



# SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

**Newsletter #7**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

A Chairde,

Christmas cheer has landed in SBN. Santa Sunday set the tone & classrooms are now decorated and carols are being sung in anticipation of our Carol Service on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Pupils enjoyed the visiting panto on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Aladdin was a fantastic show and hopefully inspired some of the children to get involved in music and drama!

Many thanks to you all for your support, and indeed your warm welcome, this first term. It has been a busy but very enjoyable term and I'm sure children, parents and staff alike are looking forward to the Christmas break. We wish you all the very best for Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all, healthy and rested, in January.

Míle Buíochas,

***Ger O'Brien & Foireann na Scoile***

## **Upcoming Dates**

Wed	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Junior Infant Vaccinations from 9am
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019</b>	<b>Carol Service, 11am at Monkstown Church</b>
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	School closes for Christmas at 12midday
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	School re-opens for Term 2
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	1pm closure for staff training.

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mairéad Ní Bheara has been appointed Deputy Principal of Scoil Barra Naofa. Having held the position in a temporary capacity since Ms Murphy's recent retirement Ms Ní Bheara has now been officially appointed to the role. Having spent over 20 years teaching in Scoil Barra Naofa I'm sure you are as pleased as I to have someone with such experience, wisdom and enthusiasm fulfil this important role.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

The Christmas Carol Service will take place at 11am on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Monkstown. Children should attend wearing full school uniform. Please help us to maintain the solemnity of the occasion by refraining from taking photos and videos in the church. Should you wish to collect children after the service please allow children to return to school with their teachers. Children can be signed out from their classroom in order to make the process run more smoothly. Likewise, if you prefer that your child not attend the church please let us know well in advance. As always Thank you for your cooperation.

## **DO THIS IN MEMORY MASS**

Second Class had their second Do This In Memory Mass on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. The children participated fully and sang beautifully on the day. They sang *Little Drummer Boy* and *This Little Light*. They were a credit to their families and their school. The Communion year is a very special year for the children and their families. A huge thank you to Mrs Hanna, Mrs Sheehy and Mrs Coakley for organising.

## **FOLKLORE PROJECT**

We are so excited to announce that John Spillane will be working with the children of Fourth Class during January and February. The Folklore Project is an initiative organised by Marcia Dalton and John Spillane involving sessions on local history, storytelling and song writing. The children will write and perform songs with John culminating in a concert in the school in February (date to be confirmed). This promises to be a very exciting and interesting project and we are very much looking forward to welcoming and working with John Spillane.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL 2019/2020**

### **Christmas Jumper & Movie Day:**



Thanks to the fantastic Student Council Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> is going to be Crazy Christmas Jumper Day at school. Pupils may wear their Christmas Jumpers and there will be a prize for the stand out Christmas Jumper in each class. As always there is no need to buy a jumper particularly for this event, homemade and one off custom pieces will be viewed favourably! Time to let the children embrace the spirit of Christmas as well as their own creative spirits.

The Student Council ask that children donate 1 to 2 Euro on the day in aid of Enable Ireland. We are helping this very worthy, local charity fundraise for a new school bus.

On that day also we will have a movie day at school. Children are asked to bring in an age appropriate Christmas DVD. Each class will then vote and pick a movie. On the day of the holidays children from Juniors to 2nd may go to see any of the movies downstairs. Pupils upstairs may move between 3rd and 5th. 6th class are going to have their own class movie. It is a fantastic day at school, the Omniplex comes to Scoil Barra Naofa.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the wonderful work of the Student Council of SBN. Their generous and thoughtful work on behalf of others is to be commended.

## **GREEN SCHOOL NEWS**



Well done to 4<sup>th</sup> Class on being the winners of the first ever “Waste Free” Lunch award for the month of November!

Remember to keep up the efforts reducing the amount of wrapping or packaging with your lunch by using re-useable containers and bottles when possible and less cling film, plastic, tinfoil etc.

Well done to all children that participated in the Trash art Competition recently. Such was the high quality of entries it was very difficult to chose winners! A display of all of the children’s work was organised in the reception area to showcase what talented children we have. Winning entries can be seen on the school website

[www.scoilbarranaofa.ie](http://www.scoilbarranaofa.ie)

## **MS READATHON**

The children of SBN took part in the MS Reathon this year. Not only did they rediscover their love of reading but they managed to raise 567.20 for charity in doing so.

Remember if you have a child that doesn’t love reading they just haven’t found the right book yet! Likewise if you would like to learn more about inspiring a love of reading the Cork Education Support Centre is running a course for parents and guardians on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Log on to [www.cesc.ie](http://www.cesc.ie) for further details.

## **CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL:**

Tis the season to be giving. As Christmas approaches we wish to remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas, which is to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. With this in mind Ms Treharne and Mr Murphy have been accepting donations of a non-perishable food items in aid of local charities Penny Dinners and St Vincent de Paul . You can donate tinned foods, tea, coffee or any food that has a long shelf life by dropping these items to the school office before Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>. These food hampers will be donated to families in need for Christmas.

After Christmas we will collect any unwanted gifts and donate these to Penny Dinners and St Vincent de Paul. As always your donations can be dropped to the school office and are greatly appreciated.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020**

Our School Calendar has been delivered to the school and will be sent home with children in the coming days. Should you wish to order any extra calendars this can only be done through the school office and must be finalised, ordered and paid for, before Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> in order to allow for printing before Christmas Holidays.

## **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION: SANTA SUNDAY**

Many thanks to all of the families who attended Santa Sunday. We hope that you all enjoyed meeting Santa and all of the activities! Thank you all for your support!

A huge thank to the following:

- All of the local businesses who sponsored prizes for the Raffle and games
- The parents and staff who donated their time and gifts
- The Student Council and all of the pupils who helped out on stalls on the day
- The wonderful choir who volunteered some of their time to sing festive Christmas Carols so beautifully
- Passage West GAA for their assistance with yard games

And last but most importantly

- Santa for taking time out of his very busy schedule to visit the boys and girls of Scoil Barra Naofa

Thank you all for your support!

***The Parents Association***

## **THANK YOU TO THE PA**

On behalf of the school community I would like to say a huge thank you to the Parents' Association Committee, especially Paula Granby, for organising such a wonderful day for the school community. It was a fantastic day, thoroughly enjoyed by all!

A lot of work happens behind the scenes; organising and preparing and not forgetting the clean up afterwards! This magical day certainly does not happen by magic and only for the volunteers giving their time and effort the children would not enjoy such an occasion. Mile Buíochas to all involved!!

## **WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS**

Every Wednesday the children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes are working on the Weaving Wellbeing Programme. This programme teaches the children about their character strengths, how to face challenges and build resilience, appreciate beauty in everyday life and express gratitude, build relationships and work through the challenges of relationships. Above all else this programme teaches children the meaning of wellbeing and the importance of looking after our wellbeing and expressing our emotions. Your child will continue this programme into the New Year and beyond. Every Wednesday homework will include an activity from Weaving Wellbeing. These activities are structured in such a way as to encourage children and parents work together to discuss the topics mentioned above and relate these topics to the children's everyday and family life. The importance of working with your children on this homework cannot be overstated. The investment of out time and our collaboration in this area will scaffold and strengthen the children for life.

## **MINDFULNESS IN FIRST CLASS**

First Class have been enjoying guided mindfulness sessions with a visiting teacher over recent weeks. The children will enjoy 8 weeks of guided mindfulness in total. They have been learning about the brain, how the brain reacts to our worries, finding our inner anchor and building our sense of self. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions with Madeline so far and we are very fortunate to have her with us here at Scoil Barra Naofa.

## **PAYMENTS**

A gentle reminder text will be sent today to those families with outstanding payments for Term 1: Class Expenses Instalment or After School Classes Payments. With only two weeks left in term, we would be extremely grateful if these payments could be made before the end of Term. Payments can be made through the office, or using the online

system. Please contact the office if you have any difficulties. Thank you as always for your support.



### **DOUGLAS CREDIT UNION**

Douglas Credit Union Saving Scheme has finished up for this term and will return to SBN in January to continue the savings scheme for children every Wednesday morning. Thank you to Gary from Douglas Credit Union for organising this facility for our children.

### **FUNDRAISER BY PAST PUPIL**

Our past pupil, Ellen Hegarty is currently fundraising for a charity trip to Vietnam where she hopes to work with vulnerable children. A mulled wine and mince pie reception will take place at Monkstown Sailing Club on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm. All are welcome!

### **SHAMROCK BOYS' ACADAMEY**

Shamrocks boys Academy continues every Friday night from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Marine College Ringaskiddy, Monkstown NS student welcome.

### **SHAMROCKS LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB**

Looking for an indoor winter activity? Training has moved indoors this week for our underage ladies on Thursday 6.30-7.30pm at the Maritime College, Ringaskiddy for all ages from age 5 up. Junior Ladies training from 7.30 -8.30pm - looking for mums to join us this season. No prior experience needed and new members are always welcome!

### **MONKSTOWN GOLF CLUB**

Monkstown Golf Club is open every morning from 9.30am serving Lavazza Coffee, tea and scones. The children's play area will keep little ones entertained while you relax. Lunch is also served from 12 daily and on Sunday's we offer a three course meal for 19 Euro. Booking is advised!