

Carniny Newsletter

Volume 1: Issue 7B

June 2020



Welcome Back!

The text 'WELCOME BACK!' is written in a playful, bubbly font. Each letter is filled with a different color and has a pattern of small dots. The colors include red, yellow, green, blue, and orange. The exclamation mark is also colorful and bubbly.

We are excited about welcoming the children back to school at the end of August. We are once again looking forward to creating a 'Caring and Learning' environment where each child will feel safe and stimulated. To do this, we need your help! Many adaptations will be required to our normal arrangements. We understand that in many cases, these modifications may cause some inconvenience. Please bear with us as we adjust to a new way of working with your children in order to keep everyone (children, staff and parents) safe. It is our ambition to get back to our normal arrangements as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you for supporting us in this ever-challenging situation.

On the 19th June we received the Northern Ireland Re-opening Schools Guidance (New School Day) from the Department of Education. A significant amount of time has been given to consider the best possible approach for re-opening Carniny Primary School, taking into account this guidance along with classroom size, number of pupils and staff availability. The rationale behind all our decisions has

had your children's health and well-being at the centre. Please note, under current guidance, it will be impossible for Carniny to implement the same measures as other local schools. We have explored every possible situation, and while the 1m social distancing rule applies, we are unable to accommodate all 287 pupils at the same time. **It is our hope that the 1m social distancing restriction in schools will be lifted before 1st September, then we will be able to operate safely with all pupils for full days.** We want to ensure that Carniny remains a place of comfort and nurture where pupils and staff are safe.

As you will be aware this situation regarding COVID-19 is changing rapidly. We would ask you to be patient with us as we may need to adapt our plans in light of this. Our hope in our communication with parents is that you have adequate opportunity to make relevant plans.

The Process of Return



- Monday 24th August: P7 only (8.45am - 12 noon)
- Tuesday 25th August: P7 only (8.45am - 12 noon); P1 Induction (details in separate letter issued by post)
- Wednesday 26th August: P1 - P7 (Split Classes -details below)
- Thursday 27th August: P1 - P7 (Split Classes -details below)
- Friday 28th August: P1 - P7 (Split Classes -details below)
- Monday 31st August: Bank Holiday Monday (no classes)
- From Tuesday 1st September: P1 - P7 (**We are aiming to have full classes, full days from this date**)

**see below for information on staggered drop off/pick up times*

Split Days

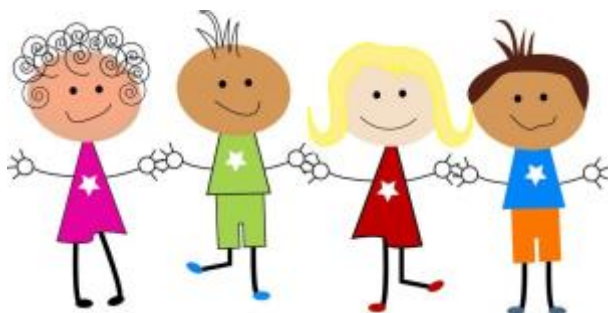


For attendance on the first few days (Wednesday 26th August - Friday 28th August) each class has been split in half. Group A will attend morning sessions (8.45am – 11.15am), Group B will attend afternoon sessions (12.30pm – 3.00pm). Regardless of the social distancing guidance, we feel that this year, more than ever, the process of starting a new term will be tiring, and in some cases may cause worry, therefore a settling in period is essential. This will hopefully alleviate any anxieties and will provide the children with the opportunity to get to know the teacher and acclimatise to the school environment once again. Please note, if the 1m social distancing restriction remains, it will be necessary for the children to continue attending in this pattern. However, it is our hope and ambition to have full classes from Tuesday 1st September.

Your child is/children are in Group B and should therefore attend the afternoon sessions from Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th August.

Classes will commence at 12.30pm. Children may be dropped off at the school gates from 12.15pm (further details below). On entering the school building, children will be asked to remove their coats and wash/sanitise hands. Your child will then go directly to his/her classroom where the class teacher will be present.

Well-Being of Children



The start of the new term at Carniny will focus on the pastoral needs of our pupils, their health and well-being and the enhancement of a 'reconnect' between pupil and school. We are fully aware that after many months away from the school environment, children may feel anxious. We hope that by attending in smaller groups and for shorter sessions during the first few days, our pupils will soon settle back into the new school day and the changes to their school environment.

'Sum Up' September



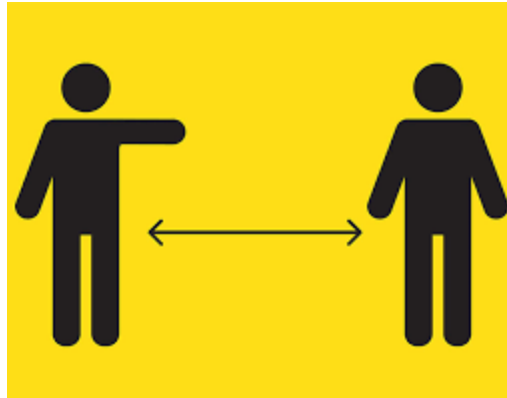
Please be assured that on return to the classroom, teachers will be identifying and addressing the various learning needs of individual pupils. It will not be 'business as usual' in August/September; time will be spent revisiting, recapping and re-teaching much of the content of the previous term. As always, the teachers will be addressing individual needs in a professional, dedicated and compassionate manner. It is our aim to build confidence in pupil's ability and increase levels of self-esteem following this extended period of school closure.

Blended Learning



From Tuesday 1st September, we hope that all our teaching will be face to face again. However, if we do need to move to split days, we plan to focus our classroom teaching on Literacy and Numeracy. Home Learning will address other areas of the curriculum. We envisage that, if necessary, home learning will be delivered on the Google Classroom platform. More information on this will follow at the start of the new term.

Social Distancing



We will aim to maintain any social distancing guidance. The 'Protective Bubble' strategy will help us to achieve this (consistent membership of children and staff).

Keeping children in 'Protective Bubbles' will help us to decrease interactions between larger groups. Unfortunately, achieving these 'Bubbles' will have the following implications:

- Limited playtime in playground
- Weekly assembly in the hall will be suspended
- Extra-curricular activities will be suspended
- Staggered drop off and pick up times (further information below)
- Visual cues and floor markings will be used within corridors, cloakrooms, classrooms and exterior paths

Uniform



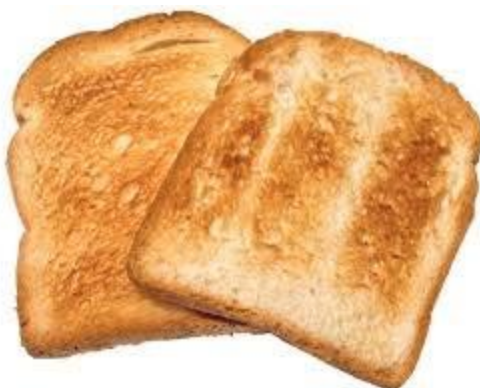
While Coronavirus can land on fabrics and remain for some time, schools are not a high risk environment. We would encourage all children to wear clean uniform each day.

Resources



School bags should not be used. Instead, we would ask all children to have a red book bag or something similar. If you no longer have this, one may be purchased from the office (cost £6.00). The folders should be wiped down each day on return home. Stationery should be kept to a minimum and only consist of the essentials e.g. 2 writing pencils, a rubber, a sharpener, a ruler and a glue stick. Individual teachers may give further guidance.

Break



We will continue to offer toast at break time from Tuesday 1st September. This will be delivered to each classroom and will be distributed by the teacher/classroom assistant wearing disposable gloves. We would encourage as many children as possible to select toast at break time. Until further notice, toast should be paid for monthly. The cost of toast for the first period will be £7.20 (Tuesday 1st September - Friday 2nd October). If you wish your child to avail of toast, place the correct money in a clearly labelled envelope or plastic bag (child's name and class). Please note we will be unable to accept loose money or provide change. Break times will be staggered at 10-minute intervals. This will allow each child the opportunity to visit the bathroom, wash hands and eat break. Due to the difficulties of social distancing in larger groups, playground time will be suspended at break time until further notice. However, teachers may take small groups of children to the playground at intervals throughout the session to get fresh air and to let off steam!

Drop Off/Pick Up



General Information

To ensure that gatherings of adults are avoided and to help maintain social distancing, it will be necessary to stagger drop off arrangements and end of day collections.

Please note, if you have more than one child, siblings should be dropped off with the eldest in the family.

On entering the school building, children will be asked to remove their coats and wash/sanitise hands. Your child will then go directly to his/her classroom where the class teacher will be present.

We realise how tempting it is, especially if you have younger children, to gather outside the school gate. We would strongly encourage you to drop your child off safely, then move away promptly. Staff and some P7 pupils will be present to welcome children. Only one parent/guardian should attend to drop off or collect his/her child. Parents/guardians should not enter the school building or school grounds unless required.

We would encourage parents/carers to remain at their vehicle until their child's class is visible. Please continue to respect the local residents by not obstructing driveways. Remember the School Keep Clear Zone on the Old Cullybackey Road has been created to provide a safe route for pedestrians and children crossing the road. Cars must never park in this zone. Please see below the arrangements for the first few days:

Afternoon Session

- P1, P2 & P3 should be dropped off between 12.25pm - 12.35pm
- P4 - P7 should be dropped off between 12.15pm - 12.25pm

At the end of the afternoon session, all classes will be escorted by teacher/classroom assistant to front gate. We will operate staggered collection times as follows:

P1 – 2.50pm (top gate - beside infant playground)

P1/2 – 2.50pm (top gate - beside infant playground)

P2 – 2.50pm (top gate - beside infant playground)

P3 – 2.50pm (bottom gate)

P3/4 – 2.50pm (bottom gate)

P4/5 – 2.50pm (bottom gate)

P5 - 2.55pm (bottom gate)

P6 – 2.55pm (top gate - beside infant playground)

P6/7 – 3.00pm (bottom gate)

P7 – 3.00pm (top gate - beside infant playground)

Infection Prevention and Control



A range of approaches and actions will be employed to avoid the spread of coronavirus. Firstly, it is essential that if a child is showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough or fever or loss of taste/smell) or someone in their household is displaying symptoms, they should not be in school.

Hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds would be encouraged/facilitated before and after any activity (such as play times), **as well as on entry to the school building**. This would be our preferred method of hand-hygiene within school, however, a limited supply of sanitiser will be available. You may wish to supply your child with his/her own sanitiser and tissues.

Children will be regularly reminded to avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose. They should cover the mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or sneeze (alternatively, if no tissue is available, children will be encouraged to cough/sneeze into the crook of their elbow). 'Catch It - Bin It - Kill It' posters will be displayed throughout the school. Please encourage this at home so that it becomes a familiar practice.

Frequently touched surfaces will be regularly cleaned (door handles, table tops, play equipment etc.).

Classroom layouts will be adapted (e.g. desks may be in single file) to observe social distancing requirements. The opening of windows will be encouraged to increase natural ventilation.

PPE is only needed by adults in a very small number of cases, e.g. when working with children requiring intimate care or First Aid; when giving children medication (school will supply PPE in these cases).

If parents wish for their child to use PPE, this must be supplied from home.

Carniny Carers



We intend to continue operating our extended school day provision from Tuesday 1st September. Due to social-distancing constraints numbers may be restricted. Please contact Miss Karen McCartney (mobile-07925305687) if you require any further information (she will be available to contact from Monday 24th August).

Extra-Curricular Activities



Unfortunately, all extra-curricular activities will be suspended until further notice. We strongly value the positive benefits of extra-curricular activities for whole-child development and we will endeavour to get these activities up and running as soon as it is safe to do so.

Child Protection



Carniny Primary School's
Safeguarding Team

 Mr I Somerville (Principal) Designated Teacher for Child Protection	 Mrs V Wylie (Principal) Member of the Child Protection Team	 Mr D Calwell (Member of SLT) Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
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If you have a worry or concern please speak to one of the staff!

Useful Contact Information:
Chair of the Governors is Mr Desmond Fulton, Tel: 028 25 44381-6
Contact can also be made through the Principal or the Vice-principal.
Members of the Board of Governors responsible for Child Protection are Mrs Clare McKay and Mr D Falton.
Contact can be made through the Chair of the Governors.
Duty Social Work Gateway Team Tel 0300 1234 333 PSNI Public Protection Unit 0845 600 8000

Any concerns regarding Child Protection matters should be reported to Mr I Somerville (Designated Teacher for Child Protection) or Mr D Calwell (Deputy Designated teacher for Child Protection).

The Designated Governor for Child Protection is Mrs C McKay.

A copy of the Child Protection Policy can be viewed on the school website or obtained from the school office.

Schools NI App



Our school is listed in the Schools NI app which allows you to view school updates and receive messages via your phone or tablet. The app is available on both Apple and Android devices and will give you access to our school news, calendar events and letters (including newsletters and dinner menu).

To install the app, open Carniny Primary School website on your phone or tablet and click the "Download App" button that appears at the top of the screen.

Next time you open the School NI App our school will be listed at the top of the list. You don't need to have the app open to receive messages.

To receive an email of any new letter saved on the website please insert your **email address** in the box on the front page of the website and press subscribe. **We ask all parents who have an email address to do this.**

Summer Holidays!



May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support, encouragement and co-operation during 2019/20. I hope you have a relaxing summer break.

Mrs V Wylie