



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #5

15th December 2020

A Chairde,

This year SBN has been transformed into Santa's Grotto. Our gardens, crib and corridors are beautifully lit up and decorated and Santa stands tall at the lower school entrance. Every child has created their own decoration, wooden circles or plastic baubles, to decorate the garden. These decorations will be sent home before holidays for your family Christmas tree. Thanks to your support and generosity in last year's fundraisers we have been able to create a beautiful Christmas Wonderland at SBN. The children's artwork and their smiling faces brighten up our school everyday. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this term and we are so grateful and proud to have made it safely to Christmas holidays.



While Christmas is a time for family and fun we remind all parents of NPHEP's advice to keep our contacts to essential contacts only. By minimising our festivities and contacts to family we can look forward to a safe reopening on January 6th.

Many thanks to you all for your support and understanding this first term. It has been a very different but very enjoyable term and I'm sure children, parents and staff alike are looking forward to the Christmas break. We wish you all the very best for Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all, healthy and rested, in January.

Míle Buíochas,

Ger O'Brien & Foireann na Scoile

Upcoming Dates

Wed	16 th Dec 2020	Online Panto (Cinderella)
Monday	21 st Dec 2020	Christmas Movie Afternoon
Tues	22 nd Dec 2020	Christmas Holidays
Wed	6 th Jan 2021	School re-opens for Term 2
Mon-Fri	25 th – 29 th Jan 2021	SBN Wellbeing Week
Thurs&Fri	18 th &19 th Feb	Mid Term Break

COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 22ND

Scoil Barra Naofa will close for Christmas Holidays on Tuesday December 22nd.

Junior and Senior Infants should be collected from their usual collection points at **11.30am**

First and Second Class should be collected from their usual collection points at **11.45**.

Third to Sixth Class will finish at **11.55am**.

Please ensure that children are aware of any change in collection in advance as any such change can be a source of worry and confusion for children.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL BOOKS

As a precautionary measure teachers will send home core text books over the course of Wednesday to Friday, December 16th to 18th. Please take these books out of your child's bag and keep at home until Jan 6th. This will ensure that any family required to self isolate in the New Year will have any necessary books/materials required for distance learning. Remember, if your child is advised by the GP to isolate they will be catered for via our school's chosen platform, Seesaw. Please do let the school office know if your child is required to isolate. Every family is different and every family's circumstances are different. If your child is well enough we are more than happy to collaborate and ensure the children's learning remains a priority.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Tuesday December 8th the children of SBN took part in a very different Christmas Concert. The concert took place in line with Covid 19 and public health guidelines. Each class bubble performing separately either in the garden or the church. On the day the classes were joined by local treasure John Spillane. John accompanied each class in performing their chosen Christmas Song. Songs were recorded by mural artist and videographer Kevin O'Brien and will be shared with all families once edited. We hope to be in a position to share the google drive link with all families before the end of this

week. Involvement of John and recording by Kevin was made possible by funds raised through last year's Santa Sunday and John Spillane Concert. Your financial support and generosity has enabled us to provide the children with this opportunity in a year when holding concerts has proven extremely difficult for many schools and impossible for some.

We hope you enjoy the concert and we hope you can share this recording with your nearest and dearest this Christmas. Please do not share any part of this recording on social media. Be mindful that children partaking in the recording do not wish for their images to be shared on social media. An audio file will also be shared with Fr Seán and Fr Con for use in the church over the Christmas period and shared with the residents, and our penpals, at St Finbarr's Nursing Home.

Many thanks to Fr Seán and Fr Con for facilitating the concert. To all staff for the great level of flexibility and collaboration required to make this concert happen. To Mary for decorating the church and Mary and Audrey for decorating the garden. A big thank you and well done to Ms Mulrooney for overseeing the concert this year.

CHRISTMAS PANTO

On Wednesday December 16th all classes will watch an online panto, Cinderella. The panto is performed by the West Midlands Theatre Company, the same panto company that visit the school each Christmas. We will share the link with all families so that any child that may be out sick can enjoy the panto at home. The link will be shared with all families as children might like to watch the panto again at home with their families. The link remains live until December 22nd. Thank you to Ms Mulrooney for organising the panto this year.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

As you are aware we are unfortunately not in a position to hold the annual Santa Sunday event. This event is not only a wonderful family day but is a great source of fundraising for the school. Monies raised through Santa Sunday provides the treats and the special experiences for children that our DES grants simply do not cover. In term 1 you will have seen how monies raised have created the Christmas Garden, lights and decorations, allowed us to create our very special Christmas Concert and hire John Spillane and Kevin O'Brien for the event, provide individual decorations and selection boxes for all children. Fundraising also provides for treats and gifts for Communion and Confirmation classes as well as replenishment of toys, costumes, jigsaws and other such equipment, organise pizza making and baking activities. We thank you for your generosity in the past and we ask for your support once more.

This year we will hold a Christmas raffle. Two hampers of treats and goodies will be raffled. One hamper for Juniors to Second and another hamper for Third to Sixth. We will also raffle a number of smaller treats. All children's names will be entered into the draw. That is the spirit of Christmas!

As this is a fundraiser in place of Santa Sunday you may wish to "purchase" a ticket by making a donation online through Aladdin. A payment link will be set up for each child. The minimum payment link which can be set up is 5 Euro. Please feel free to donate an amount of your choosing. We understand and appreciate that this year has been very difficult for many families and some families may not be in a position to donate. We do not wish to place undue pressure on families. All children will be entered into the draw and all support is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU



PARENT'S ASSOCIATION: SANTA VISIT

Many thanks to our Parent's Association who have organised a visit from Santa on Tuesday December 22nd. Weather permitting the children will see Santa, at a safe distance of course, on the school yard. Weather permitting we will take class photos with Santa and share these with you on our school website and Facebook page. Should the weather be wet Santa will visit the external classroom doors for a quick chat to the boys and girls.



Selection boxes are currently in quarantine and will be distributed by class teachers on the last day. We will take very good care of Santa on the day to ensure he is fit and healthy for Christmas Eve!



STUDENT COUNCIL CHRISTMAS MOVIE AFTERNOON



Thanks to the fantastic Student Council for organising our charity fundraiser events this year. 3 worthy charities have been chosen by the children. In October the Student Council organised a jersey day in aid of GOAL. We had a Halloween parade with prizes for best dressed with all proceeds going to Breakthrough Cancer Research. On Monday December 21st we will have a school movie afternoon. Children will remain in their class bubbles and watch a movie of their choosing. The children can bring a little treat to enjoy while watching their movies. This event will be held in aid of age action charity ALONE.

As we cannot accept donations an online donation link has been set up on Aladdin. The minimum payment which can be set up is 5 Euro. This amount will cover all three events. If you have already donated to October's event there is no need to donate again.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the wonderful work of the Mrs Donnelly in organising the Student Council and the various events the children have organised. Their generous and thoughtful work on behalf of others is to be commended.

COMMUNITY HOMEWORK

This year the children of SBN have been taking part in community homework in an effort to help others in our community. We at SBN are very grateful for our family, friends, school and sports/activities. The children are aware that not everyone in society is as lucky as we are. Not everyone sees their friends everyday and not everyone has the strong family and social connections that are essential for all of us, young and old!

The boys and girls in 5th and 6th classes have written to their new penpals in St Finbarr's Nursing Home and just this week have received their replies. The children were both delighted and moved by the responses from their penpals. They have truly seen that by giving to others you also receive. The children of 2nd class have also completed letters to their grannies and grandads, both near and far, and made cards for local meals on wheels recipients.

Thank you to class teachers Mrs Donnelly, Ms Cremen and Ms Mulrooney and SNAs Jacqui and Mary for embracing this special project. Thank you to Niamh Moynihan for

establishing the link with St Finbarr's and PACE Meals on Wheels. We hope that this valuable and wholesome tradition will continue long after Covid 19.

THERMO FISHER FUNDING AND SCIENCE KITS

SBN was a lucky recipient of 500 Euro in funding from Thermo Fisher. We are very grateful for this funding and will consider how best this can be used to keep our children and school healthier, safer and cleaner.

As well as this funding we also received a donation from Thermo Fisher of a number of science kits for the children. We received 12 kits, each containing 7 experiment packs. I'm sure the children will enjoy these activities in the months ahead. Active learning and hands on activities such as these will nurture the children's natural sense of curiosity and wonder. Thank you to Ms Flannery for organising this for us.



COLD WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

As we face into January and colder weather please ensure that **all children have coats every day**. Please ensure that children are warm enough by wearing layers/body warmers underneath their shirts and t shirts. Children may also like to bring a hot water bottle or hot drink in a flask. We must keep windows open in the classrooms and around school and must ventilate rooms fully when we take movement and fresh air breaks. While the heating is on for the most part of everyday it is essential that children wear their coats and extra layers as children will be going out for fresh air breaks and playtime even on cold and wet days.

Should the weather become icy and traveling to/arriving at school become difficult we must consider a later opening time in order to facilitate safe access to school and adequate supervision of classes. This year we must take into account that physical distancing and Covid safety requirements must remain to the fore of our decisions. We must ensure children can be dropped to school in a safe and physically distanced manner and we must ensure that when in school children remain in class bubbles and pods. Children cannot congregate in the halla as before and therefore we must ensure we have adequate supervision for classes. In the event of icy/dangerous weather and in the event of a later opening a text alert will be sent to all families.

When dropping children to school please do not pull in, park or turn outside main school entrance area. This entrance is used by most of the 212 pupils each morning and the practice of dropping and turning in this area is extremely dangerous. This is especially hazardous on dark, wet or icy mornings. Only those families needing to use the wheelchair accessible space should park in this area.

WINTER WONDERLAND IN PASSAGE WEST

The Winter Wonderland Christmas Market takes place in Passage West on December 18th, 19th and 20th. Tickets can be booked through Eventbrite and promises to be an experience sure to get everyone in the Christmas Spirit.

CHRISTMAS CRIB CEREMONY

See flyer attached for Monkstown Christmas Crib Ceremony. The organising committee are looking for donations of clean jam jars for use as candle holders. Any donations can be dropped to the school gate this Friday morning where a member of the organising committee will meet you.



Crib by Candlelight



*Children & their families are invited to visit our
Christmas Crib in Monkstown Church
on Wednesday 23rd December 2020
from 4.30 to 7.00 p.m.*

*Come follow the light and find baby
Jesus lying in the manger.*

*We can't meet up together this year, but we would
still love to see your smiling faces. Please send us
your photo with a Christmas message, if possible, to
ChristmasEveMonkstown@outlook.com
so that your photos can be part of our Crib Service.*

MEDIA PERMISSION & GDPR CONSENT

By submitting a photo, you consent to those pictured in the photo being displayed by the Harbour Parishes in a slideshow as part of our 'Crib by Candlelight' celebration on 23rd December 2020.

The Harbour Parishes will store and use the image solely for the purposes of this event and the data will be deleted immediately thereafter.



Come and visit our Crib on 23rd December !



