



## **SCOIL BARRA NAOFA**

### **Newsletter - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

A Chairde,

I hope that you all enjoyed the wonderful weather over the long weekend! This week is an exciting and busy one, as our First Communicants prepare to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time this Saturday. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them the very best of luck and hopefully the sun will shine on them on their most special day. (Reminders for the Communion can be found at the end of the newsletter).

*Mise le meas,*

*Ciara Ní Bhuaigh agus Foireann na Scoile*

### **UPCOMING DATES**

Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30am First Communion (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Junior Infants – Vaccinations (HSE)
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> May	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Class GAA Blitz (Passage West GAA)
Mon-Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> May	Well Being Week
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class GAA Blitz (Shamrocks GAA)
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>School Closure – Referendum</b>
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Lenrec Clothing Collection
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	7pm Incoming Junior Infant 2018 Information Evening
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	1:45pm-2:20pm Reception Afternoon for J.I. 2018
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	1pm-2:30pm Laura's Uniform Shop (Halla)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Cork City Sports
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Tues 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>School Closure (Extended Bank Holiday Weekend)</b>
Mon-Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Active Week (School Sports Day on Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> )

## **SCHOOL TOURS**

All school tour forms & payments should have been returned by now. If you have not done so, please forward to the office as soon as possible

### **REMINDER OF SCHOOL TOUR DATES:**

Junior & Senior Infants	Rumley's Farm	Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> June
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Crafty Hands & Mario's	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> June
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Eco Adventures, Aghada	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> June
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Eco Adventures, Aghada	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> June
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Walking Tour of Cork	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> June
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	Ballyhass Lakes	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> June
	Walking Tour of Cork	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> June

## **BOOK RENTAL**

Book lists will be issued next **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May** and should be returned by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
*No late payments accepted.*

## **CALENDAR 2018/2019**

The following are some important dates for the 2018/2019 School calendar:

<b>Friday</b>	<b>31st August 2018</b>	<b>School Re-opens after Summer Holidays</b>
Mon-Fri	29th Oct – 2nd Nov	October Midterm Break
Friday	7th December	School Closure
Friday	21st Dec 2018	School closes for Christmas at 12 midday
Monday	7th January 2019	School Re-opens after Christmas
Thurs & Fri	21st & 22nd Feb 2019	School Closed – Midterm Break
Fri & Mon	15th & 18th March 2019	Extended St. Patrick's Weekend
Friday	12th April 2019	School closes for Easter at 12midday
Monday	29th April 2019	School re-opens after Easter
Monday	6th May 2019	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Fri & Mon	31st May & 3rd June	Extended June Bank Holiday Weekend
Friday	28th June 2019	School closes at 12midday for Summer

***Parents will be informed of any additional closures as soon as the school becomes aware of them.***

## **STAFFING FOR THE 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

Junior Infants: Ms Lisa Marshall

Senior Infants: Ms. Edel Dwyer

1st Class: Ms. Geraldine Kelly

2nd Class: Ms Sharon Mulrooney

3rd Class: Ms Kim Matthews

4th Class: Ms. Mairéad Ní Bhéara

5th Class: Ms. Áine O' Connell (*Teacher to be appointed during summer months*)

6th Class: Ms. Miriam Murphy

SET: Mr. Diarmuid Murphy, Ms. Therese Flannery, Mr. Gerard O' Connell

*Our SNA allocation has yet to be decided by the Department of Education & Skills.*

## **SLÁN LEAT, MARTIN**

Last week we bade a fond farewell to our wonderful caretaker, Martin Prout. Martin has been with us for the past ten years and has been a dedicated and hardworking member of staff. No job was ever too big or too small for Martin. He has expertise in so many areas – plumbing, technology, electrical and carpentry. He tackled everything with enthusiasm and his work was always completed to the highest possible standards. He had a creative solution to every problem and contributed so much to our school. Martin was responsible for so many initiatives over the years, our computer room being one of his many projects and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Presentations were made to Martin from the staff, the Parents' Association and the Board of Management. Cards were presented to him from representatives of each class. We wish Martin every happiness in his retirement and will always remember him with fondness and appreciation in Scoil Barra Naofa. Slán agus go raibh míle maith agat, Martin! Go n-eirí an bóthar leat!

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

Our uniform supplier – Laura's of Douglas, will be in the school on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May from 1pm-2:30pm. They will provide a discount that day and that week in store. Price list is attached.

## **PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS - APRIL**

Well done to the children who received Principal's Awards for April. Maith sibh!

- **Ayda Bruen** (Rang 1) for her sunny disposition, being a careful worker, trying her best in Irish, making the class smile with her jokes and being helpful in class
- **Penny Foy** (Rang 1) for being a joy to teach, being a diligent student and looking after everyone in class with her kind and caring personality.
- **Faye Ryan** (Rang 2) for working really well in class, for improvement with her reading and always being pleasant, kind and helpful
- **Dónal McDonnell** (Rang 2) for good concentration, enthusiasm and always being willing to help out in class.
- **Charlie Coakley** (Rang 3) for his hard work, great manners and helpfulness in class
- **Oisín Frankel** (Rang 3) for his hard work, great effort in Gaeilge and his kindness in class.
- **Amelia Ahern Breen** (Rang 4) for great participation in class, huge improvement in handwriting, great effort in Maths. and being polite and helpful
- **Hugo McGuire** (Rang 4) for great contributions to class discussions, wonderful effort in spelling and writing and for politeness and kindness to others.
- **Laoise Moynihan** (Rang 5) for being such a pleasant, diligent and helpful student who always aims to please and for the beautiful presentation of her work
- **David McSweeney** (Rang 5) for being a funny, helpful and motivated student and for his great initiative and enthusiasm in Maths.
- **Ethan Hartigan** (Rang 6) ar a chuid oibre crua, dea-iompar agus modhanna den scoth;
- **Tara Kennedy** (Rang 6) ar a cuid oibre crua, a cuid cabhracht agus a Gaeilge den scoth.

## **2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

If you are aware that your child(ren) will not be attending Scoil Barra Naofa next year, please be sure to contact Iníon Uí Bhuaiigh to discuss this as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. Mile Buíochas.

## **GREEN FLAG**

A great day was had by the Green Committee last Wednesday in the Radisson Blu Hotel where Scoil Barra Naofa was awarded its fifth Green Flag for Biodiversity. Ms. Flannery, Mrs. O' Dea, Nicole Dinan and Ryan Nolan received the flag and certificate on behalf of the whole school. Well done to the Green Committee and the entire school committee for the effort made during the past two years. We look forward to raising the flag in the school at the end of the month. Comhghairdeas!

## **SWIMMING**

Next year's 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Classes will attend swimming in Term 1. Payments for swimming lessons for the 2018/19 school year are collected in June, as swimming classes commence almost immediately upon our return to school in September. The note in relation to this will be distributed in early June.

## **GDPR**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union. Schools will be affected by GDPR and we are currently seeking guidance and training from the School Management Bodies in relation to this. We currently have a Data Protection Policy, which will be updated to reflect GDPR.

As part of this, the school will be obliged to seek authorisation and permission (again!) from all parents in relation to receiving texts, emails, and other electronic / paper correspondence (school reports etc,) from the school and other aspects of data storage and protection. Letters will be sent home in the coming months, seeking these permissions. In the meantime, please ensure that we have your correct phone number, address and email on file so that you do not miss this correspondence. Thank you for your co-operation with this!

## **CLASS EXPENSES**

Many thanks to those families who have forwarded Class Expenses payments this year. It is very much appreciated. We hope that your children have benefitted and continue to benefit from the range of activities and resources that these payments help us provide to our pupils. For those with payments outstanding we would very much appreciate if you could forward these as soon as possible. We are very much indebted to those families who also choose to support the school by making a voluntary contribution. Míle Buíochas ó chroí.

## **SENSORY EQUIPMENT**

Over the past number of months, staff have been researching and sourcing some sensory equipment, which has recently arrived. This is a wonderful long term and significant investment by the school, and will no doubt benefit many of our pupils. We hope that our infant pupils in particular, along with other pupils throughout the school, will have an opportunity to access and engage with the equipment over time.

Your child's class teacher may inform you over the next few months, that your child will have to an opportunity to interact with this sensory equipment, which will be set up for a couple of hours each day in the library and will be accessed in small (2-3 pupil) groups, for 5 minute periods, along with a teacher or a SNA.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher to discuss further. However, please note that if your child's class teacher has any serious concerns about your child's sensory needs, they will arrange a meeting to discuss this with you.

## **HOLIDAYS**

Our "Attendance Policy" is available to view: <http://www.scoilbarranaofa.ie/attendance-policy/>. There, you will note that "*holidays taken during term time are not considered an acceptable reason for a pupil to be absent from school. This practice disrupts the teaching and learning programme being carried out and does not promote a good work ethic. Pupils also miss valuable socialisation experiences.*"

*The end of the school year is an important time for pupils. Curricular programmes of learning are being completed; standardised tests are administered; school work is revised and consolidated; school activities such as tours, sports day etc. are planned. Pupils miss these important learning and socialisation opportunities if they are withdrawn unnecessarily for family holidays. Therefore there is no period of the school year where pupils "don't miss much".*"

If your child/ren are to miss school due to planned holidays, in accordance with procedure outlined in our Attendance Policy, "*parents should contact the Principal to explain the circumstances in person. This should be placed in writing also. The school is not obliged to provide extra work or homework to the pupil. It is the parent's responsibility, to assist their child in 'catching up' after a period of such absence. The school is not obliged to repeat any testing or other activity that the pupil may have missed due to holidays. Such absences will be included in any report made to NEWB, if a pupil reaches 20 days absent during the school year.*" Míle Buíochas.

## **AN TAISCE CLEAN UP**

At the end of April, 4th class headed for the park in Monkstown for the annual An Taisce Clean Up. They were well prepared for the task ahead with wellies and old shoes and an abundance of enthusiasm! Once all the protective gear was put on, they headed off to their designated area for the clean up. They collected plenty of rubbish around the park and left it looking much cleaner. A big thank you to Martin who helped out and was on hand to take all the rubbish away. Well done to 4th class for such a great effort!

## **WHATSAPP GROUPS**

WhatsApp groups or similar can be a great and convenient way for parents to communicate with each other. The school is aware that there are groups for parents of some of the classes. These groups are not set up or monitored by the school, nor does the school communicate using these. Official communication from the school always goes out by the official school text & email service, the school newsletter each fortnight and by note or phonecall from teachers etc.

While WhatsApp groups can be a wonderful place **to confirm facts**, such as, “Is it uniform or tracksuit day tomorrow?”, it is the school’s opinion that **WhatsApp groups are not the correct forum for discussing individual correspondence from the school**. It can cause unnecessary alarm or worry to parents if they have received communication from the school, and another parent has not, or vice versa. Some parents may not (understandably) feel comfortable discussing aspects of their child’s education with a whole group. A child’s (and parent’s) entitlement to privacy and confidentiality may be compromised. Multiple interpretations or opinions are likely to only increase concerns or confusion, rather than provide clarification.

If you have a concern or question about any communication that you have received from the school, please remember that the class teacher (or which ever member of staff that has communicated with you), should be your **FIRST point of contact, in seeking clarification**. Teachers are always only too happy to discuss any concerns with parents – just contact the office to arrange this.

We appreciate your co-operation with this.

## **HEAD BUMPS**

As many of you are aware, we have begun a new procedure, with regards to informing parents about minor head bumps.

- If your child has bumped their head, and it is minor and there is no immediate cause for concern, you will receive a **TEXT MESSAGE**. The purpose of this text message is merely to inform you, so that if there is any concern later at home, you will be aware of the minor incident in school. Staff will monitor in school. All head bumps are treated with an ice-pack. *You can of course ring the school at this point if you would like more information or are concerned.*
- If, after monitoring in school, staff become concerned or there is a deterioration – you will at that stage receive a follow up **PHONE CALL**. Staff will advise you at this point if they feel that your child should be collected, or what steps will be taken by the school.
- If your child has bumped their head, and there is immediate cause for concern, you will receive a **PHONE CALL**, informing you and advising you of the next steps to be taken by yourself and by the school. Staff will treat injuries, following our Accident & Injury Policy.

**Please do not be alarmed if you receive a text**, and feel free to contact the school for more information.

## **TAG RUGBY BLITZ**

Rang 5 had a very enjoyable day at the Cork Rugby N.S. Festival 2018 recently. They did Scoil Barra Naofa very proud in all their three games. They also met two very famous Munster rugby players. Check out our website to see if you can recognise them!

## **1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS – GAA BLITZ**

Shamrock's GAA Club are organising a GAA Blitz for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes of the parish schools on Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> from **11:30am-1:30pm**. Monies collected in September/ for the postponed blitz, will be used as a contribution towards the bus now. Many thanks! Thanks to Anthony Shannon for coaching in the school across the year.

Bainigí taitneamh as an lá!

## **4TH & 5TH CLASS – GAA BLITZ**

Passage West GAA club are organising a GAA Blitz for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Classes with Star of the Sea N.S. on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May. We hope that all our pupils will enjoy the day!

Thanks to Ronan Harrington, Emma Harrington and Kealan O' Flynn and all of the coaches from Passage West GAA for training our pupils across nearly every class this year. Míle Buíochas.

## **LENREC CLOTHING COLLECTION**

Lenrec Clothing Collection will take place on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of May**. All proceeds raised will go towards school fundraising. Items should be brought to the school library

- Before 9:00am on Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May .
- From 2:30pm-3:30pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May
- 8am-9pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May (School premises will be open for the Referendum)

Please donate all your clean unwanted clothes also bed linen, towels, curtains, shoes, bags, belts and soft toys. Wearable clothes will be recycled and re-used and other items will be recycled for items, such as, industrial wipes or soundproofing. NO HOUSEHOLD BRIC A BRAC.

Thank you as always for your support.

## **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

A huge thank you to all of the children for bringing loose change from home. An amazing €1,188.20 was raised. This will go towards purchasing kitchen catering equipment, for the children to use as they learn to make healthy meals, and also the school garden. Míle Buíochas!

## **COMMUNION RECEPTION – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Parents**

The PA would ask that First Class parents that plan drop in food for the reception to the kitchen downstairs (by the halla) do so on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May during the school day until 2.30pm, Fri 11<sup>th</sup> from 5.30pm - 6.30om or on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May before 11 am.

Thank you!

## **COMMUNION REMINDERS - 2ND CLASS**

**DATE & TIME:** The First Communion Ceremony will take place at 10.30am on Sat. May 12th. All pupils should be in their places by 10:15am at the latest.

**ACCESSORIES:** No rosary beads, bags, flowers, booklets, prayer books or other accessories should be with the children in their places - these should be kept with their families.

**BOOKLETS:** Mass booklets will be sent home to families on Friday evening (11th May) and should be brought by families on Saturday. There will be no extra booklets available on the day.

**PHOTOS:** We would ask that families to not take photos or videos throughout the ceremony as it can be hugely distracting to the pupils who are receiving their First Holy Communion. A professional photographer and videographer will be capturing the ceremony. (See Below)

**ALLOCATED SEATING:** The PA are organising 'allocated seating' for families again this year. All parents should have received an email regarding this last week. Each family will have one pew allocated to them. Please have discussed in advance with all family members & guests that there is an 'allocated seating' system in place & make any decisions necessary with regards to who will sit in the allocated pew, so that there is no confusion on the day. For families whose number of guests exceed the space in their pew, there will be 'general seating' available - some pews at the back on either side, the balcony area, along with pews on the left of the pulpit (with a more restricted view). As always, I am sure that families and guests will show their usual consideration to each other with regards to seating.

**TRAFFIC:** Along with the PA, we would appeal to all families & guests to ensure that having allocated seating does not mean that families are late arriving at the church. Please remember that there will be a large volume of traffic in & around the church and take this into account when planning your morning. It is essential that pupils & all families arrive and are seated on time so that the Communion candidates get every opportunity to enjoy their special day without stress, worry or the distraction of late arrivals.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Christine McCarthy has sent a note regarding sittings for photographs on the day. You will need to check in with Christine when you arrive in the

school for the reception in order to receive your appointment time. The Class Group & photos of children receiving their communion will also be available. If you did not receive the note, please contact Christine on 087-2180112.

**DVD:** Brendan Barry will be the videographer on the day. The DVD of the Communion Ceremony costs €20. If you wish to order a DVD, please send €20 in an envelope with your child's name & Communion DVD clearly marked on the outside into the class teacher.

**RECEPTION:** A reception, organised by the PA & parents of First Class, will be held in the school hall immediately following the ceremony. All families are welcome to this.

**MON 14th:** 2nd Class pupils may wear their Communion clothes to school on Monday 14th May, if they wish. No photos will be taken in school on the Monday, however pupils will have an opportunity to visit other classes in their outfits etc. They may be collected at 10:45am on that day, and signed out by their parent (or another adult, once a note is provided to the teacher, naming the adult with permission to collect their child). If a pupil is not signed out, they will remain in school until 2:30pm as normal. Thank you for co-operation with this.

### **THANK YOUS:**

Thank you to the parents involved in the 'Steering Committee' of the Do This in Memory programme, as well as the Parents' Association of SBN.

Míle Buíochas to Fr. Seán, Fr. Con & Ms. Mulrooney for helping our pupils prepare so well for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Additional thanks to Audrey, Mary, Susan and Jacqui; our ancillary staff, Claire, Hilary, Roger, Martin & Vivian and all who helped Rang 2 in their preparations for their special occasion.

Thanks in advance to Christopher Hennessy for his musical contribution to the ceremony.

***Finally we hope that our Communicants will enjoy this most special & holy day.***

## **SHAMROCKS GAA BOYS' ACADEMY**

Our Fun boys Academy has moved to Friday nights to our pitch in Shanbally

Boys born 2007 - 2013 on Friday evenings from 6.45pm to 7.45pm All Monkstown NS students welcome.

We will be holding our Annual Schools Football Blitz on Wednesday May 23rd in Shanbally.

## **SHAMROCKS LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB**

\*\*\*\* Player Recruitment \*\*\*\*

Give your girls the gift of team sport!

Shamrocks Ladies Football Club are currently recruiting players for ALL of our age groups, from U6/8 to Juniors. No previous experience required.

- U6/8 +U10+U12+U14                      Tuesday 6.30-7.30pm.
- U16+Junior (Ladies)                      Thursday 7-8pm

Shamrocks Pitch, Shanbally

If you want to join your growing vibrant local club, come along to any of our training sessions and be part of a winning team. You'll get a great welcome!

\*\* Player Registration starts in May \*\*

Follow us on Facebook or contact 0872280425. Building Friends, Fun and Fitness within the sport of Ladies Football. Please Spread the Word!

## **PASSAGE WEST GAA**

GAA Training for Under 6 Boys and Girls

Passage West GAA Club

Sunday Mornings 10:30am – Weather Permitting