

Carrickfergus Model Primary School

"Aspiring to learn, care and grow together."



Term 1: November / December Newsletter 2026



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed a little break from school life; we are now on the countdown to Christmas!

There is lots of information contained on this Newsletter and on our school website and we will keep sending reminders on Class Dojo too. Our Christmas plans are well underway and dates are available for parents to view on the school website calendar.

A huge thank you to those parents who paid our voluntary contribution; we will let you know our plans for that very soon.

A huge thank you to the PTA, school staff for their support for the school disco...we made £1142.92 towards our school projects this year.

A huge thank you for sending us information about successes outside of school; we love seeing our pupils thrive in all areas of their little lives so keep it coming!

Kind regards,

Mrs Miller

LOCKDOWN POLICY

Our school does have lockdown procedures but in light of recent events this will be reflected upon by Governors at our November meeting. This will then be published as some parents have requested a copy.

Concern about your child / incident?

For the smooth running of our school it is really important that parents follow the order of communication to allow us to manage any necessary escalation of things.

1. Speak to the class teacher via Class Dojo or on the telephone. This includes friendship matters and playground too.
2. If parents feel something needs escalated further they should then speak to the Head of Key Stage ie Mrs McDowell, Mrs McCullough or Mrs Kirkland.
3. If parents feel that something needs escalated further, after following the steps above they can contact Mrs Miller, Principal. If Mrs Miller has already been involved she will personally address the matter.
4. Child Protection Matters should be referred to Mrs Miller OR Mrs Kirkland.
5. Medical Matters should be referred to Mr Caldwell.
6. SEN matters should be referred to Mrs Kirkland and her day for meeting parents is a Thursday.



If children feel poorly throughout the day we will always try to keep them in school depending on the circumstances but often we will make a judgement call to contact home, especially if a child has a temperature, feeling very sleepy or displaying obvious symptoms.

Please ensure we have the correct contact details for parents and emergency contacts to allow us to make contact within a nurturing timeframe for your child. Sometimes we cannot get in touch with anyone meaning that a sick child has to wait for a long time before collection.

Carrickfergus Model Parent Code for using ClassDojo

We are one of the few schools still using an app to give parents direct contact with teaching staff. We are very proud of this and we know you value it too.

Our staff work incredibly hard to keep in touch with our families and we really appreciate your support in following this code.



Be respectful

All messages to teaching staff should be polite, respectful and kind, and not written in anger.



Keep it clear and short

Please consider the length of your message and whether a long message is necessary.



Response times

Responses to messages are at the discretion of each class teacher. **Staff cannot always respond during the teaching day as their priority is the pupils.**



Different ways to respond

Staff may choose to reply via the telephone rather than through ClassDojo.



Zero tolerance

We have a zero-tolerance approach to **how school staff are treated** on any platform, so please **take care with what you write** and remember that written messages can have a lasting impact.



We care about our families

We care very much about our families, but staff need to be protected and looked after too, so they can continue giving their very best every day.



Reminder:

Class WhatsApp groups are NOT an official school channel.

Please refrain from discussing pupils, other parents and staff members on WhatsApp groups.
This can be so distressing for those involved.

Think & Breathe before you message rather than a digital hit and run!



Thank you for working with us

HOMEWORK

Love it, hate it, agree or disagree...

2026

Homework is part of school life.

It is designed to **reinforce learning**, **provide extra practice** and most importantly involve parents in the learning of their child.



Always reviewing and adapting

As a school we have different levels of homework and adapting what we give for homework, and this can what are based on the needs of a particular pupil curriculum.



Working together

Teachers will work with individual pupils when necessary if homework is a difficult topic, and feedback is always useful to us. Please get in here to help.

No homework stress at home

We don't want homework stress to ruin precious family time and all pupils have different levels of motivation. We do our staff are all important homework, so sve do understand the time pressure on family life, as well as thinking in those all important moments.



We understand

We are also empathetic to special circumstances too. If children are on a PUP (Personalised Learning Plan) they may have adaptations made to their homework. We are always happy to: discuss individual needs.

Thinking about the SEAG test?

If you are considering the SEAG route for your child in Primary 7, regular homework and consistent practise is particularly important. The preparation early napolculat, Theparation cannot begin in Primary 6, so there is a significant amount of learning to cover alongside the Primary 7 curriculum.



All learners valued

We recognise that SEAG is not the right pathway for every child, and non-SEAG pupils are very well catered for. We are equally committed to supporting and celebrating the progress of all our pupils.

Thank you for all your support!

Working together for bright futures



Carrickfergus Model Primary School

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR 2026

by The Travelling Book Fair

READ
EXPLORE
IMAGINE
DISCOVER
GROW

ADVENTURE
FRIENDSHIP
MYSTERY
FANTASY
HUMOUR

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th November 2026

We are delighted to welcome
The Travelling Book Fair back to Carrickfergus Model Primary School!

This is a fantastic opportunity to encourage a love of reading while helping our school earn commission for class teachers to purchase new books for their classrooms!

IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES

Tuesday 3rd November



Classes will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair and explore the wonderful selection of books available.

Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th November



8.30am – 9.00am

Parents and carers are welcome to purchase books during this time.

Thursday 5th November



Pupils will have the opportunity to purchase books and small stationery items during the school day.

KINDNESS
CURIOSITY
CREATIVITY
BRIGHTER
FUTURES

There is no pressure or expectation to purchase and we always communicate this to pupils.

EVERY BOOK MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

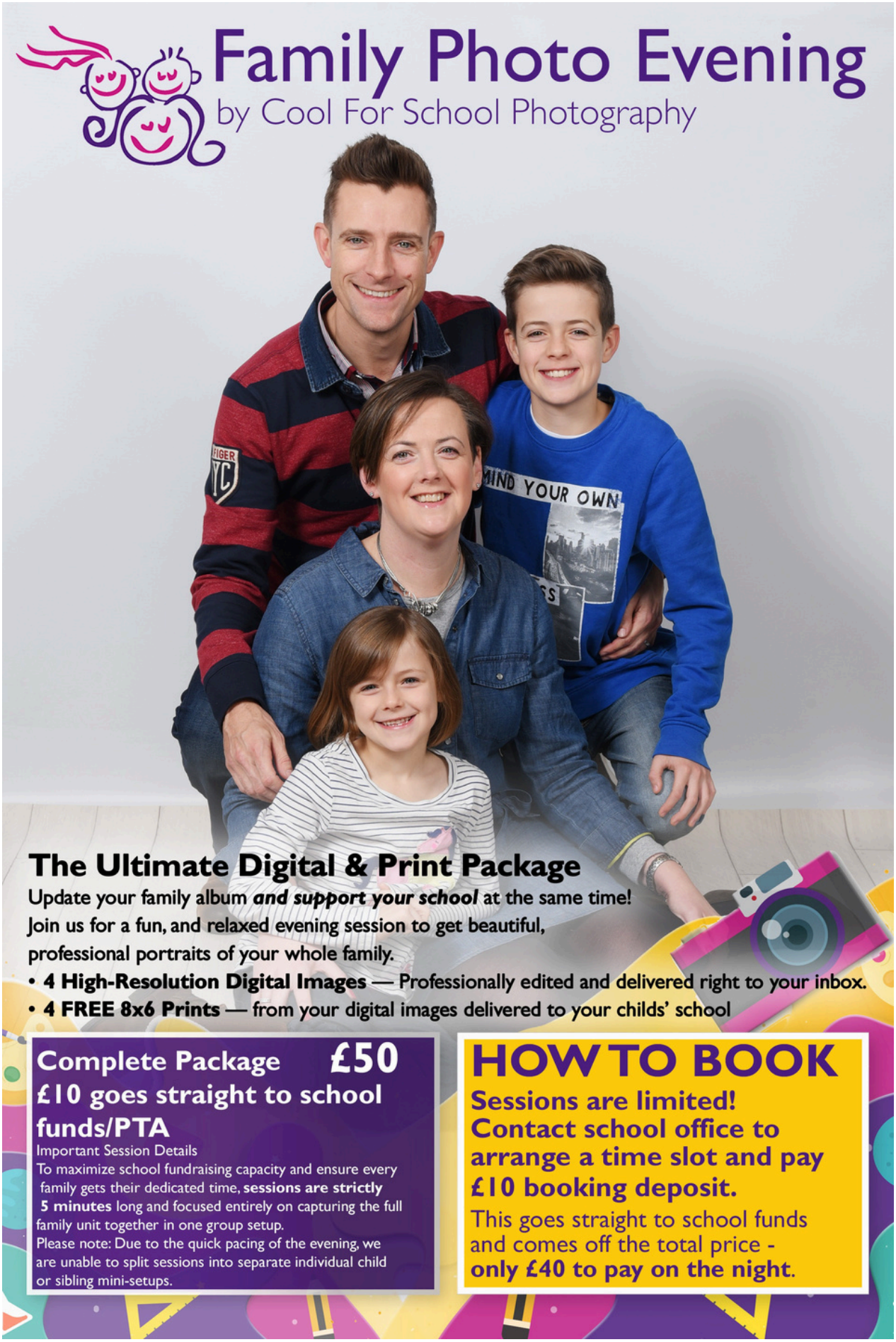
Thank you for supporting our school and inspiring a love of reading!

There is absolutely no pressure for any child to purchase any Remembrance Items but these will be on sale in school over the next fortnight in preparation for our Remembrance Assembly on Friday 13th November.



'Cool for School family photo evening is scheduled for Thursday 19th November 2026 from 5pm onwards.

More information is included on ParentMail so please view this if you are interested and would like to book. These were very popular pre-Covid but the company are revamping these for schools.



There is no charge for any of our events during Anti-Bullying Week. Our Anti-Bullying & Wellness Ambassadors have been busy planning a week that will focus on remembering how we treat one another and this year's theme 'Break the Silence.'



The PTA would love pupils to take part again this year in our 'New Skill November' Challenge. This was very popular with some families last year so it would be great if lots of pupils joined in. Life skills are just as important as the academics so pick a few that you would love to happen in your house! Sheets will be coming home soon and sponsorship cash can be sent in at the end of the month!



Road Safety week and Anti-Bullying Week were due to be on the same week so we have moved Road Safety week to December to tie in in with our annual Santa Walk. Our annual Santa Walk is where we gather in the playground as a whole school community and enjoy a walk to Carrickfergus Castle with Santa hats and tinsel!

Any brave parents who want to dress up for the Christmas Season will be most welcome! More information on the Journey to Santa Challenge will be communicated soon! No charge for events this week.



CHRISTMAS at CARRICKFERGUS MODEL 2026

COMMUNITY
CREATIVITY
KINDNESS
TOGETHER

BI-ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

Year A

P1 – P4
Celebrations for Charity

P5 – P7
Carol Service for Charity

Year B

P1 – P4
Celebrations for School Funds

P5 – P7
Production in Spring
(Ticketed to cover (running costs)

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DATES

Wednesday 9th December & Thursday 10th December

P1
9.15am
Busy Bethlehem

P2
9.45am
Bethlehem Bakeoff

P3 & P4
10.45am
It's Christmas!

Auditions for KS2 production are also taking place in December.
P5 pupils form our lovely choir!

SANTA WALK

Friday 4th December at 9.15am (all welcome)

JOURNEY TO SANTA CHALLENGE

Walk or scoot to the gate!

PTA COSY CHRISTMAS EVENT

Thursday 17th December
(Wear Pyjamas)

CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES

also taking place before the end of term

CHRISTMAS POST-BOX

Write cards to your pals!

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

Remember someone special by hanging a memory card on our memory tree.

LAST DAY OF TERM

Friday 18th December
Finish at 12 noon
(Non-uniform)

P1 - P4 Pantomine Trip: Tuesday 15th December!

Class Fundraising Christmas Cards etc

Parent Order cards have been processed and will be with parents soon.
Order deadline is **Friday 10th November** due to the time required to make the orders.