



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #8

7th January 2020

A Chairde,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas with your families. It is great to see so many smiling faces back in school ready to take on 2020 with renewed energy and excitement!

An exciting term lies ahead with school events including Internet Safety Month, Friendship Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge and many other events planned for this term. We hope everyone enjoys and benefits from these!

Mise le meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday	7 th January	Homework Club Resumes
Wednesday	8 th January	Performers Academy at 1.30pm Resumes.
Monday	13 th January	School closed at 1pm for staff training
Tuesday	14 th January	Chess Club Resumes
Sunday	19 th January	Do this in Memory Mass Rang 2
Wednesday	22 nd January	Art Club Resumes
Thursday	6 th February	4th Class: Grandparents Day
Thurs & Fri	20 th & 21 st February	School Closure: Midterm Break
Mon-Fri	9ú – 20ú Márta 2020	Coicís na Gaeilge
Mon & Tues	16 th & 17 th March 2020	School Closure (St. Patrick's Weekend)
Friday	3 rd April 2020	School Closes at 12midday for Easter

Please be advised there will be one further early closure (1pm) during term 2 to facilitate ongoing training in the New Primary Language Curriculum.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2019/2020

Thank you to everyone who so kindly and generously supported the Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Enable Ireland on the day of the Christmas holidays. The children looked absolutely great in their festive fashion and some amazing homemade outfits inspired us all, young and old!! Many thanks to you for supporting this cause and embracing the activity. 235 Euro was raised to help Enable Ireland fundraise for a new school bus. It is our pleasure to work for this great local charity and this great cause.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION: SANTA SUNDAY UPDATE

Continued thanks to our Parent's Association. Santa Sunday raised 2880 Euro for the school and the children. Without their hard work and without this fundraising we couldn't possibly function as well as we do and couldn't offer the little extras that make school life memorable for our children.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Our Christmas Carol Service on December 19th was such a special occasion. Thank you to all teachers but in particular Ms Ní Bhéara for organising the service and the rehearsals beforehand. The singing on the day was absolutely beautiful and all children did themselves proud.

Thank you to parents for not using phones and recording equipment on the day. It was heart warming for the children to look at the audience of faces rather than phones and to see everyone smiling encouragingly and even singing along with them.

FOLKLORE PROJECT WITH JOHN SPILLANE

We are delighted to announce that the children of Fourth Class will be working with local song writer John Spillane in the coming weeks. This Folklore Project involves storytelling, songwriting and historical walks around the local area. John will work with the children on a weekly basis for the month of January and the project will culminate in a concert featuring the children of Fourth and John Spillane. We are extremely excited to be part of this project and grateful to John and to Cork County Council for the wonderful opportunity.

CYCLE IRELAND

Sixth Class have recently completed the Cycle Safety Course with Cycle Ireland. The children have benefitted from in class lessons on safety and rules of the road, cycling around school grounds and finishing with a cycle around the local area of Monkstown. This has been a thoroughly enjoyable and beneficial experience for all involved. Thanks to Mrs Donnelly organising and Cycle Ireland for providing this opportunit

INTERNET SAFETY MONTH



January is Internet Safety Month is Scoil Barra Naofa. As many children have received phones, tablets and devices over the Christmas Holidays we feel it is very important to highlight again the importance of monitoring your child's use of the internet at home.

While we are a pro-technology school, we also aim to educate students and parents of any potential risks, such as cyber-bulling etc. We would like to remind parents that the minimum age for all social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Viber, Whatsapp etc. is 13 years and 16years for others. Therefore, technically, no child in our school should have such accounts. If your child has their own account on any of the above, we would advise you to talk to them. It may be best that these accounts are disabled until your child has reached the appropriate age

Primary school pupils would not be considered socially mature enough to understand the complexities of social interactions via social media. The act of one friend receiving a message and another not receiving it, could be misunderstood as isolating a classmate. They may unintentionally (or indeed deliberately) hurt each other's feelings in the way they interact online or speak about each other online. It is the school's strong opinion that pupils should not be using these social media accounts at their age.

A reminder also about the importance of supervising GAMING activity, and specifically games such as FORNITE. The game is rated PEGI 12, meaning that it isn't suitable for children under 12 though its larger than life graphics and cartoony gameplay mean that a lot of parents think that it is suitable for a younger child to play. Please see <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/explainers/explained-what-is-fornite/> for further explanation about 'Fornite', and advice for parents. Please also see the attached leaflet: <http://bit.ly/forniteleaflet>.

Across the month of January we will be supporting pupils in school as best as possible with age appropriate internet safety lessons. [webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) will be the primary source for material for lessons, and teachers will also be using the 'My Selfie' Programme amongst others to discuss and explore this important area with pupils from 1st-6th Class.

Your influence as parents, and putting firm structures in place is vital. The hours at which your child has access to their device is important. It is important to discuss this topic with your child, and supervise and monitor their internet usage. www.webwise.ie , is also a very useful tool for parents, who might want to learn more about children and the internet / social media / gaming etc.

HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDERS/ROAD SAFETY

When parking or travelling near the school, please be conscious of where you are parking, of other road users and most importantly pedestrians, especially younger pedestrians, who may not be in your line of sight due to their height.

The school will be working with all classes in the coming days and weeks to remind about walking on the path, wearing high-vis jackets or bag covers, especially this term amongst other aspects of road safety. Please use the pedestrian gates during morning and afternoon drops. It is important that these messages are emphasised from home also & that parents and staff lead by example with this where possible.

When parking around the school please ensure you are not blocking the entrances of our neighbours and please ensure that you leave sufficient room for access of larger vehicles and most importantly emergency vehicles.

Thank you for your help and co-operation. We hope that all of our school community has a safe 2020.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS/DOGS

As you are aware we have had an issue with dogs on the school premises, indeed dogs entering the school building and dogs defecating on school grounds. This dirties the gardens and play areas of the children. It means that the herbs and flowers which are planted and cared for by the children are not safe to eat and it is potentially a very serious health and safety issue as this can cause quite serious infections in children.

The main issue now is dogs wandering in during the school day as they are outside without their owners. This, as I'm sure you realise, is not allowed. All dogs should be on a lead and supervised when out and about. The only way we as a school can stop this happening is to close all school gates during the day. This in turn, however, is potentially a fire safety hazard as this would impede our safe exit from school should a fire occur.

Please understand the many consequences for the children and the school community and work with us on this issue.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS/FLU

As you are all well aware we are in the thick of flu season.

Please remember that if your child is showing symptoms of the flu, do not send them to school and keep them at home. At times like this it is vital that you ensure your child has their 'toilet bag' up to date, including tissues, hand gel and their own face cloth sized towel, which is washed regularly.

We are using the following visuals in school;

SUDS UP and AWAY!

1. Wet



2. Make Bubbles



3. Rinse



4. Dry



Remember to make bubbles for as long as it takes you to sing the ABC song.

AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS - TERM 2

Homework Club: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Chess Club: Tuesdays

Art Club: Wednesdays

Other:

- Playball: Contact Ronan 0876529724 / www.playballkids.com/franchise/539
 - Junior Infants – Tuesdays 1:30pm – 2:25pm
 - Senior Infants – Mondays 1:30pm - 2:25pm.
- Performers Academy: Infants – Wednesdays 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Tae Kwon Do: Fridays 2:30pm. Contact Mark Buckley 086-8220107

There are also slots available for piano lessons (Mondays and Thursdays). Please contact Maeve Hunter on 0873386438 for further details.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Many thanks to those of you who were so supportive of our fundraising drive in 2019.

With the proceeds from Santa Sunday and future events being held and private donations explored, we hope to continue fundraising to make the school as comfortable and appealing for all children.

As well as continuing the Classroom Renovation Project we also hope to fundraise to expand our library as well as replace the original Interactive Whiteboards.

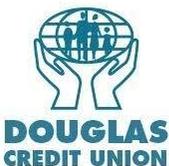
Your help is greatly appreciated.

CLASS EXPENSES

Thank you to all families who have assisted the school in covering their child's class expenses – we hope that your child has benefitted from (and will this term continue to enjoy) the many activities they contribute towards – Basketball, gymnastics, tag rugby etc. I know many parents have found the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance invaluable following an injury (either at home or school). The Class Expenses payment goes towards covering all of these costs and more.

The link for the payment of the Second Installment was emailed in September. Some families chose to pay upfront and others chose to pay in two installments. If you are due to pay the second installment we would be very grateful if this payment could be made during Term 2, before our Easter Holidays – April 3rd. Thank You!

We are also indebted to those parents who choose to further to support the school by making a voluntary contribution. Míle Buíochas ó chroí.



DOUGLAS CREDIT UNION

Douglas Credit Union Scheme will recommence on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 and **every Wednesday there after from 10am in the school reception area**. Pupils are encouraged to develop the habit of saving small amounts regularly.

SHAMROCK BOYS' ACADAMEY

Shamrocks Boys Academy

Every Friday night in the NMCI in Ringaskiddy, 6.30pm to 8.30pm for boys born 2009-2014.

Monkstown NS students welcome. Contact 0861914926

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!

ORA FITNESS

Past pupil Orla Pettman who has classes in both Bodybalance and Core has temporarily located to the Ringaskiddy Community Centre(next to Perry Street Café).For more information please see attached flyer.