*Carrick National School*



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7th December 2020

**Covid-19 Restrictions**

**Parents/Guardians are asked to wear masks and exercise social distancing of 2 meters when on school grounds at drop off and collection times and when collecting a child early from school. Otherwise, please remain in your car. This is to minimise any potential risk of spreading the virus. Thank you for your cooperation.**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Please note the following upcoming school calendar events:-

* **Wednesday 9th December:** The school photographer from County Photos will attend at the school.
* **Wednesday 9th December:** New basketball hoops will be installed in the school yard this coming Wednesday. As construction will be ongoing from 12:30 p.m. onwards, we ask that parents and children be extra vigilant at the 2 and 3 o’clock pick up times.
* **Tuesday 22nd December:** The school will close at **12 noon** for Christmas holidays and will reopen on **Wednesday 6th January**.
* **Tuesday the 22nd of December**: The children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or hat to school to add to the festive atmosphere! This year we are raising money in aid of Focus Ireland. We would ask that each child bring a small donation of €2 to school for Focus Ireland.
* **Wednesday 10th March 2021**: Sacrament of Confirmation – This date is subject to change depending on government restrictions at the time. We will keep you informed of any changes as soon as possible.

**Lost and Found:** A pair of dark reading glasses were found in the car park last week. Please contact the school for return of same.

**The National Federation of Group Water Schemes** are running a zero cost, group water scheme programme in partnership with Roscommon County Council called *I’ve planted a tree and my garden is pesticide free.* As part of this initiative every school child is given a native Irish Woodland Tree. The tree has been sponsored by Variety Ireland, a children’s charity and Sean Mulryan of Ballymore properties. The children are asked to plant the tree and to go pesticide free in their gardens at home. The programme is meant to be fun, informative and something to help to get the children outside.

The trees will be delivered to the school in the coming days and **we ask that each child bring in a bag so that they can safely carry the tree home**. The trees will be a single whip and will be between 40 – 60com long.

**Dual language books:** Our school recently received funding from Post-Primary Languages Ireland to purchase dual-language books for our class libraries. Many of our pupils or their parents speak a language other than English or Irish at home, including German, Slovak, Yoruba, Igbo, Afrikaans and Portuguese. The funding enabled us to purchase dual language books, in which the story is written in English together with one or other of the home languages of our pupils. This has the benefit of making our class libraries more inclusive and diverse, encouraging our pupils to maintain their home languages and providing all pupils the opportunity to engage with foreign languages.

**Green Schools:** We now have our 3rd Green Schools Flag for Water flying proudly at the front of the school. As part of our next Green Schools Flag on Transport, pupils in 5th and 6th class did a survey on cars idling (leaving their engines running) at collection times. At 2pm, 30 percent of cars were idling and 60 percent of cars were idling at 3pm. 5th 6th class pupils are drawing posters to raise awareness around pollution and financial costs of idling a car engine and to lower the figures of car idling at Carrick NS. Your support in their project is greatly appreciated.

**Cash For Clobber Collection**: The Cash For Clobber Collection in October raised €304. Thank you for your continued support.

**Christmas Shoebox Appeal:** This year the Christmas Shoebox Appeal will be run differently. Due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to send gift-filled shoeboxes from Ireland so we are asked to donated gift filled shoeboxes online. These donations will allow Team Hope’s network of local partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes, which will then be delivered straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Although this year is different the need for shoebox gifts is more important than ever. You can do your Shoebox anytime up to the 23rd of December. Please take part by logging on to [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie)

**Gaelic Football Training:** Roscommon GAA are sending a coach to train Infants, 1st & 2nd class each Thursday afternoon on our Astro Turf pitch.

**Cycling to School:** Please continue to cycle safely to school. Helmets must be worn. Please use high-vis jackets and have reflective lighting on bicycles also. We recommend adult supervision also given the road is a national road and the 100 kpm speed limit for cars on the route to the school. Pupils are asked not to cycle on the pedestrian path. Pupils, please walk with your bicycle once you are on the pedestrian path or on the school yard.

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information: Please inform the school if there has been any change to parents/guardians telephone numbers, e-mail addresses or home address.** This is very important as the majority of correspondence between the school and Parents/Guardians going forward will be by text/e-mail. Please also remember to check your e-mails on a regular basis for correspondence from the school.

**School Absences: If your child is absent from school, where possible, please e-mail the school on their return detailing the date(s) of their absence and the reason for same.** Otherwise, please provide a note **on their return** detailing the date(s) of their absence and the reason for same. This is a requirement of the Department of Education. Under the Education Welfare Act, all unexplained absences of 20 days or more must be reported by law to the National Welfare Board by the School Principal.

**School Website:** You are invited to check out our school website: ***carricknsballinlough.weebly.com***

**Morning Drop off**

**At morning and collection times parents are asked to stay in their cars.** The only exception is Junior Infant parents who can bring their child as far as the side gate near the backdoor directly in to the Infant room. Senior Infant parents may bring their child to the start of the pedestrian path and in exceptional circumstances where the child is very upset can bring the child to the gate near the backdoor where the Infants will enter the school. All other parents are to remain in their cars.

**9:10 - 9:20 a.m. This will remain the same. Children will go straight to their classrooms. There will be no hanging up of jackets in the hall at this time as this will cause a cluster of people.** A teacher or SNA will be in each classroom for supervision. The teacher will then allow children hang up their jackets when it is safe to do so in the empty corridor after drop off time. The children will wash their hands in the morning.

**Pupils are not to congregate at the front door. Pupils are only to leave their car and enter the school from 9:10am onwards.**

**Parking and Drop-Off/Pick-Up System**

1. First to arrive please use SET DOWN area and form a queue. To avoid traffic congestion, please park at the
2. furthest point in set down area to keep space free behind you. Move car forward if space in front of you becomes available.
3. Once SET DOWN area is full please use parking spaces. Do not block the car parking spaces near the start of the set down area.
4. **ALWAYS USE THE FOOTPATHS**. Please also remind your child(ren) to use the footpaths.
5. Pupils - Exit cars on the footpath side of the car.
6. Drivers – when moving off from your parking space **BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL** of children and adults walking on the **MIDDLE FOOTPATH**. If facing the middle footpath, **REVERSE** from your parking space. Do not drive through the middle footpath.
7. **BE PREPARED TO STOP AT ZEBRA CROSSING** to allow children and adults to cross.
8. When parking in set down, **KEEP ZEBRA CROSSING** area **FREE** at all times. No parking here.
9. Please be aware of your speed when entering and leaving the car park.
10. At drop off in the morning, use SET DOWN unless you are dropping your child to the school door. Then use the parking spaces provided. Thank you.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Eoin Davey

Principal