We are delighted to be able to say that our building works are almost complete! The last of the scaffolding was due to be removed last weekend but that did not happen. We are keeping our fingers crossed it is removed soon and we can have the playground back to ourselves again!



### **Book Drop**

We are looking for donations of books - suitable for children in P5-P7 - for our class libraries. A 'Book Drop' has been placed in the foyer at the main entrance. If you have any good quality books you would like to donate to us, please drop them here. Please note:

we have more than enough for P1-4, so please only donate books for our older children. Thank you!

### **Staffing**

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, Mrs Buchanan will return to Carrick Knowe PS from maternity leave. Ms Pincock who teaches P2B has decided to reduce her working week and so from week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Ms Pincock will teach P2B on a Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Buchanan teaching the class on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On a Wednesday, Ms Pincock will cover RCCT for the P4 classes, focusing on Outdoor Learning.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, we say farewell to Miss Sam Bell, who has been teaching P3A since we returned to school in August. I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Bell for all her hard work and I know the children and families of P3A will miss her! Miss Bell has secured a post in Trinity PS and we wish her well in her new role.

This means that Mrs Clark will teach P3A on a Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Henderson (who teaches P1A on a Monday and Tuesday) teaching the class on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



### **Digital Learning and our Blended Learning Strategy**

Our recent In-Service Day in October focused on Digital Learning and the knowledge and skill required to continue with effective learning and teaching should we ever need to implement a Blended Learning Model (where due to COVID-19 restrictions, children would only attend school for part of the week).

We have developed a 'Blended Learning Strategy' which sets out what this would look like in practice. If we were to enter a phase of Blended Learning,

this document would be issued to all parents. My hope is that we never have to do this!! However, if you would like to see this document now, please get in touch me and I will be more than happy to share a copy with you.

### **PTA Fundraising**

Due to the PTA and the Parent Council now being one group, the money which the PTA had fundraised previously was handed over to the school - we are VERY grateful. Some of this money will be used to fund the class Christmas parties, replace the outdoor speaker (the one we use for Sports Day etc) and to buy some small speakers for the playgrounds to allow the children to dance and listen to music during breaks and lunchtimes. We are also resourcing our Outdoor Learning plans. Thank you to everyone for this.

### **Food Donations**

With Christmas just around the corner, Miss Owenson, one of our PSAs, is collecting food donations for the local food bank. If you would like to donate, there will be a box in the playground near the P4 classrooms for you to drop off any donations. Please make sure any food donation is well within its use-by date. Please also note that we cannot accept fresh food e.g. fruit, bread.

### **Thank you!**

I would like to say a huge thank you to Lorna Fogden, Winter's mum, who has been making and selling face coverings over the last few months. Many staff have been buying them and Lorna has donated her profit to the school to help with Outdoor Learning resources. We are very appreciative!



During lockdown, many of our school reading books were taken home by children. A substantial number of these were never returned. (if you have any still at home, please bring them back!) This means we are short of books - again, at the upper end of the school - and this can make it difficult for children to read the same text together in a group.

We have started looking to replace these and the PTA fundraising money will come in very handy to do this.

We have also however received two other very generous donations from families to help us begin our replenishment! A huge thank you to the Mackie family and the Smith family for their donations to support our book buying mission! It really will help.



### **Free Travel Consultation**



Please see below for a consultation on free bus travel for people under the age of 19 issued by the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government is consulting on Free Bus Travel for Under 19s and intends to launch a new statutory national concessionary travel scheme for young people living in Scotland up to their 19th birthday.

It is anticipated that legislation would go to the Scottish Parliament in early 2021 and come into effect later in the year.

The consultation period ends on 7th December 2020 and more information on the proposals can be found here: [https://consult.gov.scot/transportscotland/consultation-free-bus-travel-for-people-under19/user\\_uploads/freebus-for-under-19s---final-consultation-pdf-version---23-october-2020.pdf](https://consult.gov.scot/transportscotland/consultation-free-bus-travel-for-people-under19/user_uploads/freebus-for-under-19s---final-consultation-pdf-version---23-october-2020.pdf)

You can take part in the online consultation here: <http://consult.gov.scot/>

If you are unable to respond using their consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form and return via e-mail to [Under19Consultation@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Under19Consultation@transport.gov.scot)

The form can also be downloaded, printed in pdf format and completed in writing and mailed to:  
Under 19 Consultation Bus,  
Accessibility and Active Travel,  
Transport Scotland,  
Buchanan House,  
Glasgow.

### **Finally, ....**

In the next few weeks, we would like to ask parents and carers their opinions on our different methods and frequency of reporting on your child's progress. Please look out for the link to participate in the questionnaire coming soon and please do complete it if you can - it really helps when we have a wide range of parents' opinions and views to help influence how we move forward. Thank you in advance.

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.



Gail MacLean  
Headteacher

Website: [carrickknoweprimary.com](http://carrickknoweprimary.com)



@CarrickKnowe

*"Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person."*

**Unknown**