



Carrick Knowe Primary School

Newsletter

January 2024



“Achieving Excellence Together”

Kindness Respect Responsibility Honesty

Dear Parents & Carers,

It seems like a very long time since I sent the last newsletter – perhaps January really does have more weeks in it than any other month! The children have all settled back into school with the excitement in P7 reaching fever pitch as they headed off to their residential at Lagganlia on Monday. We expect many tired children (and staff) to return on Friday!



Dates for your Diary:

29th January – 2nd February November ~ P7s to Lagganlia

29th January ~ Ceilidh Crew – P1-3

30th January ~ Reps from Heriot Watt University to P6 classes for ‘Engineering the Future’ session

6th February ~ Families Connect Coffee Morning -P1 parents/carers

6th February ~ Scots Assembly

7th February ~ Parent/Carer Group – Positive Relationships Policy & Charter - 2pm in school

8th February ~ Parent Council Disco – further information to follow

9th February ~ **School closes at the normal time for the February Half Term holiday. We re-open on Monday 19th February for pupils and staff.**

22nd February ~ Building Resilience Event for parents/carers. See below for further detail

26th February ~ CEC Digital Team to visit school

27th February ~ P1 Families Connect Group starts

1st March ~ Celebrating Success Assemblies

6th March ~ ‘Theatre in Schools – Going for Gold’ for P5-7 classes ***(funded by CKPS Parent Council)***

7th March ~ P7 Girls event at Forrester HS

7th March ~ Community Concert – Carrick Knowe Church

8th March ~ World Book Day Assembly

11th March ~ P6 & P7 Cross Country Competition at Saughton Park

14th March ~ ASN Coffee Morning. 9.15am in school

14th March ~ P6 classes to Chambers Street Museum

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

18th March ~ P4 classes trip to Chambers Street Museum

21st March ~ Parent Consultation Meetings 4pm – 7pm

22nd March ~ Parent Consultation Meetings 1pm – 3pm

28th March ~ Easter Service at St. Anne’s Church

28th March ~ **School closes at the normal time for the Easter Holidays. We re-open on Tuesday 16th April for pupils and staff**



Staffing

We were delighted to welcome Mr Joel Yucra to CKPS Nursery Class as Early Years Practitioner (EYP) at the beginning of this term. Joel replaces Mrs Cooper who left us in October and Miss Alexander, who following interview, was successful in securing the role of EYP in our P1 classes in school.

January In-Set Day

At our recent In-Set Day on 8th January, we joined our Learning Community colleagues from Broomhouse, Gylemuir and Murrayburn for several professional learning sessions.

All staff participated in the second part of the Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour training. The teaching staff spent the second part of the morning in Moderation of Maths/Numeracy.

Support staff were led in a session by Francis Laidlaw (ASL Services) on Sensory Circuits.

Updates on Learning for Sustainability and from Gemma our Business Manager completed a busy but productive day.



UNCRC



This year we have been working towards our **Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award**.

Throughout the School and Nursery we have identified areas where the Rights of the Child are shown. We have also discussed the Rights with children and staff when looking at our new Positive Relationships Policy.

In classes, the children have developed their own Class Charters linked to the Rights of the Child.

These included:

- UNCRC Article 12: The Right To Be Listened To
- UNCRC Article 28/29: The Right To An Education
- UNCRC Article 31: The Right To Play

More information for parents/carers about UNCRC Rights of The Child can be found at the following:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/sites/default/files/inline-files/Parent%20Club%20UNCRC%20-%20Your%20guide%20to%20children%27s%20rights.pdf>

We look forward to updating you on our Silver Award Journey through Newsletters and Nursery/School Blog.



Sustainability Visit



You may have seen on our website that on Wednesday 6th December we welcomed representatives from Education Scotland and the Scottish Government as part of their 'Call to Action' launch. We were selected due to the amazing work the children were able to showcase in Outdoor Learning, UNCRC and Equalities & Diversity. The children from some of our pupil groups were able to talk confidently and eloquently about the work they and our whole school are involved in with regards to Sustainability. They did an amazing job and represented CKPS extremely well.

...in other Sustainability news...

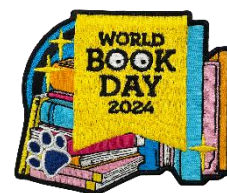
P4 have had a visit from Alex (lecturer) and Farah (Phd student) from Heriot Watt University to discuss ideas for inventions to improve the sustainability of the planet.

The children came up with some great ideas including, robots to help hedgehogs escape from plastic bottles, robotic sharks to eat the plastic pollution at sea powered by solar and/or wave power and a rubbish detector which could make rubbish into clean usable energy.

These ideas will form the base of a challenge for University students whose task it will be to design and make (if possible) these ideas come to life. P4 and P6 will visit the Oriam Centre at Heriot Watt in early March to 'judge' how well the students did in making some of these ideas workable. We look forward to seeing the results!

World Book Day

World Book Day is coming up and we plan to have a week full of activities to celebrate our shared love of reading. As always, we invite our pupils to dress up as a character from their favourite book on Friday 8th March. Further details on the other activities and competitions will come out closer to the time.



Classroom Smart Boards

Many of the Smart Boards in our classrooms are now coming to the end of their natural lives and now need replaced.

The boards play an integral part in daily learning and teaching and so it is important that they work effectively.

As a school we have begun to replace these but as you can imagine, this is a costly process. We would like to say a huge thank you to our Parent Council who have agreed to fund four new smartboards for us, meaning we will have eight new boards in total. This really makes a huge difference for us and we very much appreciate all the support for fundraising activities and events which have allowed this to happen.





Scots Assembly



Thank you and well done to everyone who has been working their tartan socks off to learn their Scot's poems. Throughout the school, the love of Scot's language has been shared through everyone's enthusiasm for learning their Scots poems and creating artwork inspired by an aspect of Scottish life. I receive the names of the poetry finalists in each class from the class teachers and Mrs Iley and I have the very difficult job of deciding on winners to perform at our Scot's Assembly on 6th February.

It is one of our favourite jobs in that we get to hear lots of our very talented children perform but is always very difficult to choose just one winner from each class as the standard is always very high. The winners of the various competitions will be announced at the Scots Assembly and posted on our website.

Building Resilience Event

As outlined in our School Improvement Plan for this year, we are planning to hold an event for parents and carers on 'Building Resilience'. Being resilient and able to manage the challenges that life throws at us all has always been hugely important, but over the last few years, it has become an essential life skill. Our 'Building Resilience' programme is well established in school, and we would like to highlight this again for parents and carers. We will be holding an event on the morning of **Thursday 22nd February at 9am** here in school. Mrs Iley and I will give an overview of Building Resilience in CKPS and then you will be able to join your children in their classes where they will be participating in some of the Building Resilience programme. We would love to see as many of you there as possible to hear about the work we do with your children and maybe give you some ideas as to how you can support your child at home. A reminder of this event will be issued nearer the time.

Snacks and water bottles

We would like to remind parents and carers that children only require **one** snack for morning break. Ideally this should be a healthy snack and should not contain lollipops or hard-boiled sweets as these pose a choking hazard when children are running around. Can we also ask that water bottles contain water only and not juice.

Thank you for your support with this.



Severe Weather

Again, just a reminder that 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..... Carrick Knowe Primary School is 70!

CKPS first opened its doors in 1954 and so celebrates its 70th birthday this year. We are at the very initial stages of planning what our celebrations will look like but will keep you updated as we go.

Gail Canning
Headteacher

Website: www.carrickknoweprimary.com

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

**“The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts,
but of values.”**

William S. Burroughs