

BACK TO SCHOOL



Carrickfergus
Model Primary
School

"Aspiring to learn, care and grow
together."



Term 1: September Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for supporting your child back to school for their new academic year. I am sure everyone is overwhelmed with calendar dates, homework programmes and even outside clubs starting back too. A huge welcome to our new Primary 1s!

Thank you also for engaging with Class Dojo. We are still figuring out the best ways to use it but we will post specific class information and whole school reminders on there too.

Parentmail will still be used for formal communication and payments etc.

Our school website has plenty of information and is constantly being added to.

We are very much hoping that we will have plenty of parents joining our PTA Meeting on Wednesday 9th September at 7pm in the school staffroom as we meet to plan the year ahead. As the old saying goes, 'use it or lose it' - our school depends on the help of the whole community AND fundraising events that everyone can join in with.

It is only natural for you and your child to feel a jump in learning and expectations in a new year group; give it time as it is very early days!

I would like to wish every pupil, parent and staff member a successful year ahead where we can work together for the betterment of every child.

Kind regards,

Mrs Miller



School Website:
carrickmodelps.co.uk

September 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
21	1 P2-P7 finishing at 3:00pm P1 finishes at 3:00pm Breakfast Club starts Busen Start Primary 1 Group A attends school until 12:15pm School Dinner start for P2-P7	2	3	4 Whole school finishes between 1:00pm - 2:00pm on Friday (tagged)	5	6
7	8	9 Swimming PS	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Swimming PS	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Swimming PS	24	25 School Closure for staff training	26	27
28	29 School Closure for staff training	30 Primary 1 pupils only until 1:15pm from today (back gate 10:45-11:00)	1 Swimming PS	2	3	4

Who to contact in 2026–2027

A quick guide for parents and carers



Every conversation makes a difference

1

Contact the
class teacher

2

Contact the
Head of Key Stage

3

Contact the
Vice-Principal / SENCO

4

Contact the
Principal

FOUNDATION

Mrs McDowell

Head of Foundation

Primary 1 & Primary 2

I love talking about our cutest and smallest customers!

Email: smcdowell766@c2kni.net



KEY STAGE 1

Mrs McCullough

Head of Key Stage 1: Primary 3 & Primary 4

I love talking about Sport, PE & After-schools!

Email: bmccullough413@c2kni.net



KEY STAGE 2

Mrs Kirkland

Head of Key Stage 2: Primary 5 - Primary 7

Designated Teacher for Child Protection

I love talking about SEAG, transition to 'big school' and school productions!

Email: jkirkland601@c2kni.net



LEADERSHIP / SENCO

Mrs Miller

Principal

Designated Teacher for Child Protection

I love talking about all areas of school life especially developing our school site for the children's learning and fun!

Email: jmiller498@c2kni.net



OFFICE

Mrs Smythe

Executive Officer

For all things ParentMail, payments and everything else in between! All the little things matter!

Email: lsmythe295@c2kni.net



PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Mr Lyness

Building Supervisor

Lost items are my favourite topic! I'm always looking for help to manage the large school site. Autumn leaves are my least favourite thing!



First Aid / Medical / Allergies / Special Diets

Mr Caldwell

Teacher in charge of First Aid / Medical & Allergies

I love talking about Fitness, Football & Primary 6!

Email: dcaldwell1883@c2kni.net



We're here to help!

Let's work together for our children

Please follow the steps above so we can support you as quickly as possible.





Parent Collection Reminder



Please stand behind the white line at the back of the playground when collecting pupils.



Please stay clear of the back door of the school and the steps of the mobile classrooms for the safety and comfort of everyone.



No children should be scooting or cycling around the playground so no one trips over them.



Our school playground is a no smoking and no vaping zone.



Please alert a member of staff if you are worried about a school collection.



No dogs are allowed in our playground.



Parents should be respectful to one another and school staff. Let's work together!



Always welcome your child with a smile and make eye contact with them. It is also really helpful if children know who is collecting them.

Children not collected will be escorted back inside and a phone call made.

P6 & P7 pupils may leave school without an adult as long as this has been communicated via ParentMail.



THANK YOU!



Working Together

for a

SAFE SCHOOL DAY



We all have a part to play

1. Buses



- ✓ One bus runs at 2.00pm with a bus escort Monday - Thursday. Bus Pass Preferable.
- ✓ Three buses run at 3.00pm Monday - Thursday with routes on the website. Bus Pass Preferable.
- ✓ All pupils are expected to stay seated, follow the driver's instructions and display our CMPS values at all times.
- ✓ Mobile Phones should not be used on the school bus.

2. Mobile Phones



- ✓ At primary school, children do not need their mobile phones. Permission is given to a small number of pupils in exceptional circumstances.
- ✓ Phones are stored at the office and any phone found in a school bag will be removed until a parent can collect it.
- ✓ Parents must be vigilant if pupils have their own mobile phone and should check usage and messages regularly.

3. Nut-Free Zone



- ✓ Please do not bring nuts or foods containing nuts.
- ✓ Be aware of any food spreads that may contain nuts.
- ✓ Tell the school about allergies or if your child no longer has an allergy.

4. Breakfast Club

- Please book places before midnight on a Sunday so we have enough staff in the dining hall.
- Breakfast Club starts at 8am and children then make their way to class at 8.30am assisted by staff.
- Children leave their belongings in the Assembly Hall so there is room to play games at Breakfast Club.
- Children can attend odd days or every day.
- Children may bring an item to play with if parents have given permission.

5. Healthy Break / Milk

- Parents can order Healthy Break / Milk from the canteen for each term.
- Children may also bring their own healthy break on a Monday - Thursday. Friday can be treat day if parents allow it.
- We ask parents to keep an eye on what food older children are bringing to school as this can affect learning, focus and behaviour.
- It is preferable for pupils to bring water to school. Strictly no fizzy or energy drinks in school please.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school.

6. School Dinners & Packed Lunches

- Order dinners before midnight on a Sunday so orders can be processed.
- If packing a lunch for your child, please consider the amount given in terms of age and stage. Can they self-manage what you have provided?
- Children get 30 minutes to eat their lunch. This is ample time unless they chat lots rather than eat!
- We encourage good table manners and respectful attitudes to food preferences and cultures.
- Please check with the class teacher before sending birthday treats to school!

We know that sometimes parents need to drop forgotten items into school throughout the day but please keep this to a minimum due to the disruption to the office. Thank you!

Thank you for helping us keep every child safe and ready to learn.

ACCELERATED READER

Read More. Learn More. Achieve More!



The **Accelerated Reader (AR)** programme aims to monitor and manage independent reading while promoting reading for pleasure. Your child has been tested to give him/her a baseline reading age and will be tested again at various stages of the academic year to measure attainment. AR forms 15 minutes of the school day and a minimum of **20 minutes of daily homework time**.



Once our pupils finish a reading book, they take an online quiz to test comprehension. If possible, this quiz should be completed independently at home. If this is not possible, time is allocated daily for quizzing in school.

Renaissance

See Every Student.

To quiz at home, type the **exact URL** below in any web browser

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/2235322>

Carrickfergus Model Primary School

Choose Your Role



I'm a Student



I'm a Teacher/
Administrator

YOUR LOGIN DETAILS

Write your details here!

Username:

Password:



****TOP TIP****

Save this website as a favourite or bookmark it so that you don't have to retype every time!

We need help to broaden our library stock. If you have any books at home that are gathering dust and you'd like to donate them to school, we would be delighted to add them to our AR library!

You can check if a book is on Accelerated Reader by searching for 'Accelerated Reader Book Finder' on the Internet and looking up the title. If it's there, we'd love to have it!

CAN YOU HELP?



LibrariesNI is a fabulous centre for AR reading material, whether that be through their physical book stock or via electronic reading material (eBooks). Check out Carrickfergus library which has a wonderful section dedicated to AR!



KEEP READING, KEEP LEARNING, KEEP SUCCEEDING!



DOJO ISLANDS AT HOME

A quick guide for parents & carers



WHAT IS DOJO ISLANDS?

Dojo Islands is a virtual play space where children can explore, create, build and play games with friends. Children can create their own island, customise their monster and design their own virtual spaces.

It is designed for children aged 5–12 and is available to use at home with parental consent.



CLASS ISLANDS HAVE BEEN SWITCHED OFF BY SCHOOL.

Dojo Islands at Home is a separate, optional home experience and is controlled by parents rather than the school.



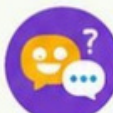
SAFETY FIRST

ClassDojo has built a number of safety features into Dojo Islands:



NO FREE CHAT

Children cannot type their own messages or privately message other players.



PRESET MESSAGES & EMOJIS ONLY

Communication is limited to age-appropriate emojis and pre-written phrases.



NO REAL NAMES IN SHARED AREAS

In Camp Dojo, children are given a temporary, random display name rather than having their real name displayed.



NO THIRD-PARTY ADVERTISING

There are no third-party adverts within Dojo Islands.



PARENT CONTROLS

Parents can see and manage who their child can play with and can remove Buddies at any time.



WHO CAN MY CHILD PLAY WITH?

Children can play with:



Classmates and school friends



Real-life friends



Siblings



Approved Buddies



Invited guests



There is also Camp Dojo, where children may encounter other players outside their own class when playing at home.

If you would prefer your child to play only with school and real-life contacts, this can be changed in the Parent Controls.



HOW DO I CHECK THE PARENT CONTROLS?

In the ClassDojo app:



Parent Account



Kids



next to your child's name



Parent Controls



Who can they play with?



Select: "Only school and real-life contacts"
This prevents your child from accessing the Global Playground within Camp Dojo.



You can also review and remove individual Buddies at any time.

WHAT CAN CHILDREN DO?



- ✓ Create their own island
- ✓ Play games
- ✓ Build and design virtual spaces
- ✓ Customise their monster
- ✓ Play and build with approved friends
- ✓ Create their own game maps
- ✓ Explore different areas of the virtual world



WHERE CAN THEY PLAY?

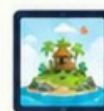
Dojo Islands can be accessed on:



Computer



Chromebook



Tablet



Mobile Phone

Children can use Dojo Islands through a web browser on a computer or through the ClassDojo app on a mobile device/tablet.



A NOTE FROM SCHOOL

We encourage parents/carers to explore the Parent Controls and decide which settings are most appropriate for their child. If you have any questions, please contact the school.



For more information, please visit the official ClassDojo Help Centre:

Dojo Islands for Home – Parent FAQ

help.classdojo.com



Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox

At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over

Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Diarrhea & /or Vomiting

48 hours from last episode

Respiratory Illness

(e.g colds & flu)
Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough

Glandular Fever

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed



Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed

Impetigo

Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Head Lice

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Measles

4 days from onset of rash

Mumps

5 days from onset of swelling

German Measles (Rubella)

5 days from onset of rash

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after commencing antibiotics

Scabies

Until after first treatment

Slapped Cheek

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Threadworms

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Tonsillitis

Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed

Whooping Cough

48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.