



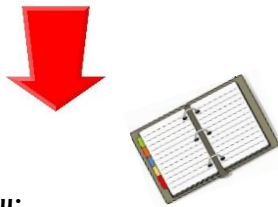
Carrick Knowe Primary School Newsletter November 2023



“Achieving Excellence Together”

Kindness Respect Responsibility Honesty

Dear Parents & Carers,
We are once again heading towards the end of a busy term and the Christmas holidays, which for some of you may not feel like a holiday at all!
We have a lot going on in the next few weeks in school and so here is a reminder!



Dates for your Diary:

30th November ~ P7 Ceilidh 6.15pm – 8.15pm. We look forward to seeing our P7 families there.
2nd December ~ CKPS Christmas Fair 10am -12.30pm
4th December ~ Christmas Post begins
4th December ~ Rag Bags into school
5th December ~ Nativity Performance for the school
7th December ~ ‘Save the Children’ Christmas Jumper Day
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)
8th December ~ P7s – Forrester High School – Teamwork event
14th December ~ Christmas Movie afternoon
15th December ~ Mid-term trackers sent out to parents/carers
15th December ~ House Event – Christmas Quiz
Week beg 18th December ~ please feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers this week!
19th December ~ Christmas singing for Nursery parents – Nursery have sent out details of times etc.
22nd December ~ Christmas Service at Carrick Knowe Church
22nd December ~ School closes for the Christmas holidays **at the usual time**. We re-open for pupils on **TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY**
***Please note that Monday 8th January is an In-service day for staff*

11th January 2024 ~ P7 Camp Meeting via TEAMS 6pm
16th January 2024 ~ Parent Council Fundraising Meeting via TEAMS



Supported Self-Evaluation

Our Supported Self-Evaluation took place earlier in the month. A huge thank you to the staff for all their hard work in the run up to this visit and to the children who spoke so positively and eloquently about their experience at Carrick Knowe. Thanks also must go to the group of parents and carers who ‘volunteered’ to come in and speak with the team!

We were given some feedback while the team were here which was very positive, and we await the full written report. Once we receive this, I will share it with yourselves.



Edinburgh Local Hero Awards

We were delighted to find out that we had been nominated and chosen as a finalist again this year in the Sustainable School category of the Edinburgh Local Hero Awards. You may remember that we were chosen as a finalist last year but missed out to another Edinburgh school. We are hoping that it is second time lucky for us and the hard work and commitment to sustainability in CKPS is recognised. The ceremony takes place on Wednesday 6th December – we’ll keep you posted!





Sustainability Visit



Staying on the subject of sustainability, also on 6th December, we have some visitors coming from the Scottish Government to speak to staff and pupils about our sustainability work and take some photographs of what we do.

Ms Doig – Home School Link Worker

Ms Doig has been our Home School Link Worker, funded by our Pupil Equity Fund, for around 2 years now. As much of her work goes on 'behind the scenes', we thought we would update parents/carers on the things she may be able to support you with.

As Carrick Knowe's Home School Link Worker I am currently providing the following services for our children and families - I run the Breakfast, Playtime and Lunchtime Clubs in The Den which helps me develop and foster positive relationships with children throughout the school. I am currently setting up a 'Cost of the School Day' working group with pupils from P5-P7 which will help us identify how we can reduce any costs associated with school and support families who may be struggling with the cost of living within the school community. Currently I arrange the Halloween Costume and Christmas Jumper Swap and work closely with the Corstorphine Christmas Support Project to provide food packages for families in need over the Christmas period.

I have an active role in helping families with school attendance and I am the Young Carers coordinator, making referrals for children who have a caring role within their family, including working towards our second Young Carers award. I am trained in LIAM (Let's Introduce Anxiety Management) and work with individual children to help them with anxiety.

I run Coffee Mornings, Families Connect, P6 Friendship Groups and am involved in beginning Family Learning courses for families who are interested.

I'm happy to talk to families about any issues they may have and try and help, you can get in touch with me on 334-4505, 07871 777421 or Laura.Doig@carrickknowe.edin.sch.uk.



Christmas Parties

Here is an overview of when class Christmas parties will take place.

As the 'party atmosphere' will no doubt last for the whole day, **children can come to school on that day with their party clothes on.**

18th December ~ P6 and P7 Christmas parties

19th December ~ P4 and P5 Christmas parties

20th December ~ P3 Christmas party

21st December ~ P1 and P2 Christmas parties

22nd December ~ Nursery Christmas party



Christmas Jumper Day/Week

Thursday 7th December is 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day. Children and staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers, Santa hats, Rudolph antlers etc. If you are able to make a donation for 'Save the Children', please send this into school on 7th December with your child.

However, to get the most 'wear' out of your Christmas attire, children (and staff) are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers etc for the whole of the final week – week beginning the 18th December. This of course is personal choice so there is no pressure to do so.



Corstorphine Christmas Support Project Donations

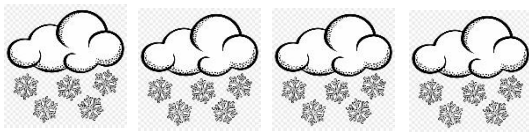
A huge thank you to everyone who has donated items to be taken to the Corstorphine Food Bank and distributed to those in need over Christmas. I am aware that over the past few months we have asked you to contribute to several things and as always, the Carrick

Knowe PS community have shown tremendous kindness and community spirit.



Christmas Church Service

We are all looking forward to our end of term church service which will take place on Friday 22nd December in Carrick Knowe Church. Children are encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers, hats etc. Weather permitting, we will begin walking to the church at approximately 9am and hope to return for just after 10am. Please join us if you can.



Severe Weather

So far this winter we have been relatively 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 outmost 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 Miss Brunton 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 send an email via ParentPay to all parents/carers who are signed up.

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!

Finally..... I have shared this with many of you before, but here is a reminder for parents and carers from school staff...

*"Dear parents and carers at Christmas,
We know at this time of year there is pressure to create a perfect, magical Christmas, we know that you want to give them the magic of Santa and ensure he brings the best gifts and sometimes that means a bit of stress for you. But we're writing to tell you a secret. We're writing to tell you that every January when your child comes back to school, they tell us all about the Christmas holidays.*

It's not all chatter about what they found under their trees on Christmas morning. They tell us about the days when everyone stayed indoors and watched TV, they tell us about walking in the freezing cold to get a McDonald's. They tell us about staying at grandma's and being excited when you came back from work. They tell us about how you let them snuggle in your bed. They tell us about how you played cards and took them swimming one day and forgot their towel. They tell us about a visit to a friend's on New Year's Eve and how they stayed up until midnight. They tell us about how they loved staying in their PJs some days and a trip out another day.

*Although they tell us what they got from Santa in passing, what they really remember is the time they spent together as a family. They mention their gifts, but for them Christmas is your love and time and routines and feeling safe, **you** are their favourite things! Merry Christmas.*

Gail Canning
Headteacher

Website: www.carrickknoweprimary.com

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

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."

Charles M. Schulz