



Carrick Knowe Primary School

Newsletter

September 2026



Kindness ~ Respect ~ Responsibility ~ Honesty

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we approach the end of the first term of 2026-27, it feels like no time at all since the summer holidays! Routines in school are now well established, and our children have been busy both in the classroom, out on excursions and contributing to the wider life of the school.

As the weather turns colder, we continue to use our outdoor space as much as possible, so please ensure your child brings a coat to school each day. Thank you.



Dates for your Diary:

25th September ~ Pupil Progress Meeting appointment times issued to parents/carers

29th September ~ P6 Transition Event at Forrester HS (AM)

30th September ~ Tempest photographer in school – individuals and sibling groups

30th September ~ HT Drop-in 3.15-4.15pm

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

(formerly known as Parent Consultation Meetings)

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

5th October ~ P5 classes to Edinburgh Zoo

6th October ~ Young Carers Lunch Club in school

7th October ~ Scottish Fire Service Safety Talk – P6 & P7 classes

9th October ~ Harvest Assembly in school led by Rev Mathieson, Rev Griggs and P1

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*

28th October ~ HT Drop-in 3.15-4.15pm

30th October ~ Parent Council Hallowe'en Disco – P1-3 12.45pm – 1.30pm

P4-7 1.45pm – 2.45pm

3rd November ~ Young Carers Lunch Club in school

4th November ~ P1 Open Day – **for parents/carers of children starting P1 in Aug 2027**

5th November ~ P7 to visit the Scottish Parliament

5th November ~ P5 classes to visit Edinburgh Central Mosque

6th November ~ P7 reps to Corstorphine War Memorial

6th November ~ P7 parents/carers Open Afternoon at Forrester High School

11th November ~ Remembrance Assembly in school

11th November ~ Some P7 pupils to Corstorphine Cenotaph for Remembrance Service

Week beg. 16th November ~ P1 Book Bug Event & P2-P3 Read Write Count Event – further detail to follow HT Drop-in 3.15-4.15pm

19th November ~ P7 Transition Event – FHS. Further detail to follow

25th November ~ P7 trip to the Risk Factory

26th November ~ P7 Family Ceilidh 6.30 – 8pm. Further detail to follow

Broom Castle Carrick Traquair

House and Sports Captains

As you will no doubt be aware, following their campaigns and the subsequent voting, we now have our brand-new House and Sports Captains for session 2026-27! They are as follows:

Broom House: Evah & Olivia

Broom Sports: Georgie M. & Gabby

Castle House: Sophia & Ayla

Castle Sports: Lottie & Zoe

Carrick House: Emilia & Daisy

Carrick Sports: Hadassah & Lucy

Traquair House: Kiera & Mayra

Traquair Sports: Micah & Abigail

A big well done to **all** our pupils who stood for election and congratulations to our new captains. We look forward to seeing your ideas in action!



P1 Open Day

Each year City of Edinburgh Council invites parents/carers of children who will start P1 the following year to visit the school they will enrol in. This year, this will take place on Wednesday 4th November. In Carrick Knowe PS, this will take place at **9.30am** and **1.30pm**.

There are posters etc displayed around the school and in the community with this information. If you or someone you know has a child due to start school in August 2027 and would like to visit our school, please come along then. We look forward to seeing you.



Harvest

Our Harvest Assembly will take place on Friday 9th October in school. As in past years, if you would like to contribute any food items (tins, packets etc.) or toiletries that we can donate to the Broomhouse Food Bank, please send them into school from Monday 5th October. I will send out another reminder nearer the time. Please check the 'use by' date on any food items. Thank you.



Heating/Lighting Upgrade Update

The work which has been ongoing in school over the past 18 months to upgrade our heating and lighting systems is now complete. Our official handover meeting will take place next week and the temporary hut and skip in the car park /playground have been removed. We will await the cold, dark weather to really test whether it is all working!



Family Learning Sessions

Raising Children with Confidence/Families Connect

Laura Doig (Home School Link Worker) and Claire El'mrabty (Learning Community PSO) are starting the 'Raising Children with Confidence' sessions soon. There has been a high uptake of places for the RCWC sessions meaning, unfortunately that not everyone was able to get a place this time around. However, if there continues to be enough interest, these sessions can be re-run in the future.

In addition, Ms Doig will also be running the 'Families Connect' sessions alongside Miss Owenson for P1 parents/carers. Please find further information below.



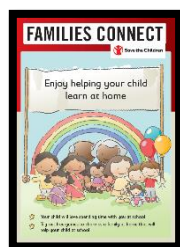
Raising Children with Confidence

RCWC is an affirming course which pulls together many of the latest findings and evidence from research to explain what influences children's emotional wellbeing and why what parents/carers do makes such a difference. It recognises the uniqueness of every family and brings you together with other parents and carers to reflect upon your experiences of family life. Over six 2-hour sessions the course covers the following topics:

- **Promoting Wellbeing** (supporting children's mental health and wellbeing)
- **The Developing Brain** (How experience shapes the brain)
- **Why Love Matters** (Creating positive relationships and attachments)
- **Staying Connected** (Listening to understand and developing empathy)
- **Building Resilience** (Coping with life's ups and downs)

- **Looking After Ourselves** (The importance of parental wellbeing)

With good feedback from parents/carers throughout the city of Edinburgh, we are looking forward to starting these sessions at Carrick Knowe PS.



Families Connect

Families Connect is an evidence-based programme that helps practitioners work with parents to support children's learning and development at home and school, as they move into and through the early primary years. During eight engaging sessions, parents and children explore practical, play-based activities that strengthen literacy, numeracy, communication and emotional development, while building positive relationships between families and schools or early years settings.

When schools, early years settings and families work together, everyone benefits – children make better progress, parents feel more confident about supporting learning, and schools build stronger relationships with their families. Families Connect offers an effective and engaging way to help make these partnerships practical and sustainable.

Sessions combine discussion, demonstration and shared parent-child activities. Practitioners explain how everyday play supports learning and development and introduce parents to a related play activity. The discussion includes opportunities for parents to share their parenting experiences with each other, to incorporate their child's interests and capabilities, and to reflect on previous sessions.

We have had excellent feedback from families that have previously taken part in these sessions, and we feel it really helps build strong family to school links.

In the last newsletter I included the link to the form for you to let us know what you would like help with in supporting your child's learning at home.

The form remains open, so if there is anything you would like to see, please let us know by completing the form at any time.

<https://forms.office.com/e/uZiWBhHTCW>



Rights Respecting Schools Update



At the very end of last session, we had our RRS assessment day where staff from the RRS Award came to speak with staff and children in school. We then had a nerve wracking wait for the outcome! We were delighted to be able to announce to the children at our assembly last week that we had in fact achieved the standard to be a **GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL!** This is a fantastic achievement and a huge thank you to everyone in school for all their hard work. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Iley, Mrs Christie and Mrs MacKay who led on this. We should soon have our Gold RRS banner which will be displayed at the front of the school for everyone to see.

Lunchtime & After School Clubs & Activities

We have a number of lunchtime and after school clubs and activities on-going in school.

- P3 - 4 Football – Monday lunchtime
- P6 – 7 Netball – Monday after school
- P5-7 Scripture Union – Monday lunchtime
- Drama Club – P2-3 and P4-7 – Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime
- P5 Dance – Tuesday after school
- P6 – Running Club – Tuesday after school

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who give up their time to run these activities. After the October break, Mrs Hunter will also be setting up the Carrick Knowe Choir just in time for Christmas performances!

In addition, we also have 'The Bike Shed' who come into school on a Monday afternoon to support some of our older children who are learning to ride a bike

Curriculum & Staff Development

Our In-Set Day following the October break is already shaping up to be a busy day for staff and school improvement with all staff participating in CALM training led by Frances Laidlaw our Learning Community Inclusion Support teacher. This focuses on strategies to support children who are dysregulated and finding it difficult to manage their emotions.

Finally.... Keep an eye out for photographs and blogs on our website showcasing all the wonderful work going on in CKPS for Maths Week!



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.*

"A child without education is like a bird without wings."

Tibetan Proverb