



Carrick Knowe Primary School

Newsletter

October 2023



“Achieving Excellence Together”

Kindness Respect Responsibility Honesty

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you all had a good October break and were able to have some downtime with your families despite the rain!! Now that Hallowe'en has passed, our thoughts must turn to Christmas, although we have much to do before that as you will see below.

As I said before, as the weather begins to turn colder, please ensure your child brings a coat to school each day as unless the weather is very bad, we will continue to use our outdoor space as much as possible. We currently have a good selection of pre-loved coats in school and if you would like to make use of these, please contact Laura Doig in school, as she will be more than happy to help.



Dates for your Diary:

2nd November ~ P1 Open Day. **This is an open day for parents/carers of children starting school in August 2024**

2nd November ~ Parent Council Meeting. 7pm in school. All welcome.

7th/9th November ~ Supported Self-Evaluation Visit – see below for further information

8th November ~ School **closed to all pupils** due to Industrial Action

10th November ~ Remembrance Assembly in school

10th November ~ P7 reps to attend the Remembrance Service at Corstorphine War Memorial

13th November ~ P6 & P7 athletes to Meadowbank for P6 & P7 Sportshall Athletics Festival

13th November ~ ASN Parent Coffee Morning – 9.15am in school

14th November ~ P4 classes to Murrayside Care Home to plant bulbs

14th November ~ CKPS Parent Council Fundraising Meeting – 7pm in school. All welcome

15th November ~ P4 classes to see ‘Aladdin’ at The Edinburgh Playhouse

17th November ~ EAL Parent Coffee Morning – 9am in school

17th November ~ P7 classes – visit to the ‘Risk Factory’

20th November ~ P7 boys to FHS – Transition Event
Further detail below

27th November ~ Flu Vaccinations

30th November ~ P7 Ceilidh 6.15pm – 8.15pm. More information to follow for P7 families

2nd December ~ CKPS Christmas Fair

5th December ~ Nativity Performance for the school

7th December ~ CKPS Christmas Lunch

7th December ~ P1-3 Nativity Performance for parents/carers (PM)

8th December ~ P1-3 Nativity Performance for parents/carers (AM)

***Further information about the Nativity Performances will follow**

8th December ~ P7s – Forrester High School – Teamwork event

*Dates for parties etc are on the annual school calendar sent out in August, however class teachers will send more information via Learning Journals about these.

Supported Self-Evaluation

In last month's newsletter I made you aware of our upcoming Supported Self-Evaluation Visit. This was originally to take place on 7th and 8th November. Due to the Industrial Action planned for 8th November, it will now take place on 7th and 9th November. As stated, this is a process whereby a team consisting of our QIEO, Education Officers from the council and a Head Teacher from another school spend 2 days in Carrick Knowe Primary School and Nursery Class. Following a presentation and discussion with myself and the rest of the Leadership Team, they will spend time in classes and speak with staff, children and parents/carers. This should support our own self-evaluation of where we believe our strengths lie, allow us to showcase our achievements and state what our areas of development are.

Over the past few weeks, staff have been working hard to ensure we show off the very best of Carrick Knowe. Your child may be part of a focus/discussion group during these two days and you, yourself may have been asked to join a parent/carer discussion group. After the two days, we will receive feedback on our strengths and

areas for development from the team. These will then be shared with yourselves. If you have any questions around this visit, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.



Industrial Action

Earlier this week you should have received a letter from Lorna French, Chief Education Officer, regarding the planned Industrial Action by UNISON and the subsequent closure of schools to all children in the primary sector. This will take place on **WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER** and Carrick Knowe Primary School and Nursery Class will be closed to **ALL** pupils. We will reopen for pupils as normal on Thursday 9th November.

As during the last period of Industrial Action, P1-5 pupils will receive a learning pack from school by Tuesday 7th November. P6 and P7 will be set work and times for any TEAMS check-ins via their I-pads.



Roadworks



You can't have failed to notice the roadworks taking place outside our school at the moment! As indicated in my previous letter this week, we are opening the school gates earlier to allow children and parents to enter the school grounds rather than congregating outside on the road. **PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL STAFF IN THE PLAYGROUND UNTIL 8.40AM.** If your child arrives before then, they will be unsupervised. I have contacted the Active Travel team within the council who have advised that they would look to see what they could do to stop cars coming down the road and trying to avoid the Saughton Road North works. They also advised that the works were due to end on 12th December.

Please remind your children that cars are using the road during the drop-off and pick-up times and to be extra vigilant.



Staffing

On Friday we said goodbye to Mrs Gillian Cooper in the nursery as she left for a new post in Midlothian. We wish her well in her new adventure!

We would also like to say welcome to Ms Emily Gillies and Ms Natasha Miller, who have joined us as Pupil Support Assistants in school.

Following interview, we also welcome Ms Jade Alexander, who is currently an EYP in our nursery class, into the school building as the EYP within our P1 classes.



A HUGE thank you and well done!!

We have been overwhelmed at the response to our 'Sponsored Obstacle Course' which all the children in the school took part in on the Thursday before the October break. Mrs Kane and the P7 Sports Captains did a wonderful job in designing and setting up the course and the children had a fantastic time completing it.

We have raised the amazing amount of **£2668** which will pay for our trim trail to be repaired and keep it safe for all of our children to play on. This was a fabulous effort from everyone within our school community and we are extremely grateful.



Finally..... there has been an increase in the number of children who are bringing juice to school in their water bottles. We are asking for your support in ensuring that water bottles are filled only with water. Juice (non-fizzy) may be brought for lunchtime if required but water bottles held in classrooms should contain plain water. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gail Canning'.

Gail Canning
Headteacher

Website: www.carrickknoweprimary.com

Please let us know if you, or anyone you know, requires this in another language.

“The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.”

B. B. King