



Carrickfergus Model Primary School Principal's Newsletter: May 2019



Dear Parents / Carers

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter Break and that many of you were able to make the most of the sunshine. It is lovely to see all the children back safely for our final term of school. The summer term gives us an opportunity for more outdoor learning and sporting activities. We also have many school trips and residential planned so there are lots of varied opportunities for the children.

Over the coming weeks the teachers will also be preparing the children for their next step in their education. Please support your child with their homework each night; we really notice the difference in school when children are reading regularly and completing their learning homeworks. Not only does this help children academically, it increases confidence and perseverance. Thank you.

I am most appreciative of support from parents in relation to our Uniform and School Appearance Policies. However, I would ask that all parents ensure children continue to wear school uniform, including proper black school shoes, throughout this term. It is very important that this standard is maintained and it can only be maintained if every single pupil is following our uniform policy.

You will have realised that there will be another school closure on **Thursday 23rd May for European elections**. Whilst the school has been notified formally about this closure, if Brexit is successful before Thursday 23rd May these arrangements will change. I understand that these closures are not helpful for parents but school holidays are planned one year in advance and we do not always know about elections when setting the holidays.

Our school Fun Day is taking place in June and we would appreciate as much help as possible. The School Council and PTA have met and put forward their ideas but we can only make it happen if we have plenty of volunteers. Please contact Mrs Smythe at the school office and let her know how you can help. More details are included on this newsletter.

Best wishes,

J Miller

Principal

CONGRATULATIONS!

Well done to all the children who took part in Carrickfergus Festival – you made us very proud indeed and we hope you enjoyed taking part. Thank you to all the teachers who helped our boys and girls prepare for the festival. I would like to specifically mention Julia Pearson who won the overall prize for verse speaking. Well done!

I would also like to congratulate Gabriella Hooper who won Best Salesperson at the Young Enterprise event at Abbeycentre. She even tried to sell her product to the judges!

We have had some fantastic sporting achievements including coming 2nd in the Carrickfergus Football league, winning the Rugby Tournament at Ben Madigan, our boys and girls reaching the semi-finals in the Futsal Tournament and our girls winning the hockey tournament. Well done!

We have also had some very enjoyable school activities with some very special visitors to teach us more about WW2 in Primary 4, a Primary 6 trip to the Ulster Aviation Society, IFA Coaching in P1 and P2, Space Day in P2 and Primary 7 Marina litter picking. We are also delighted to tell you that we received our Eco-Flag once again. What a great time to be at the Model!

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 9th May: Primary 1 Placement letters posted

Tuesday 14th May: Primary 7 Leavers Photographs

Wednesday 22nd May: Primary 1 Induction Evening for parents

Thursday 23rd May: School closed for European Elections (unless something changes!)

Friday 24th May – Tuesday 28th May: School Closed for bank holiday and School Development Day

Wednesday 29th May: Primary 1 Induction (our current Primary 1 pupils will be off today)

Saturday 1st June: Primary 7s receive post-primary school places

Thursday 6th June: Sports Day (weather permitting)

Monday 10th June: Primary 7 Residential

Friday 14th June: Fun Day

Friday 21st June: Primary 7 Leavers Event

Monday 24th June: Primary 6 Residential

Friday 28th June: End of term. Half Day. Non-uniform.

Tuesday 27th August 2019 (Times TBC: PM): Welcome Back to School Event

Wednesday 28th August 2019: Start of new term

WELCOME BACK!

It is lovely to welcome back Mrs Fitzsimmons, our Primary 1 Classroom Assistant and Mrs McCullough, our Primary 5 teacher. We have missed you both!

ASSESSMENT TESTS

During May and June, all pupils will be taking part in observations and Assessment tests. These are nothing for your child to worry about and results will be on the end of year annual report.

OPTIONAL POLO SHIRTS FOR BOYS

At the moment, these are not being offered to boys as an optional part of uniform for the Summer Term, however, this will be kept under review.

UNIFORM

As we enter the summer term a number of our girls may decide to wear their school red and white striped dresses (we have some available from the school office). Boys are welcome and encouraged to wear proper grey school shorts to school as the weather improves. All children may wear short sleeved shirts with a tie if they wish.

• Jewellery / Ear-Rings:

- Children should not wear ear-rings to school and they will be asked to remove them by their teacher.
- Apart from a watch, we would prefer if all jewellery was left at home to avoid loss etc. Some children are wearing very expensive items of jewellery and these are not appropriate for school.

• Hair:

- Please remember that children will not be permitted to come to school with shaved hair and children should also not have colouring, designs / patterns cut into their hair. Parents are asked to ensure that all such hairstyles are avoided. These are not appropriate for school and we have consistently requested that children should not have these.
- All Hair should be neat and tidy.
- Long hair should be tied back and out of eyes.
- Only small, simple, plain hair accessories, in keeping with our uniform, i.e. plain navy / red should be worn for those with long hair

• Other:

- No make-up should be worn, including nail polish or tattoos / body transfers.

Thank you for your support in these important areas of maintaining standards of uniform and appearance.



FRIDAY 14TH JUNE – CAN YOU HELP?

It is impossible to ask specific individuals to help so we do rely on parents reading the newsletter and volunteering for a role. Please ring Mrs Smythe at the office or email Mrs Miller, stating the exact times you can help with and if you have a preferred activity. If you can only spare an hour that is still super!

1. Setting up gazebos and equipment from 10.00am onwards.
2. Can anyone lend us a few more gazebos for the day?
2. Getting the BBQ ready and having food ready to serve for 12.45pm. Fun Day starts at 12.45pm–2.45pm.
3. Our older girls have asked for hair chalk, hair braiding and updos if anyone could help with that.
4. Entrance. If we have more helpers on the entrance we can get parents and children through the back gate faster so this would be excellent.
5. We will need help and supervision with all of our activities for the children eg games / bouncy castles / selling toys / tuck shop / refreshments etc.

The next planning meeting for the PTA Fun Day will be on Tuesday 14th May at 6.00pm



We realise that many parents (and children) are already thinking about who their next teacher is going to be. At the Model we recognise that transition is very important and that some children transition to a new teacher with ease but others need more reassurance.

As a parent you can:

- Encourage siblings / cousins etc who may have had a teacher already to chat to your child.
- Have a look on the website to see who everyone is (New for this year).
- Try not to talk about your opinion of any teacher in front of your child; remain neutral and open-minded and the n your child will too.
- Tell your child that just like children, teachers have different personalities. This is good as it means that every year will be different.

As a school we are:

- Collating lists of what children have to do for the first time in each year group so that we are more aware of 'new' challenges children (and parents face).
- Discussions between key stages about how best to prepare children for their next stage.
- More time at the end of June for classes to meet their new teacher.
- Continue with our handover meetings which happen every August.
- Our 'Welcome Back to School Event' which is new for August.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR APRIL 2019

Primary 1 HM: 91.4%	Primary 1 SEM: 97.1%	Green = 96% +
Primary 2 SM: 96.9%	Primary 2 JD: 95.4%	
Primary 3 RJ: 94.4%	Primary 3 CR: 93.8%	Amber = 94% - 95.9%
Primary 4 LR: 93.5%	Primary 4 CG: 97.8%	Red = 93.9% and below
Primary 5 BM: 92.5%	Primary 5 MF: 96.7%	
Primary 6 JC: 97.4%	Primary 6 JH: 96.8%	
Primary 7 JK: 95.7%	Primary 7 CT: 96.8%	



Senior Leadership Team	Safe-Guarding Team	Wish to speak to the Principal or your child's class teacher?
<p><u>Principal:</u> Mrs J Miller</p> <p><u>Vice-Principal / Head of Key Stage 2:</u> Mrs J Kirkland</p> <p><u>Head of Foundation Stage:</u> Mrs H Morton</p> <p><u>Head of Key Stage 1:</u> Mrs L Robinson</p> <p><u>Care & Welfare Co-ordinator:</u> Miss S Manson</p>	<p>If you are concerned about the welfare of a pupil in school, please speak to Mrs S Mitchell.</p> <p><u>Designated Teacher:</u> Mrs S Mitchell</p> <p><u>Deputy Designated Teacher:</u> Mrs J Miller</p> <p><u>Designated Governor:</u> Mr N Entwistle</p>	<p>We have an open-door policy when it comes to communication between home and school. However, it is hard for members of staff to be available right away, especially at the beginning of the school day. Please leave a message with the school office and we will get back to you. Emails can be sent but we would rather this is not the main avenue for bringing up issues / discussing children as it is not the personal approach we would wish to take with you and your child.</p>

CONTACT US

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