



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #10

4th February 2019

A Chairde,

As the mid-term break draws closer we have a some highlights to look forward to. Grandparent's Day is fast approaching and the children of 4th are very busy preparing for this event. Friendship week takes place from Wed Feb 12th to Wed Feb 19th and we have lots of special activities planned for the children. Later in the month we have Engineers Week. As part of this Ms Flannery has organised visiting workshops for 1st to 6th and a very special visitor for infants!! On Feb 28th we look forward to welcoming John Spillane back to our school for a whole school concert to kick off the Coicis na Gaeilge celebrations. We all certainly have a "Spring" in our step this month!

As we approach the general election you may have visitors to your house canvassing on behalf of local politicians. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's education and education in general. New systems on inclusive education (Brunswick Model) and "Frontloading" snas are of concern to schools. Will we the staff and the pupils have sufficient access to health care professionals such as occupational therapists and speech and language therapists? Currently the NEPs (National Educational Psychologists) service is under extreme pressure meaning our school receives only a handful of visits in a year. Inclusive education is part of a civilised society where we protect and care for the more vulnerable. Are the government ensuring that those that need most support will have this support? We as adults must do our best for the children and this is an opportunity to have our questions answered and concerns raised.

Mise le Meas,

Ger O'Brien agus Foireann na Scoile

Upcoming Dates

Thursday	6 th Feb	Grandparent's Day
Friday	7 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Mon-Fri	12 - 19 th February	Friendship Week
Thurs & Fri	20 th & 21 st February	School Closure: Midterm Break
Fri	Feb 28 th	John Spillane School Visit
Feb	29 th – Mar 6 th	Engineers Week
Sun	March 8 th	Do This in Memory Mass
Mon-Fri	01ú – 17ú Márta	Coicís na Gaeilge
Mon&Tues	16 th & 17 th March	School Closure (St. Patrick's Day)
Tuesday	24 th Mar 7pm	First Confession
Friday	3rd April 2019	School Closes at 12midday for Easter

Please note there will be **one additional early closure** between Feb Mid Term and Easter Holidays to facilitate staff training on the New Language Curriculum. Date to be confirmed prior to Feb Mid Term Break.

AN EVENING WITH JOHN SPILLANE

What an amazing night we had last Tuesday in the Church of the Sacred Heart with John Spillane, Fourth Class and the Big Little Choir! John and the children performed as part of the *Folklore Project* for a packed church with an audience of almost 250 people!! This was a truly special event for all involved and an experience I know the children will always remember. Many thanks again to John, Marcia D'Alton, Cork County Council and the Arts Council for the opportunity.

Fourth class performed two songs with John, *The Hound that Saved the Child* and their own composition *Monkstown* as well as an innovative musical performance of the local story of *The Giant's Stairs*. The Big Little Choir performed *Ride On* as well as John's own songs *Passage West* and *All the Ways You Wander*. We were also treated to a lengthy performance by John himself including, *Princess Street*, *The Dance of The Cherry Blossom* and a particularly enjoyable performance of *The Ferry Arms*.

We were very fortunate to have been gifted some amazing prizes for the raffle. Many thanks to those who gave so generously;

Supervalu Carrigaline, Carrigaline Court Hotel, Bunnyconnellan, Cinnamon Cottage, Crown Hairdressers, Rochestown Park Hotel, River Lee Hotel, Keary's BMW, Curragh Oil, Johnson and Johnson, Mount Oval Bar and Restaurant, Lean with Lesley and Ora Fitness.

Many thanks to those that bought raffle tickets both on the night and through the school office over the week. Many thanks also to Valerie Mulcahy for giving her time to wrap the prizes so beautifully and to Paula Granby and Georgina McHugh who assisted at the door on the night. The event raised 2,025 Euro with over half of this coming from raffle ticket proceeds. Money raised on the night will go directly back into the children starting with a trip for 2nd and 3rd to see the Army Band perform in City Hall at the end of the month. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Website for other experiences, resources and project funded by the proceeds of this night.

We will welcome John Spillane back to the school as part of Coicís na Gaeilge celebrations. John will entertain the whole school with his music and song on Feb 28th. This is kindly funded by the Parent's Association.

When you are visiting the school in the coming weeks please keep an eye out for a special piece hanging in the main reception area. We were kindly gifted a beautiful framed piece containing memorabilia from the night and signed by John Spillane. This was gifted to us by Ivan Wolfe. Thank you for your time and generosity Ivan. This piece will hang with pride in SBN.

UPDATE ON OUR BOILER WORKS

In the last newsletter you will have read about the issues with our boiler, flue and pump. The boiler is over 30 years old and highly ineffective at best. I am pleased to say that we have been allocated a grant from the Department of Education and Science (DES) to replace the boiler and necessary associated works. This process, as with all building projects, will take time to tender and plan before the actual work itself can begin. We look forward to the project beginning in the near future.

ALADDIN CONNECT; INFO AND ABSENCES

Please contact the school know if your email address, home address or phone number has changed recently. Payment links for term 2 for those who choose to pay by term have all been forwarded. Your payment and support is very much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact Jen in the office, if you have any questions.

Should your child be absent from school for any reason please ensure to complete the relevant section on Aladdin. You can choose from the drop down menu attached. No further details are required other than those on the drop down menu. By clicking on the reason it allows us to forward the up to date and correct information when we complete our attendance returns to Túsla. Schools are required by law to complete these returns twice a year and unexplained absences can be an indicator or attendance issues.

WASHBAGS AND ILLNESS PREVENTION

Springtime, particularly early Spring, often sees a rise in infectious illnesses such as Vomiting Bugs, Slapped Cheek, Hand, Foot and Mouth, Chickenpox etc. With this in mind we ask that every child has a washbag in their school bag. This should contain a small soap and hand towel and ideally tissues and a hand sanitizer. The only effective ways of preventing the spread of these illnesses is keeping children at home if they are sick and ensuring they wash their hands regularly.

Some childhood illnesses such as those listed are not serious for the children themselves but can be very serious for women that are pregnant or those with low immunity such as people undergoing Chemotherapy or those with auto immune conditions. Illnesses can be carried home and put others at risk. Please inform us if your child is sick and help us to manage such illnesses in school.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ TEAMS

Well done to our 3 quiz teams who represented the school so well on Fri 31st Jan at the Douglas Credit Union Teams. The teams were made up of Elsie, Hugo, Lauren, Barra, Cian and Scarlett from 6th as well as Rían, Beth, Lynn, Darragh, Cameron and Thomas from 5th. Our children placed 2nd, 3rd and 5th on the day and were a credit to themselves and their teachers Mr Walsh and Mrs Donnelly.

TEXACO CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION



Entries to Ms. Marshall (Downstairs) and Ms Treharne (Upstairs) by this **Friday Feb 17th**. All details available on www.texacochildrensart.com. Please complete a "Home" application form (available on the website) if artwork is completed at home and attach securely to the back of your child's artwork. "School " application forms (also available on the website) are only for artwork completed as part of your

child's class art lessons.

Copies of both application forms are also available from Ms. Marshall and Ms Treharne. Entries can also be posted yourself to reach the Texaco Children's Art Competition by Feb 28th.

FRIENDSHIP WEEK FEB 12TH TO FEB 19TH

Ms Mulrooney and Ms O'Brien are busy planning and preparing lots of special activities and competitions for Friendship Week including "Friendship Recipes", "Secret Buddies" and a poster competition. Keep an eye on our website for photos and updates on Friendship Week.



SPHE, RSE & STAY SAFE

As part of our regular review of school Subject Plans and policies, a review of our SPHE (Social, Personal & Health Education) whole school plan commenced in the last school year and will be completed this year. You will receive a parental questionnaire after midterm. Your feedback on the teaching and learning of SPHE in SBN will form part of our review and changes to the existing policy. Your feedback is very important to us and it is your opportunity to have an input into the teaching and learning in SPHE.

The review of our RSE (Relationship & Sexuality Education) Policy which forms part of the SPHE program was completed last year. The teaching of the more sensitive topics in relation to RSE usually takes place in March & April each year. You will receive an email after midterm to inform you in advance of what topics will be covered at your child's class level and will include links so that you can view the lessons. If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher. The RSE program for primary schools is also available online and is free to download should you wish to peruse this yourself.



DOUGLAS CREDIT UNION

Douglas Credit Union Scheme continues **every Wednesday from 10am in the school reception area**. Pupils are encouraged to develop the habit of saving small amounts regularly.

SHAMROCK BOYS' ACADEMY

Shamrocks Boys Academy for those born from 2009 to 2015 continues every Friday night from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Marine College Ringaskiddy, Monkstown NS students welcome. Contact 0861914926 for further details.

STARCAMP SUMMER CAMPS

Starcamp are running Summer Camps throughout the Summer in all areas of Cork including 2 weeks in Carrigaline. These camps take place in St John's GNS from July 6th to 10th and July 27th to 31st.

Flyer with further information to follow.

More details can be found on www.starcamp.ie

LET'S GO SUMMER CAMPS

CARRIGALINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Easter Camp: 14-17th April

Summer Camps:

6th-10th July

13th-17th July

20th -24th July

Flyers with further information to follow

More details on www.letsgo.ie or on 021-4877111.

PUB QUIZ

A pub quiz and raffle will take place in Monkstown Bay Sailing Club on Saturday Feb 22nd at 9pm. The quiz and raffle are run in aid of Ellen Hegarty's (past pupil of SBN) trip to Vietnam to work as a volunteer with *Serve*. All are welcome!

For further info please contact Eleen on 086 0316616.