



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #3

15th October 2020

A Chairde,

This is our final newsletter before our midterm break. As we approach mid term we can reflect with a great sense of pride and gratitude. We are proud of the children, how they have handled the changes to school life and life in general. We are proud of the staff, how they have risen to the challenge of reopening schools and taken on extra duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm. We are very grateful to all parents, grandparents and minders. Keeping Covid 19 out of our school relies on the whole school community working together. Thank you for walking and cycling to school, keeping your distance at drop off and collection, for wearing masks on school grounds, for keeping children that are feeling unwell at home and taking care to launder clothes and wash possessions regularly. The return to school has brought an increased workload for all but seeing such positive results and happy children makes it all worthwhile.

We all look forward to the break. It is an opportunity to refresh and recalibrate. We hope you have an enjoyable Halloween break and hope to see everyone back at school, healthy and happy, on November 2nd.

Mise le meas,

Ger O' Brien agus Foireann na Scoile



Upcoming Dates

Friday	23 rd Oct	Halloween Dress Up Day
Mon-Fri	26 th – 30 th Oct	October Midterm Break
Saturday	31 st Oct	Closing Date Enrolment Forms for 2021
Tuesday	22 nd Dec 2018	School closes for Christmas at 12 midday

One additional 1.30 finish for all classes before Christmas. Date to be confirmed.

UNIFORM

Reminder to all families that full school uniform should be worn by all pupils from 1st to 6th class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tracksuits may be worn on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Only those children with specific care/medical needs may be exempt from this arrangement. Any parent of such a child may put their concerns in writing and address this to the Board of Management. We will do all we can to accommodate such requests. We ask that uniforms are worn for school only, they are taken off immediately after school and are washed regularly.

Laura's Boutique in Douglas stock our school uniform and have assured us that they have a plentiful supply.

As the weather turns colder your children may wish to wear an extra layer under their uniform, a body warmer, thermal vest or similar. The girls may wear trousers or pinafore. Should your girls prefer to wear a pinafore they may plain navy leggings rather than tights in order to keep warm.

We will need to keep rooms well ventilated and windows open during the Winter months. Furthermore, children will continue to partake in fresh air and movement breaks regularly throughout the day. This will be necessary throughout the Winter months in order to ventilate rooms and look after the health of everybody in the room. Please ensure that your child has their coat in school with them everyday.

Míle Buíochas.



HALLOWEEN DRESS UP

On October 23rd children may wear their Halloween costumes to school if they wish. If children do not wish to wear a costume they may wear their school tracksuit on the day. Please ensure that younger children can manage to walk/play safely and can manage any buttons or zips. Any handheld items such as swords/scythes should be left at home! Thanks to Mrs Donnelly and the Student Council for organising prizes for the most creative and unique costumes. Weather permitting we hope to hold a Halloween Parade on the day. You can donate on Aladdin if they have not done so already and the charity for this event Breakthrough Cancer Research.

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

Thank you for not using the area outside the main school gates for drop off and collection. This area is a pedestrian area and fire assembly point from 8.30am to 2.30pm each day. With the exception of those needing access to our mobility accessible spaces no other cars should be using this area to park/drop and collect. We understand that the amount of space available for drop off and collection is limited and with this in mind we ask people to park and stride wherever possible. Parking is available at the playground and the carpark opposite the Bosun. Limited parking is also available at the church. When parking please be mindful of our neighbours and keeping driveways and access roads clear.

In the past fortnight we have been visited by a local engineer and health and safety officer from Cork County Council. Their advice and support is as follows;

Due to the fact that we do have a footpath on both sides of the road a pedestrian crossing has been deemed unsafe.

Both Co Council employees acknowledged that we have a number of narrow roadways meeting around the area of the school and this poses more complicated challenges in terms of drop off and collection.

Turning outside the school gates as well as dropping and reversing back to main road (at corner adjacent to Diamond Hill) was identified as an extremely hazardous practice.

Children walking down from the Fairy Hill/Diamond Hill direction are walking in the direction of reversing cars. The County Council will paint double yellow lines at this dangerous corner and we ask all parents to observe these yellow lines at all times.

Similarly, the area straight across from the school entrance was identified as an area where cars are parking on double yellow lines. If free, this point was identified as the point at which children crossing from the church or Fairy Hill would have the best view of oncoming traffic from both directions and therefore enable them to cross safely. We ask that parents do not park or drop at this point and allow children to cross here.

We encourage parents to follow the informal one way system which exists whereby cars drive up Church Hill (next to school) and down Chapel Hill (at church). Parents may momentarily stop at the small pedestrian gate to drop children off and promptly move on to allow other cars to travel freely.

Those parents coming from the Fairy Hill direction may find it safer to continue down Chapel Hill and come back around to travel up Church Hill and drop children off at the

pedestrian gate before driving home via Fairy Hill again. In such circumstances, parents are asked to stop only momentarily to drop children at the pedestrian gate. We will continue to work with parents, neighbours and the Co Council going forward.



SACRAMENTS

On September 19th our current 3rd class celebrated their long awaited First Holy Communion. Indeed that same week they also completed their First Confession. It was certainly a busy few weeks for the children, their teachers and Frs Con and Seán. The two ceremonies were beautiful and very special. Fr Con was as charismatic and charming as always. Each child had a special job on the day and the singing, prayers and ceremony was reverent and very memorable. Thank you to photographer Audrey Hastings for stepping in at short notice to capture the images on this special day.

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Our Parent's Association are currently looking for new members. The PA are an important home school link. While certain fundraising and social events e.g. Santa Sunday, Grandparent's Day or Junior Infant playdate may be on pause this year the PA will continue to work to maintain a strong link between home and school. Membership of the PA provides a great opportunity for parents to get to know one another and get to know your child's school and teachers. If you can help from time to time you are very welcome as a member of the PA. If you are interested in joining the PA or wish to learn more about the PA please email pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie

FUNDRAISING AND FINANCES

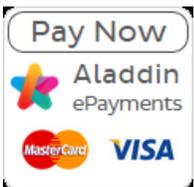
As many of you will be aware from previous correspondence from the Board of Management, budgets, finances and fundraising continues to be a priority in schools all over Ireland and Scoil Barra Naofa is no exception to this.

When it comes to funds, we are hugely indebted to all of the parents of Scoil Barra Naofa, as well as the Parents' Association. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we have been able to invest in new materials and resources for our pupils and upgrade areas such as the bathrooms, communal areas, offices, special ed rooms- investments that the capitation grants from the Department of Education do not cover. We thank you for continuing to support us by covering your children's class expenses, as well as making additional voluntary contributions. Without the hard work and time invested by parents voluntarily, many of the projects achieved over the past few years would not have been realised. We are also very grateful to those parents who have made additional one-off donations.

In the past parents have alerted us to charity schemes/grants available to us through various companies. For example, we were recently made aware of the scheme being run by Thermo Fisher. We are always happy to follow any leads and explore the options available. If you are aware of any schemes, we would be very grateful if you could contact Jen or Ger on 021-4842159, who will approach these companies, if we have not already done so, on behalf of the Board of Management. **If you have any questions about any of the above, or ideas in relation to it, please do not hesitate to contact**

Thank you to all who contributed to our recent fundraiser in aid of Goal. On October 9th we held "Jersey Day". We will run three charity events this year. We are not in a position to collect money, however, a payment link for 5 euro was shared on Aladdin. This payment link will cover all three charity events. Our next charity event will take place for Halloween with all proceeds going to Breakthrough Cancer Research we will have another event before Christmas and will benefit the charity Alone. Further details to follow. Thank you to Mrs Donnelly and Student Council for organising these events.

PAYMENTS



You should have received a list of class expenses from the office. For convenience and ease these can be payed through Aladdin. Link for this was emailed in recent weeks. Monies can be paid in full or in installments. If you require the link to be resent please contact the office on info@scoilbarranaofa.ie Thank you as always for your

support.

SIGN IN & OUT PROCEDURES

As part of our Covid Response Plan we have designated 10.30am and 12pm as collection times for children attending appointments during the day. Parents are asked to come to the main school reception door and inform the secretary/principal of your child's details. **Your child can be called via the intercom system and will meet you at the office.**

The secretary/principal will ensure the children are "signed in and out". Children may return to school at any stage during the day. We ask that parents accompany their child to the reception door and wait with the child until the secretary/principal has opened the door for your child.

ENROLMENTS

A reminder that the closing date for enrolment applications for the 2021/2022 school year is 3pm on **31st October 2020**. Please ensure that forms for any younger siblings or new applicants are received by this date. **Keep in mind that the school office will close for mid term from October 26th to Nov 2nd**. Any applications posted or emailed during that week will be received by the office on reopening. Please contact Jen in the office if you wish to confirm all forms including birth certs and utility bills, where applicable, have been received.

A reminder that our new Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice are available to view on the school website. The Annual Admissions Notice is also on display at the main reception door. **Future applications for enrolment can only be made during the October preceding the year of enrolment. For example, for those wishing to enrol children in Junior Infants 2022 applications can only be made/received from October 2021. Any pre enrolment forms forwarded are no longer valid.**



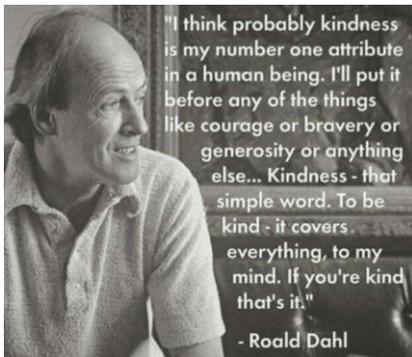
HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important tool in supporting your child's classwork and consolidating information learned in class. At Scoil Barra Naofa we are navigating the challenges posed by Covid 19 to teaching and learning. We will continue to send home 1 book each night as well as two copies. Some classes may be using further books which can be kept at home and used accordingly. Seesaw will be in use throughout the school year. As well as a homework tool Seesaw is an e portfolio of children's work and will be your child's assessment folder going forward. Wednesday

homework is SPHE/Wellbeing night. Children from 2nd to 6th will follow the Weaving Wellbeing program and the parent information pullout can be found in the centre of your child's workbook. This is an invaluable tool for parents and should be kept at home and referred to regularly.

Furthermore, teachers will send home an "emergency pack" of homework over the coming week. In the event of a pod/class or teacher needing to self isolate this emergency pack of worksheets can be used while the teacher or school are consulting with the HSE and possibly organising a sub teacher. Please do not use this "emergency pack" unless instructed to do so by the teacher/school. It is not intended for children that are out sick on an individual basis.



KINDNESS & UNDERSTANDING

September 13th saw the celebration of Roald Dahl Day. One of my favourite Roald Dahl quotes is about the importance of kindness!

In school we do a lot of lessons themed around the concepts of kindness, understanding and inclusion. I know many of you stress the importance of these traits at home also. It would

be a worthwhile conversation to have again with your child at this time of year, so that we all start the year on as positive a note as possible.

Every person is different and unique: we learn and play in different ways, we enjoy (or dislike) different activities. We come from different background, families, towns, cities, countries and cultures. Our experiences at home and school differ from each other and therefore, how we face the challenges each day present, differs. Pupils, parents, teachers & staff alike are facing their own challenges, that others may not be aware of.

It is important to teach our children (and remind ourselves) of the valuable life skills of kindness, tolerance and understanding. None of us know what someone else might be going through, and the simple act of a kind word or gesture can make a massive difference and make someone's day a more positive one.

As Roald Dalh said "If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face and you will always look lovely"

SHAMROCK BOY'S ACADAMEY 2020/21

Shamrock Boy's Academy runs every Friday night throughout October. Training takes place from 6 to 7.10pm at the pitch in Shanbally. Boys born between 2010 and 2016 are welcome and any queries can be addressed to Pa on 0861914926. Children from Scoil Barra Naofa are very welcome!