



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #2

18th September 2018

A Chairde,

We hope that everyone has settled into the 2018/2019 school year! It has been an eventful start, especially for our Sciath na Scol team who were victorious against Greenmount N.S. last week! Maith sibh! Our Junior Infants have graduated to a full week! No doubt there will be tired bodies as the week goes on, but we hope they are enjoying 'big school' and yard and all that school life entails.

Mise le meas,

Ciara Ní Bhuaigh agus Foireann na Scoile

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday	18 th Sept	<u>Parents' Association AGM – All welcome</u>
Fri	21 st September	School Mass @9am
Fri	21 st September	Sciath na Scol Match, Bandon – 5 th & 6 th <i>RESCHEDULED TO FRI</i> Weather Dependant
Wed	17 th Oct	7pm Open Night
Fri	26 th October	Election (Expected School Closure)
Mon-Fri	29 th Oct – 2nd Nov	October Midterm Break
Wed	31 st Oct	Closing Date Pre-Enrolment Forms for 2019
Friday	7 th December	School Closure
Friday	21 st Dec 2018	School closes for Christmas at 12 midday

UNIFORM

Due to the change in weather, pupils should no longer be wearing their summer uniforms. Junior & Senior Infants should be in their school tracksuit every day. 1st-6th Class should wear their school tracksuit on PE days only & their full school uniform on all other days. Mile Buíochas.

SCHOOL MASS

On Friday of this week (21st Sept), we will be celebrating our beginning of school year mass in Sacred Heart Church, Monkstown at 9am. This mass will be dedicated to the memory of Mr. Ciarán Boland, former school principal, who passed away during the summer. All parents and members of the community are invited to attend.

On Friday we will also unveil our newly re-designed outdoor reading area & bench near the upper yard. The dedication of "Mr. Boland's Bench" will be in tribute to the strong emphasis Mr. Boland placed on reading as an educator. We hope that our pupils enjoy reading at "Mr. Boland's Bench" for many years to come.

SACRAMENTS

Last week the Cork & Ross Diocesan Office and the Parish Office confirmed the dates for the sacramental classes this year.

Confirmation	5 th & 6 th Class	Monday 11 th March 2019
First Communion	2 nd Class	Saturday 11 th May 2019

SCIATH NA SCOL

Congratulations to our Sciath na Scol team on winning their first match of the season against Greenmount N.S. in St. Finbarr's GAA last week! We are very proud of them and wish them the best of luck in their upcoming matches. Thanks to Mr. Walsh, Mr. Murphy & Jacqui for their help training the team and arranging the matches.

TRAINING: CANCELLED for today Tues 18th due to closure of pitch

MATCH: RESCHEDULED to Fri 21st Sept (*Weather Dependent*); St. Patrick's N.S. Bandon; Match @12midday. Pupils to travel by bus.

HSE SCREENING FORMS & DENTAL FORMS

Junior & Senior Infants received forms last week which should be returned by **today Tues 18th September**. They should be returned even if consent is not being provided. Forms not returned by today will have to be forwarded directly to the HSE yourself.

2nd Class & 6th Class also received Dental forms, which should be returned by **Thurs 20th Sept**. Once again, forms not returned in time will have to be forwarded directly.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – THANK YOU!

Our thanks to our Parents' Association for organising a play session for Junior Infants in Kool Kidz, after school on the final day of their early finish! Those able to attend had a wonderful time and it was a great opportunity for children and parents to socialise outside of school! Go raibh maith agaibh!

AGM

A reminder that The Parents' Association AGM will take place **TONIGHT Tuesday 18th September at 7:30pm** in the school hall. I would encourage all parents to attend, as all parents in the school community are considered members of the PA. It is important for all parents to hear about and acknowledge the great work carried out by the PA Committee last year.



I would also encourage you all to consider joining the Parents' Association Committee. The committee engages in the fantastic organisation of the wonderful social and fundraising occasions across the school year. The committee meet approximately once a month and it is an excellent way to meet other parents, to get to know the workings of the school, school policies and other aspects of school life. Please see the letter below from the Parents' Association inviting you to attend and to join the committee!!! Looking forward to seeing you all tonight!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Dear Parent(s),

*In advance of the Parents Association(PA) AGM scheduled for **tonight** Tuesday 18th September at 7.30pm, we would like to invite Parents from all classes to volunteer to join the PA Committee for the coming year 2018/19.*

Ideally we will have a Mum and Dad from each class to ensure better representation and greater gender balance in the interests of the children.

The PA represents much of the community spirit that the school is so proud of, and the role of the PA is to create experiences which enhance the child's well-being and participation in school life. The children are at the centre of what the PA is about.

We encourage you to join in with other parents and the school to enhance your child's time in SBN. Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on Tuesday night.

Best wishes, SBN Parents Association

FUNDRAISING, FINANCES ... AND OIL TANKS!

As many of you will be aware from previous correspondence from the Board of Management, budgets, finances and fundraising continues to be a priority in schools all over Ireland and Scoil Barra Naofa is no exception to this.

When it comes to funds, we are hugely indebted to all of the parents of Scoil Barra Naofa, as well as the Parents' Association. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we have been able to invest in new materials and resources for our pupils and upgrade areas such as the kitchen, library, offices, gardens- investments that the capitation grants from the Department of Education do not cover. We thank you for continuing to support us by covering your children's class expenses, as well as making additional voluntary contributions. Without the hard work and time invested by parents voluntarily, many of the projects achieved over the past few years would not have been realised. We are also very grateful to those parents who have made additional one-off donations.

Last year the BoM was delighted to report that approx €10,000 of our €30,000 target for the School Development Fund had been raised. This was raised through school & parent organised fundraising events, private donations, co-operate donations etc. (<http://www.scoilbarranaofa.ie/category/fundraising/>). The school development fund will ultimately be invested in the internal painting of the school (estimated at approx €25,000) and upgrading other elements of the classrooms in stages.

Despite the continued hard work of parents and staff, there are always unexpected (and unwanted) surprises in terms of budgets! This year that came in the form of needing a new oil tank, which will be installed next month. The Board of Management thoroughly researched the options through a detailed procurement process. However, purchasing and installing a future-proofed (in terms of code and legislation for public buildings) tank and ensuring a good long-term investment for the school, as well as draining and disposing of the old tank, is not a cheap process - costing in excess of €7,500.

As you can appreciate this has had a major impact on our contingency fund and our budget. It is with renewed vigour that the BoM is attempting to secure further corporate donations. In the past parents have alerted us to charity schemes/grants available to us through various companies. We are always happy to follow any leads and explore the options available. If you are aware of any schemes, we would be very grateful if you could contact Ciara on 021-4842159, who will approach these companies, if we have not already done so, on behalf of the Board of Management. **If you have any questions about any of the above, or ideas in relation to it, please do not hesitate to contact Ciara.**

PAYMENTS

We will be sending a note to all parents in the coming weeks, to explain our new payments system, which is in the process of being set up. We hope that the new system will be a convenient and secure method of paying Class Expenses, Voluntary contributions etc. Thank you as always for your support.

NEW SIGN IN & OUT PROCEDURES

Due to Child Safeguarding measures, we have some changes to our procedures in the school:

SIGN OUT: If your child needs to leave school early for an appointment etc, please send a note into the class teacher informing them of the time you will collect your child. When collecting him/her early, please enter the school via the office. Sign your child out using the 'Sign-Out' book. You will receive a "PARENT BADGE", from the office to give to the class teacher. Please exit the school via the door by the office. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

VISITOR SIGN IN: ALL visitors – external coaches, sub teachers or SNAs, volunteers, those on work placement, guest speakers etc., MUST SIGN IN in the office, where they will receive an ID lanyard for the duration of their visit. Please note that this includes parents who are volunteering in the library, or with the Parents' Association. This is part of our child safeguarding procedures, to ensure that all visitors to the school have been vetted appropriately, and/or will be fully accompanied if necessary.

GARDA VETTING: A reminder to all parents who wish to volunteer in the school in library, at PA events, or give lifts to pupils that it is best practice to be Garda Vetted through the school. It is a simple procedure and safeguards both the pupils and the volunteers. Please contact the office for Vetting Forms.

ENROLMENTS

A reminder that the closing date for Pre-Enrolments for the 2019/2020 school year is **31st October 2018**. Please ensure that forms for any younger siblings are in by this date. Please contact Jen in the office if you wish to confirm.

A reminder that our OPEN NIGHT will take place on Wednesday 17th October at 7pm. All parents and prospective parents are welcome!

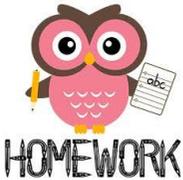


SWIMMING

First Class and Third Class began their 5 week swimming module last Monday. We hope they enjoy and benefit from these. There was an error in the letter sent out last week. The pupils & teachers ***depart the school at approx 9:40am, and return at 12midday*** approx. Thank You!

RECYCLED CLOTHING COLLECTION

SAVE THE DATE!!! There will be a recycled clothing collection on Wednesday 24th October 2018.



HOMEWORK CLUB 2018

Homework Club will take place on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** this year, from 2:30-3:30pm on those days, for pupils from 1st-6th Classes.

Unfortunately the minimum number (of 6 pupils) was **not met** for Thursdays.

The cost of Homework Club is €5 per pupil per day and this must be paid in advance for the full term. If you wish for your child to attend Homework Club on any day, please contact the office or email info@scoilbarranaofa.ie. Forms can also be collected from the office.

CRAFT CLUB 2018

We are delighted to welcome Bean Uí Bhuaiigh back for another term of craft club. Craft club will take place on Wednesdays starting Wed 26th Sept. The dates until midterm are as follows: **Wed 26th Sept, Wed Oct 3rd, 17th, 24th**. (Note no class Wed 10th Oct)

Two options will be available: ***Cross stitch for 3rd Class & Embroidery/ Crossstitch for 4th-6th Classes***. Craft club costs €5 per week, plus €5 for materials (**€25 for the four weeks**). All funds raised go towards Scoil Barra Naofa school development fund.

Forms are available in the office and should be returned by this Fri 21st Sept. Places are limited to please secure your child's place early to avoid disappointment.

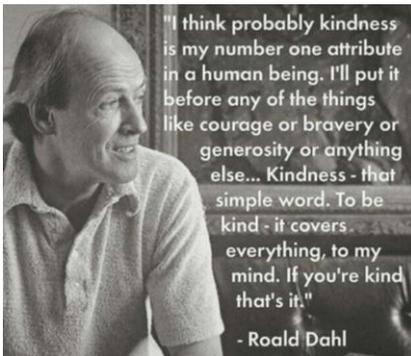
Míle Buíochas!

LOST & FOUND

A number of school jumpers have going missing, or been mixed up in the past few weeks. Some of these have had children's names on them, others have not. While teachers will do their utmost to help a child retrieve a lost piece of clothing, it is **VITAL that all bags, coats, jumpers, hoodies etc. have your child's name on them.**

We would appeal to **ALL PARENTS to check your child's clothes this evening** in case s/he has accidentally taken home another child's jumper or hoodie in the last few days. We still have a number of items that have not been found.

All items of clothing found without names on them, are put in lost and found, which is located in the 'blue presses' underneath the trophy display in reception. *We appreciate your help and co-operation with this! Thank You!*



KINDNESS & UNDERSTANDING

Last week all around the world Roald Dahl Day was celebrated. One of my favourite Roald Dahl quotes is about the importance of kindness!

In school we do a lot of lessons themed around the concepts of kindness, understanding and inclusion. I know many of you stress the importance of these traits at home also. It would

be a worthwhile conversation to have again with your child at this time of year, so that we all start the year on as positive a note as possible.

Every person is different and unique: we learn and play in different ways, we enjoy (or dislike) different activities. We come from different background, families, towns, cities, countries and cultures. Our experiences at home and school differ from each other and therefore, how we face the challenges each day present, differs. Pupils, parents, teachers & staff alike are facing their own challenges, that others may not be aware of.

It is important to teach our children (and remind ourselves) of the valuable life skills of kindness, tolerance and understanding. None of us know what someone else might be going through, and the simple act of a kind word or gesture can make a massive difference and make someone's day a more positive one.

As Ellen Degeneres says, "Be kind to one another"! Bí cineálta le chéile!

DOUGLAS CREDIT UNION

Your child should have received a letter last week, in relation to the new savings scheme being launched in the school by Douglas Credit Union.

The savings scheme will start on Thursday 27th September, and will run everyweek. Our Student Council proposed the idea of a savings scheme in the school last year, so we are delighted to be joining with Douglas Credit Union to offer this service. We hope that you will consider signing your child up to it.

If you did not receive the letter/form, there are spares in the office. Thank you!

SHAMROCKS GAA

We welcome Anthony Shannon as school coach on behalf of Shamrocks GAA for the 2018/2019 school year.

Our thanks to Shamrock's GAA for their use of the grounds across the school year. Mile Buíochas!

PASSAGE WEST GAA

We welcome Eoghan Walsh and Michael O' Donovan from Passage West GAA as school coaches for the 2018/2019 school year.

Our thanks to Passage West GAA for use of their grounds throughout the school year. Mile Buíochas

SHAMROCK BOYS' ACADAMEY

Restarting Friday September 28th in Shanbally from 6:15pm to 7:30pm. Continues every Friday outdoors until November when it will move indoors. Looking forward to seeing Monkstown NS pupils playing Gaelic Games in a fun environment!

PLAYBALL

Playball will be holding classes for Junior Infants (Mondays 1:30-2:25pm) & Senior Infants (Tuesdays 1:30-2:35pm), as well as more advanced level classes for 1st and 2nd Class Pupils (Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm). Contact Ronan directly for more information **087-6529724** or see www.playballkids.com .

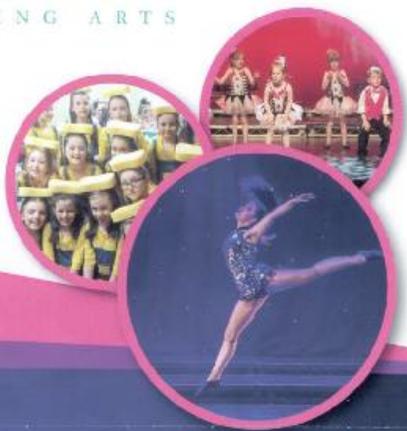
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PASSAGE WEST AFC

PASSAGE AFC SCHOOLGIRLS ARE RECRUITING!



Call or Text (087) 641 5199

Training for girls is on Wednesday evenings from 6PM-7PM.

Training in the academy (mixed; boys and girls) is on from:

- 12:00 to 1:30 (U9's)
- 1:30 to 3:00 (U8's)
- 3:00 to 4:00 (U7/U6's)

		Passage AFC Membership Fees 2018 – 2019 Season			
Team	2017 – 2018 Registration Fee	2018 – 2019 Registration Fee	Due Date		
Academy U6	80 euro	80 euro	31 st August		
Academy U7 to U9	100 euro	100 euro	31 st August		
Schoolboys – U10 – U11	100 euro	100 euro	24 th August		
Schoolboys – U12 – U17	130 euro	130 euro	24 th August		
Schoolgirls – U10	100 euro	100 euro	24 th August		
Schoolgirls U12 – U18	120 euro	120 euro	24 th August		
Youths – U18	150 euro	130 euro	17 th August		
Junior Men's	150 euro	150 euro	17 th August		
Senior Ladies	75 euro	75 euro	17 th August		

Note – 3rd (youngest) & subsequent children free

TAEKWON-DO

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MONKSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL
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www.taekwondo.ie

COURTESY
INTEGRITY
PERSEVERANCE
SELF-CONTROL
INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

DESIGNER MINDS



If you would love to Code robots, Culture Bacteria, Plan & Build a city with your friends, use Minecraft to solve maths problems, Explore DNA, Process Digital Photos and Much, Much More, then join the Designer Minds Primary Science, Design & Technology After-School club in Cobh. For girls and boys, 1st to 6th class, who love to design, build and experiment!

The 12-week Autumn term starts on Monday, 10th September in Cobh Community Centre @ 4pm. Each week, kids will get hands-on with the latest and greatest equipment and kits, completing a project in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Maths, having great fun while working with like-minded friends to create and explore the world around you, under the guidance of our Garda-vetted leaders. You need to try it to see for yourself why The Irish Times, Sunday Times and Irish Independent recommend Designer Minds.

"Designer Minds enabled my Science-loving son to investigate, discover, explore and learn - through guided instruction in a happy, fun, safe environment" – Aisling, Killarney

The 12-week term with Designer Minds costs just €144 and a place can be secured by paying a €36 deposit before the start of the term. Register and attend the first club, and if you don't want to continue, just let us know and we will refund the balance. Find out more and register online by visiting www.designerminds.ie/clubs or call 087 631 0411. Availability is strictly limited, so don't delay!

NATIONAL CHESS MONTH

MOVES For Life



Starts with a handshake



Just want to let you know about **National Chess Month**, which is going to happen in November of this year. This is a nationwide initiative to promote awareness of chess and participation in chess at all levels. We would all love to see chess becoming a vibrant and popular activity, and it's up to all of us to do our bit.

As a chess-player, what can you do? There are many simple ways you can help, for example:

- Bring a couple of chess sets into your workplace and teach a few people to play / organise some friendly games.
- Get your family playing.
- If you've any contacts in press or radio, talk to them about covering a local chess event in November or interviewing a chess player etc.
- Talk about National Chess Month to everyone you can think of, and share it on social media – we have a Facebook page!
- If you happen to be organising a chess event in November, call it a "National Chess Month" event and send us in results and photos.

We're also trying to get schools involved through our junior development committee. Schools are being asked to do something "chessy" during November, send in a photo of it and then there will be a draw for a big prize for the class and the teacher involved. We have a website, www.movesforlife.ie, which has loads of activities and lessons for teachers to get them started.

So if you're a teacher, you might consider bringing chess into your school if you haven't already done so. We've lots of info on that if you need it.

Secondly, as a parent, grandparent or member of the local community, you could bring the National Chess Month initiative to the attention of your local school and, if you like, tell them you would be willing to help out. Just be aware of garda vetting issues.

If you'd like to help and have some queries about the next steps, email us at ncm2018@movesforlife.ie and we'll try to help you.
