



# SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

## Newsletter #11

18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

A Chairde,

As we head into the midterm break we look back on a busy 6 weeks. We began January with a special school mass on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> where Fr Con spoke about the importance of kindness and the importance of caring for one another. He impressed upon the children the message that while on the outside people may seem happy and relaxed they may not feel this way inside and we must listen to our friends in their actions as well as their words. We end the half term having celebrated Grandparent's Day and Friendship Week. During this week the theme of friendship and indeed the difficulties of friendships were explicitly taught across all classes. A number of fun activities and competitions were run throughout the school and children and classes "buddied up" for some friendship based activities. The 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils read quotes on friendship and kindness on the intercom each morning and Ms O'Brien visited classes to read stories based on friendship. Positive relationships, both within school and outside school, are the greatest form of teaching children how to act and how to treat one another.

I wish you a safe and happy mid term break and hope to see you all next Monday Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Mise le meas,*

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

## **UPCOMING DATES**

Wed	Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	No Uniform Day
Thurs & Fri	20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> February	School Closure: Midterm Break
Fri	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	John Spillane School Visit
Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> – Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>		Engineers Week
Sun	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Do This in Memory Mass
Mon-Fri	01ú – 17ú Márta	Coicís na Gaeilge
Tues	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mental Health Talk for Parents at 7.30pm
Fri	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Early Closure (Infants 11.45, 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> 12pm)
Mon&Tues	16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closure (St. Patrick's Day)
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm	First Confession
Friday	3rd April 2020	School Closes at 12midday for Easter

## **CASUAL/NO UNIFORM DAY**

On Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> the Student Council of SBN are running a no uniform day. Children are asked to contribute 1 to 2 Euro on the day and all funds raised are in aid of Shine Autism Services. Lenore Good from Shine will visit the school after midterm to talk about her upcoming trek to Kilimanjaro in aid of this charity. She will be accompanied by one of the Shine volunteers and one of the assistance dogs. We wish Lenore all the best in her efforts and a safe and successful trip.

## **TRÓCAIRE WORKSHOPS**

A representative from Trócaire will visit classes 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> on Monday February 24<sup>th</sup>. The children will learn about the lives of children in other countries, poverty and climate change. Thank you to Mrs Donnelly for organising this visit.

## **CHANGE IN SCHOOL CALENDAR**

To facilitate staff training on the New Primary Language Curriculum Scoil Barra Naofa will close early on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>. Infants should be collected at 11.45am and all other classes, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, should be collected at 12pm. Thank you for your cooperation. A second change to our school calendar is required in May. A planned school closure on May 29<sup>th</sup> clashes with the Cork City Sports. For this reason school will open as normal on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> and close instead on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We apologise for the change and thank you for your cooperation.

The calendar for the 2020/2021 school year will be published in the next newsletter.

## **SCHOOL SHOP**

The school shop will sell gift vouchers of one and two Euro denominations. It might be a good idea to encourage children to buy their pens, pencils and accessories from the school shop in an effort to teach children how to use money and count change. Thank you to Ms Marshall and the children of 6<sup>th</sup> class,

## **SCHOOL ABSENCES AND ALADDIN**

All parents are reminded to complete the absence section for their child and click on the relevant reason for absence. An absence, where a reason is not provided, is entered as unexplained. All schools are legally required to report all absences of over 20 days in the school year to Túsla. The reasons for absences provided to the school are reported also – so in the case of genuine and explained absences through illness etc it is unlikely that the Education Welfare Officer would contact you.

Thank you for your cooperation on such matters.

## **SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING**

A seminar on '**Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing**' will take place in Scoil Barra Naofa on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. The seminar will begin at 7.30pm with teas and coffees served from 7pm. This worthwhile seminar has been organised by the PA in association with the National Parent's Council and is a great opportunity for parents to get to know one another and share experiences while learning valuable strategies at the same time.

This programme supports parents to encourage and promote positive mental health and wellbeing in their children. The programme also explores how the building of resilience in children helps them to manage and cope with the day to day stresses of life as they occur. Parents who attend this session will:

- Explore the factors that influence mental health and wellbeing in their child
- Learn how to build and nurture resilience within their own child
- Be given tips on how best to support their child's positive mental health and wellbeing.

It is such an important issue for families in our school community, with many parents reporting increasing anxiety and stress levels in their children. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## **PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

All parents play the most important role in their children's education. Our Parents Association works to give a voice to parents and to ensure that parent's views and experiences are valued by all. The Parent's Association at SBN is made up of 7 dedicated individuals; Chairperson Paula Granby, Secretary Beckie Coole, Treasurer Joanne O Connor, along with Amy Cooney, Catherine Barry, Jenny Cunningham and Georgina McHugh. Some of these members are serving their second and even third year on the PA and will be stepping down at the end of this year. With this in mind we are asking others to think about becoming part of the Parent's Association. We would like to have at least one representative from each class level as this is best practice. (Currently we do not have any parent from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) Ideally, however, we would like to have two representatives from each class level in order to share the role.

Being on the PA gives parents a unique insight into the organisation and running of the school. Being involved also promotes positive links between home and school which directly benefit your child's view of school and their school experience. Being on the PA involves meetings (1-2 per term), helping to organise events such as Santa Sunday and Sports Day as well as in school events such as Grandparent's day, organising special treats with school staff e.g. Ice Cream Van and visiting guests such as the upcoming visit of "Scientist" Tony Baloney. The PA also forms a focus group when it comes to School Self Evaluation. The PA work closely with the Principal in terms of policy development and SSE. The PA are a crucial home school link and I would like to encourage all parents to think about becoming involved.

If you would like to know more about the role and commitments involved please feel free to talk to the Principal or any member of the current PA. They will be happy to talk you through the role of the PA and commitments involved. They would also be happy for you to shadow them over the third term to see what's involved on a practical level. The National Parent's Council website also provides useful information and training for parents and Parent's Associations across Ireland.

## **SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION**

As mentioned in a previous newsletter we are currently reviewing our SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) Policy. Parental questionnaires will be sent to all families after midterm and we value your feedback on the SPHE policy. Furthermore, you should receive an email today on the RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) and Stay Programs which are mandatory parts of the overall SPHE Program. You can view the lessons online beforehand in order to familiarise yourselves with the sensitive topics. Alternatively, hardcopies of these books are available to view in the school library. Please ring ahead to make an appointment to use the library.

The Weaving Wellbeing Program has also been adopted for classes 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and Bigí go Breá in Infants. Initiatives such as Friendship Week, Yard Stars and Assemblies are other examples of whole school strategies to promote SPHE on a whole school level. We would love to hear your opinions on these programs and the teaching and learning of SPHE in general. It is important that the school, pupils, parents and the PA work together on SSE and our reviews and planning is informed and reflective of our school community.

Please note that the Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour and Child Safeguarding Statement will also be reviewed after Easter. Please note that these policies are available on the school website. If you would like to communicate your suggestions on any of these policies please put your thoughts in writing and send to the Chairperson of the Board of Management via the school office. Only those suggestions/queries made in writing will be brought to the BOM.

Please be advised that construction and content of these policies are linked to and governed by the relevant DES Circulars on same. These circulars are also available online on DES website under information for parents.

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Thank you for your cooperation on such matters.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS – FIRST CONFESSION**

Pupils of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation 24th March at 7pm in Sacred Heart Church, Monkstown. Pupils should wear their full uniform on the night. Pupils will be seated together with Ms. Marshall. Families can sit in the pews across from or behind pupils. Thank you to Ms. Marshall and Fr. Seán for preparing the pupils so well and thank you to all parents involved in the Do This In Memory Programme. Go n-éirí libh a pháistí.

## **CORK CITY SPORTS**

The draw for the Cork City Sports takes place in March. All children have been given a ticket to sell. Tickets are only 2 Euro each! It is important to support this draw so that we can send competitors to Cork City Sports in May. Tickets (sold or unsold) must be returned to your child's class teacher before next Friday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Should you wish to support Cork City Sports and purchase further tickets these are available in the school office. Go raibh maith agaibh!

## **FRIENDSHIP WEEK**

Friendship Week took place in SBN from 12/02/2020 to 19/02/2020. It was a wonderful week with many activities and lessons taking place around the theme of "Friendship". These included Art, poetry, creative writing, drama, music and story telling. Many classes took part in a secret buddy system. The children were given a secret buddy on the Monday and they were asked to look out for that person throughout the week. Children were also encouraged to committ a random act of kindness for a friend or family member this week. Please ask your children about the secret buddy or RAK.

Competitions took place during the week to allow the children to use their creative talents to express the meaning of friendship on paper, to create posters and Friendship Recipies. The winners will be announced on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and awarded homework passes at the assembly on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. The main message of the week was, "You have to be a friend, to have a friend!"

Thank you to Ms. Mulrooney and all staff for organising and promoting such a wonderful week.

## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY....**

Our pupils are constantly learning about responsibility (It is one of our 3 Rs!!!). Here in school we encourage them to take responsibility for their belongings, for their words, for their actions & reactions ... and when things go wrong, which they can from time to time, we encourage them to take responsibility for their role in that also, so that we can all (pupils and staff alike) help and react appropriately, resolve a situation and move on positively. This week's quote is appropriate given World Book Day is fast approaching & is a good one for us all to remember ... we are all in the driving seat when it comes to our lives and the choices we make ... let's make them positive ones!!

You have **BRAINS** in your **HEAD**.  
You have **FEET** in your **SHOES**.  
You can **STEER** yourself any  
**DIRECTION** you **CHOOSE**.  
~ Dr. Seuss

## **RSE LESSONS**

As part of our School RSE Plan, the 'sensitive' RSE lessons will be taught in the months of March & April, along will some of the more sensitive lessons in the Stay Safe Programme. **All parents should receive an email today (Tuesday) to inform you in advance of what topics will be covered** at your child's class level and the email will include links so that you can view the lessons. Lessons are also available to view in the school library if you wish to make an appointment to view them.

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or the Principal.

## **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.



## **FUNDRAISING NEWS**

We were delighted to receive a €650 donation recently from O Connor Utilities recently. Míle Buíochas ó chroí!

Along with €2025 raised at our recent concert, private donations from families in the school of 1,000 Euro and 500 Euro raised through calendar sales this brings the total raised through school fundraising to 4,175 Euro. Furthermore, Santa Sunday and the PA have raised 2,880 Euro! This is an incredible achievement and we are so grateful to all who supported in any way.

Renovations begun during the Summer should be completed over Easter when the Junior Infant classroom will be painted and fitted with further storage.

This Summer we hope to begin work on the classrooms upstairs, beginning with replacing the floor in Rang 6. The floor here is lifting in parts and is unsafe. We will prioritise this as the next job and with further fundraising and support we hope to paint this classroom and invest in new furniture to give the children of Rang 6 a comfortable final year at SBN.

As well as continuing to work on the Classroom Renovation Project we also hope to invest in physical resources for the children. We are researching toys and equipment for infant play and Aistear as well as sensory toys and tools. We have recently invested in a supply of books on **Wellbeing and Developing Self Esteem**. These have been distributed to classes and a section created in the school library. Thank you to the book committee for organising this.

As always, thank you all for your support, and as ever if anyone has any leads or suggestions with regards to potential fundraising (specifically corporate donations), we would be thrilled to hear of these in the office.

## **SHAMROCK BOYS' ACADEMY**

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

## **SCOIL BARRA NAOFA SUMMER CAMP**

The annual School Summer Camp at SBN will return this Summer. Beginning on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> and running until Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> children of 3 years upwards will partake in fun activities such as baking, sports, arts and crafts and picnics.

Further details to follow from Ms Treharne.

Please be advised that all children should be toilet trained and any medical issues should be reported to Ms Treharne in advance.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.

Flyer with further information to follow.

More details can be found on [www.starcamp.ie](http://www.starcamp.ie)

## **LET'S GO SUMMER CAMPS**

CARRIGALINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Easter Camp: 14-17<sup>th</sup> April

Summer Camps:

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July

20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> July

Flyers with further information to follow

More details on [www.letsgo.ie](http://www.letsgo.ie) or on 021-4877111.