



Carrick Knowe Primary School

Newsletter

August 2026



Kindness ~ Respect ~ Responsibility ~ Honesty

Dear Parents & Carers,



WELCOME BACK 2026-27

A very warm welcome back to school and nursery to all our returning children and families, and a special welcome to both our P1 children and the other new children and families who have joined Carrick Knowe this session.

Our P1 pupils have settled well into the daily routine of school, and our new nursery children are arriving day by day with all of them due in by the end of August.

We have had a busy start to the year, and our P7 pupils are already preparing their pitches and campaigns for the House and Sports Captain elections taking place on Friday 28th August.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' session last Thursday, it was lovely to see so many of you.

You should have received an electronic copy of the annual school (P1-7) calendar. Once all the nursery children have started, the nursery class will issue a newsletter with key dates for nursery. We send these calendars out to help families plan for things such as sports day etc. but it does come with the caveat that, on occasion, dates need to be changed, and we do our utmost to give you as much notice as possible when this happens. As part of our commitment to sustainability, we send most communication electronically (unless we require a paper copy of something to be returned to school), however if you would prefer a paper copy of anything, please contact the school office who will provide this for you.

We look forward to a busy, productive year working in partnership with you to ensure all of our children have an enjoyable and successful school session.



Dates for your Diary:

24th August ~ Class newsletters posted on the school website

26th August ~ Library Bus returns to CKPS

28th August ~ P7 House & Sports Captain Elections

1st September ~ Young Carers Lunch Club in school

1st September ~ Edinburgh Evening News photographer to take P1 photographs

4th September ~ NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' Assemblies

Wk beg. 7th September ~ 'Hands Up Scotland' Survey Week – more information to follow

8th September ~ P6 Outdoor Learning Event – Holyrood Park

11th September ~ Parent Council Dress Down Day – further information will be sent out from the Parent Council

14th September ~ September Holiday. **School closed and will reopen on Tuesday 15th September at 8.50am**

18th September ~ House Captain Event in school

Week beg. 21st September ~ Maths Week Scotland - 'Maths Matters'

22nd September ~ Flu Vaccinations P1-7. Please see information below.

22nd September ~ Parent Council Meeting via TEAMs – 7pm. All welcome

24th September ~ P4 classes – Oriam Sports Festival at Heriot Watt University. Further information will follow

29th September ~ P6 Transition Event at Forrester HS

30th September ~ 'Head Teacher Drop-in' 3.15pm – 4.15pm (see below for further detail about this)

30th September ~ Photographer in school – individuals and family groups

1st October ~ P1-P7 Pupil Progress Meetings 4pm – 7pm

2nd October ~ P1-P7 Pupil Progress Meetings 1pm – 3pm

5th October ~ P5 classes to visit Edinburgh Zoo
7th October ~ Young Carers Lunch Club in school
9th October ~ Harvest Assembly in school
9th October ~ School closes for the October Week holiday. We reopen for pupils on **Tuesday 20th October at 8.50am**

****Please note Monday 19th October is an In-set day for school staff***



Class Newsletters

On Monday you should have received the class newsletter from your child's teacher via Learning Journals. These are termly newsletters which outline the planned learning of the term, alongside other important information, such as when P.E. days are etc. If you have any questions regarding anything contained in the class newsletter, please contact your child's teacher. These are also posted on our school website.

We do try to give this information in 'layman's terms' whilst trying to give as much information as possible. If there is anything you are not clear about, please ask or click on the form below.....

.....Friday Family Learning Sessions

Parents often ask us what they can do to support their child's learning at home, how we teach certain things or what some words or terms mean. Last year we introduced our Family Learning Sessions where parents/carers could let us know what they would like help with and we would hold a family learning session on a Friday morning focusing on that topic. So far, we have had sessions in P1 around the teaching of phonics (sounds) and in P4 looking at how we teach certain aspects of Maths and Numeracy and how this could be supported at home. I will share the link in each newsletter so parents/carers can ask for this at any time. Now you have had the class newsletter, please let us know via this link if you would like to know more about anything your child is learning in school.

[How can we help? – Fill in form](#)



School times

A reminder of times of the school day -
 School starts for **all classes at 8.50am**

P1-2

Lunchtime – 12.15pm – 1.15pm
 School finish time (Mon-Thurs) 3pm
 School finish time (Fri) 12.15pm



P3-7

Lunchtime – 12.30pm – 1.15pm
 School finish time (Mon-Thurs) 3.15pm
 School finish time (Fri) 12.25pm

Although sometimes circumstances out with your control can mean that, on occasion your child can be late to school, good timekeeping is important. Please see the attached information on good timekeeping and attendance.

Standards & Quality Report 25-26

School Improvement Plan 26-27

Each year every school in Scotland is required to produce a Standards & Quality Report, highlighting what they have achieved throughout the previous school session along with their next steps in these areas. The full version of this report is fairly lengthy and so a summary for parents and carers is available on our website. If you would like to read the full version, please contact school and this can be made available for you.

In addition, our School Improvement Plan 2026-27, sets out our priorities for improvement identified by our HMIE report from last session and other self-evaluation involving staff, pupils and families. Again, to make this more user- friendly, I have condensed the content to just our priority statements and removed the 'jargon' as much as possible. This can also be found on our school website along with the plans for our use of our Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). If you would like to have a copy of the entire document, please let us know.

Staffing

The list of the entire CKPS Staff Team can be found on our website. We would like to say a warm

welcome to Miss Jasmine Hall who joins us as our probationer teacher in P4B.

In addition, you may remember that last session Mr David Brewer took over from Mr Shaun Morley as Principal Teacher. Mr Morley has now returned to this role, and we thank Mr Brewer for all his hard work over the past year.

During the summer, Mrs Jen Watson, one of our Pupil Support Assistants (PSA) decided to pursue a different role and so did not return to CKPS in August. We wish her well.

The recruitment process to replace Mrs Watson is underway and I will let you know when this has been completed.



Flu Immunisations

Each year, all children in P1-7 are offered their flu immunisation in school. You should have received a letter to give your consent for this in the last week. The immunisation is given via a nasal spray and will take place in school on Tuesday 22nd September. If you want your child to receive this immunisation, it is essential that you return the consent form as no immunisations will be given without this. Please click the link below for further information about the flu immunisation.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/child-flu-vaccine/>

Contacting school

We encourage parents and carers to contact school whenever they have a query, a question or a concern. In session 2026-27, the first point of contact for the different stages is as follows:

Nursery, P1-3 - Mrs Iley (DHT)

P4 - Mrs Clark (PT)

P5-6 – Mrs Canning (HT)

P7 – Mr Morley (PT)

Of course, if the appropriate member of staff is not available, you will be able to speak to or meet with another member of the Senior Leadership Team.



School Uniform

It has been lovely seeing all our pupils return to school wearing school uniform and the P7s in their Leavers Hoodies. Following COVID, we saw a drop in the numbers of children wearing school uniform and we are pleased to see this rising again as it is something we continue to promote and support in school.

If you are having any difficulty providing school uniform for your child, please contact myself or Laura Doig in school as we can help with this.



HT Drop-In

On the last Wednesday of each month, the HT Drop-In is between 3.15pm and 4.15pm. This is a time when parents/carers can come into meet with myself without an appointment. If you have anything you would like to ask, discuss or are concerned about etc., I will be available at this time. A reminder will be in the 'Dates for your Diary' section of my monthly newsletters.



CKPS School Values

For our new families (and a reminder for everyone else) our agreed values in Carrick Knowe are **Responsibility**, **Respect**, **Honesty** and **Kindness**. In school, although we talk to the children about all four values regularly and award 'Values



Postcards' when children show our school values, we focus on one value each term. This first term we are thinking about **Responsibility**, both what this means and looks like in school, in our community, and more globally. The children themselves agreed on the definition of each of our School Values and these are displayed in the main entrance to our school.



Child Protection and Safeguarding in CKPS

Within Carrick Knowe Primary School and Nursery Class we aim to create an environment where all our children and young people feel safe, well cared for and where they can flourish. All members of the school community must understand their role and responsibilities with regards to child protection and safeguarding. Training for all school staff takes place annually in August when we return to school after the summer break.

It is also extremely important that you, as parents/carers and valued members of our school community know what to do if you have concerns about any child or young person. There are posters around the school displaying key information about what to do and who you should speak to if you have a concern. The link below will also take you to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedure and the CEC Policy. .

***Please note that the Child Protection Coordinator in Carrick Knowe is Mrs Gail Canning – Head Teacher**

To access this policy please click the link below

<https://carrickknoweprimary.com/documents/>

Newsletters

School newsletters will be issued on the last Thursday or Friday of each month. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the school office know. They are also available on our school website.

No Vehicle Access

You will see there are traffic signs with flashing lights at various points on roads leading to our school. These are there to deter traffic entering this area during the times when the lights are flashing. Please continue to support us in ensuring the safety of all our children by following the instructions on the signs and **NOT** driving into this area at these times. Thank you.



Finally....

A plea from P7 and Mrs Henderson...they are looking for shoe boxes for a P7 Art Project. If you have any you can donate, they can be brought into school from now. Thank you!

And good luck to all P7s standing for House and Sports Captains!

Handwritten signature of Gail Canning.

Gail Canning
Headteacher

Website: www.carrickknoweprimary.com

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

"A new school year means new beginnings, new friendships and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen."

Denise Witmer