



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #12

3rd March 2020

A Chairde,

What a busy fortnight lies ahead for us all at Scoil Barra Naofa. This week we are celebrating Engineer's Week. To mark this event and promote an interest in the area of science and engineering we have exciting visitors and activities lined up for all classes.

We are also celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge over the coming fortnight.

Tá Seachatin (nó Coicís I ndáiríre!) na Gaeilge á chéilliúradh againn i SBN an seachtain seo agus an seachtain seo chugainn. Bí linn ag iarraidh do chuid Ghaeilge a úsáid gach lá. Ní líofacht atá á súil againn ach iarracht!! Is fíor an seanfhocal "Is fear Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste!!" *Seachtain na Gaeilge (or fortnight of Irish technically) is happening in SBN this week and next. We hope you will join us in trying to use your Irish everyday. We are not expecting fluency – just effort! As the Irish saying goes – "Broken Irish is better than clever English" – i.e. the effort to speak our native tongue is important!*

Bainigí go léir taitneamh as an deireadh seachtain speisialta ag céilliúradh ár gcúltúr agus Naomh Pádraig! Beidh an scoil dúnta ar 12pm ar an Aoine an 13ú agus beidh an scoil dúnta ar an Luan agus an Máirt 16ú agus 17ú lá de mí Márta. *We hope you all enjoy the long weekend celebrating our culture and honouring St. Patrick. A reminder that SBN will close at 12pm (infants finish at 11.45) on Friday March 13th and will be closed on Mon and Tues the 16th and 17th of March.*

Mise le meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING DATES

Feb 29 th – Mar 6 th		Engineers Week
Mon-Fri	01ú – 17ú Márta	Coicís na Gaeilge
Sun	March 8 th	Do This in Memory Mass
Tues	March 10 th	Mental Health Talk for Parents 7.30pm
Fri	March 13 th	Early Closure (Infants 11.45, 1 st to 6 th 12pm)
Mon&Tues	16 th & 17 th March	School Closure (St. Patrick's Day)
Tuesday	24 th Mar 7pm	First Confession
Friday	3rd April 2020	School Closes at 12midday for Easter

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

As I'm sure you are aware we have had a number of cases of Shingles, Slapped Cheek and Scarlett Fever in the school in recent weeks. These types of virus' are mainly transmitted through droplets in the air and on surfaces. In order to minimise the spread of such virus' we are encouraging and facilitating regular handwashing. Children have been taught correct handwashing procedure and reminded of the posters in place in all bathrooms. These posters have been in place since Christmas and are a constant visual reminder to children on correct handwashing technique.

Ms O'Brien has spoken to all classes during assembly on the importance of handwashing and correct etiquette in terms of coughing, sneezing and disposal of tissues. Ms O'Brien has also visited every classroom to reiterate this message and ensure that all children have their washbag containing a hand towel and soap. We have a supply of soap and sanitizer in school should anyone need to use this. Every class has a pump soap in the bathroom, however, it is good practise for all children to have their own washbag. Please help us to keep the children healthy by ensuring your child has their washbag in school everyday and that handtowels are replaced regularly.

Our cleaner cleans the school on a daily basis. Every room has a supply of anti bacterial wipes and surface cleaner and desks are wiped down during the school day, before eating and after school. Best practices in terms of hygiene are always observed.

We have forwarded information from the HSE, via email, to all parents in relation to Covid 19. As we receive any further information from the HSE we will keep all parents informed. If you, or a member of your family, has returned from one of the areas affected by the outbreak of Covid 19 or have been in contact with anyone at risk we ask that you notify the school office in confidence. Thank you for your cooperation on such matters.

COICÍS NA GAEILGE

We kicked off our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations on Friday last with a visit from John Spillane. John played a mixture of his own songs and some favourites as *Gaeilge* for the entire school. The children were treated to songs such as *Trasna na Donnta* and *An Puc ar Buile* as well as *The Monkstown Song* and *The Hound That saved The Child*. Thank you to the PA for financing this concert.

We will continue to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge (nó Coicís na Gaeilge!!!) over the coming fortnight. All classes will be involved in extra activities through Irish and all children will be encouraged to make an extra special effort to use Irish in the classrooms and around the school.

We will be having a 'Lá Glas' and an infant parade on **Friday March 13th**. **All children may wear green clothes to school**, if they wish! Bainigí taitneamh as!

ENGINEERS WEEK

Feb 29th to March 6th is Engineers Week. Ms Flannery has organised a visit from *scientist* Tony Baloney for the infants and Lego workshops for older classes with *Designer Minds*. We will also be visited by local engineers working with O Connor Utilities this week. These engineers have previously visited 5th and 6th to speak to them about the project in Monkstown and the harbour area. The children were shown drone footage of the works and had a question and answer session on the project itself as well as the job of an engineer. Since this visit the underwater pipe has been laid and the engineers have some rock samples to show the children, illustrating the changes in sea bed. Thanks you to O Connor Utilities and their workers for giving their time and sharing their experience with us. We place great importance on STEM here at Scoil Barra Naofa. Children are regularly challenged to design, create and experiment.

SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS

In the coming weeks we have many children taking part in sports and competitions. Some of our 5th and 6th class boys and girls are taking part in the Munster Schools Tennis Competition. Best of luck to them in their games against Bishopstown and Scoil na nÓg this week. Our 6th class girls are competing in the FAI Girls Soccer Blitz this Wednesday against Carrigaline. Finally, our 4th, 5th and 6th class boys and girls are commencing their involvement in the Sciath na Scol Hurling Competition this fortnight. Games against Donoughmore, GS Mhuscraí, Shanbally and Firmount will take place on March 12th and 27th, April 24th and 28th respectively. Further details on times and travel will be forwarded in due course by Mr Walsh and Mr Murphy. Best of luck to all children taking part in all competitions in the coming weeks.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

A seminar on '**Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing**' will take place in the halla of Scoil Barra Naofa on Tuesday March 10th. 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.

PA

Our Parent's Association committee would like to remind all parents that the PA committee have an email address if you wish to contact the committee, please feel free to contact us on: pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie

The PA are currently looking for volunteers to join them for the coming school year. Many of our current members will be stepping down at the end of this school year having served 2 and 3 years on the PA. 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.

POLICY REVIEW

The Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour and Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by staff and Board of Management immediately 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 before close of school on April 3rd. 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.

You will receive an email this week containing a link to a parental survey on the teaching of SPHE at Scoil Barra Naofa. Your feedback is very important and informs the teaching and learning at SBN. Please complete the survey before March 13th and help us to ensure our high standards of teaching and learning at SBN are maintained.

2ND CLASS – FIRST CONFESSION

Pupils of 2nd 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 today, March 3rd. Thank You and Good Luck to those that have bought tickets and supported this event. The run offs will take place once we return after the St Patrick's Day break. The exact date will be confirmed closer to the time as this is dependent on weather. Run offs will be completed by March 27th and the City Sports will take place on May 29th.

RSE LESSONS

A reminder that as part of our School RSE Plan, the 'sensitive' RSE lessons will be taught in the months of March & April, along with some of the more sensitive lessons in the Stay Safe Programme. **All parents should have received an email to inform you in advance of what topics will be covered** at your child's class level. This email includes 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. If you have not received an email please contact the office to request another link.

CASUAL DAY IN AID OF SHINE

Well done to our amazing children and in particular our Student Council. The boys and girls of SBN have raised 296.35 in aid of SHINE Autism Services in Cork. This very worthwhile charity supports many children and families like our own and we are happy to support them.

DEFENCE FORCES CONCERT

Our 2nd and 3rd class children recently attended a wonderful concert in the City Hall. The Defence Forces Band performed a number of crowd pleasers for the children and a great day was had by all. Attending such events forms part of the listening and responding strand of the music curriculum and provide opportunities to enjoy live music. This is both enjoyable and enriching for the children.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Art Club restarts tmw March 4th and will run until April 1st. Classes run for 5 weeks and cost 50 Euro per child. Please contact the office for a payment link if necessary.

Please be advised that **Chess Club** has finished for this school year and will return in September.

Children's Yoga with Mrs O' Boyle will begin this Thursday, March 5th and will take place in school halla from 2.30 to 3.30. Classes will run for 7 weeks and cost 60 Euro. Please contact the office for payment link if necessary.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROJECT



JEP

The 6th class Junior Entrepreneur team will be launching their product 'Inspiration Nation' on Friday 6th of March. The inspirational quote boxes will be available from our stall outside the school at infant pick-up time (1.30pm) and in the school shop on Monday and Wednesday mornings!

The product consists of a mini box with 52 inspirational quote cards inside. The idea is that you pick out one card for each week of the year to motivate you and give you a positive thought for that week. 6th Class have created and produced this project and we have worked very hard to ensure that the product is of the highest quality. They would make an ideal gift for Mother's Day, for a friend who needs some cheering up, as an alternative to Easter eggs for Easter or to treat yourself! We are doing a special introductory price of €5 so grab them while you can!!!



DOUGLAS CREDIT UNION

Douglas Credit Union Saving Scheme takes place in the school every **Tuesday** morning from 10am. Please note the change of day! Pupils are encouraged to develop the habit of saving small amounts regularly.

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.

PASSAGE GAA

Passage West GAA under 5s, 6s and 7s return to training this Friday night at Star of the Sea school. Training takes place from 6 to 7pm and all are welcome.

PASSAGE ÓG EASTER CAMP

Pasáiste Óg GAA Easter Camp is being held on April 15th/16th/17th. Time 10am to 2pm. The camp is being run by our National Schools GAA Coaches Eoghan Walsh and Ronan Harrington. Hurling and Football will be coached and it will be suitable for boys and girls from Junior Class up to 6th Class. Cost will be €50 per child. Second child cost = €35.

Please text Eoghan or Ronan with your child's name and age to book a place. Contact no's 0857816954 or 0834581387.

SCOIL BARRA NAOFA SUMMER CAMP

The annual School Summer Camp at SBN will return this Summer. Beginning on Monday June 29th and running until Friday July 3rd 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 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.