



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #6

16th March 2021

A Chairde,

What a busy fortnight lies ahead for us all at Scoil Barra Naofa and isn't it wonderful to be back to school! This week we are celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge and St Patrick's Day. Next week we will celebrate Easter. The children are certainly back to school with a bang!

Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge á chéilliúradh againn i SBN an seachtain seo. 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 is happening in SBN this week. 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 seachtain speisialta ag céilliúradh ár gcúltúr agus Naomh Pádraig! Beidh an scoil dúnta ar 12pm ar an 17ú lá de mí Márta. *We hope you all enjoy this special week celebrating our culture and honouring St. Patrick. A reminder that SBN will remain closed on 17th of March.*

Mise le meas,

Ger O'Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING DATES

Tues	16ú	Lá Glas (Green Day)
Mon-Fri	15ú – 19ú	Seachtain na Gaeilge
Mon	17ú	School Closure (St. Patrick's Day)
Tues&Wed	23ú & 24ú	P/T Meetings Rang 1&2
Friday	26ú 2021	School Closes at 12midday for Easter
Mon	12ú April	School Reopens following Easter Break.

FURTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES TO NOTE

Applications for enrolment in Junior Infants September 2021 remain open. We have a small number of spaces available. If you are interested in enrolling your child in SBN for the 2021/22 school year please email the office on info@scoilbarranaofa.ie for further information.

Parent Teacher Meetings for children in 1st to 6th class were due to take place in January 2021. These meetings were postponed following school closures. All meetings for children in Junior and Senior Infants as well as children from 3rd to 6th class have now taken place. Meetings for children in 1st and 2nd class will take place on March 23rd and 24th. Children will remain in school as normal. Appointments can be booked on Aladdin.

Planning and review meetings for those children with additional educational needs and following an Individual Pupil Learning Plan ordinarily take place every February. These meetings were postponed due to school closures. Special Education Teachers will make phone contact with parents next week to facilitate phone meetings. Further meetings may take place during term 3 if necessary.

We are currently not in a position to share dates or plans in relation to First Confession, Communion, Service of Light or Confirmation. Bishop Fintan recently wrote to schools and parents informing us that it is not possible to plan these events at the moment. A copy of Bishop Fintan's letter was forwarded to parents via email. Any further information will be shared with parents as soon as we receive it.

World Book Day took place on March 4th. Unfortunately, the Annual Book Fayre cannot take place this year due to Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings. We plan to celebrate books, reading, our favourite stories and characters later in term 3. Book Day Tokens have been distributed to children and instructions on how to redeem your tokens are contained within.

The calendar for the 2021/22 school year will be finalised in the coming weeks and shared with the school community thereafter.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Now that all children and staff have returned to SBN we want to stay safe and stay in school for as long as possible! This is a collective effort and we rely heavily on the school community to work together to keep us all safe and healthy.

Parents are asked to keep up to date with HSE advice and guidance on Covid 19. Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid 19. If they are a close contact of a confirmed case or they are awaiting testing. Do not send your child to school if they have returned from another country in the last 14 days and please do consult and adhere to the most up to date advice and regulations on travel.

No child should be in school if they are unwell and parents are asked not to send your child to school if they are complaining of any illness. When returning to school after an absence or holiday period all parents are required to submit the Return to Education Declaration on Aladdin Connect. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Protocols in place during term 1 for dealing with a suspected case of Covid 19 within the school remain in place. Our updated SBN Covid Response Plan can be viewed on www.scoilbarranaoafa.ie

Should there be a confirmed case of Covid 19 within the school the HSE will inform the parents of the children (close contacts) concerned. The school will liaise with the HSE, however, the school is not at liberty to share details of those affected. Thank you for your understanding.

In the event of a child/family needing to isolate while awaiting a test/results please inform the school office. We can work together to provide remote learning opportunities for those children concerned.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

In an effort to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid 19 parents are kindly asked not to congregate outside the school gates. Instead please drop/collect and exit the school grounds as promptly as possible. Parents are encouraged to wear masks during this time as it may not always be possible to keep a 2m distance during busy times. All adults entering school grounds are required to wear a mask.

Parents are also reminded that the area outside of the school gates is a pedestrian access point and is not suitable for parking or turning. There is an informal system in place whereby parents are asked to drive up the hill parallel to the school, stop momentarily to allow the children exit the car and step onto the footpath outside of the school and exit by driving down Chapel Hill or continuing on to Fairy Hill.

Now that all children have returned to school and the traffic is busier please help us to keep the children safe when arriving to and leaving from school.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

We will continue to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge over the coming week. 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 **Tuesday March 16th**. **All children may wear green clothes to school**, if they wish! Bainigí taitneamh as!

SPRING ART COMPETITION

Thank you and well done to all of the boys and girls that entered our Spring Art Competition. We received a mix of wonderful paintings and constructions as well as beautiful photos of the local area. These are certainly brightening up our walls and corridors at SBN. Winners are; Nina Clifford, Caoimhe Power, Will Garcia, Abi O' Sullivan, Hazel Barry, Emily Whitty, Eamon Whitty, Sadie Bruen, Elsa O' Connor, Nina Farrell, Aisling Uí Shúilleabháin, Aoife Uí Shúilleabháin, Laylah Kiely, Maisie Hanna, Finn Whitty, Freya O' Connor, Beth Barry, Tom Killeen, Dara Killeen and Ciara James. All winners received a 5 Euro book voucher for Carrigaline Bookstore. This can be redeemed online/FB. Thanks to the PA for their fundraising efforts which have facilitated this competition. See our website for more photos.





TEXACO ART COMPETITION

The 67th Texaco Children's Art Competition is open and is currently accepting entries from all children. Full details can be found on www.texacochildrensart.com. Children can download the Home Application Form and can post their own entries. Closing date is **March 24th**.

Alternatively, children may submit their entry to Ms Mulrooney and entries can be posted by SBN. If you wish for your entry to be posted by the school then children must submit their completed entries to Ms Mulrooney by **Friday March 19th**.

Entries should be no smaller than A4 and no bigger than A2 size. Artwork should be flat, not rolled, folded or framed. Any type of paper can be used. Children can submit up to two entries each, however, a separate form must be attached to each piece. Good Luck!

SCHOOL GARDEN AND SCHOOL WORKS

Thank you to Aoife and the Garden Committee. The garden is full of colour and signs of Spring. Thank you also to Vivian and Greg for their work in the garden and around the school grounds in recent months. The yards and paths have been power washed and the plants and trees pruned and tidied. The school grounds are looking great!

Much work has also taken place in the school building in recent months. The 3rd, 4th and 5th class rooms have been fully refloored with a high quality blue marmoleum finish. The carpet in place in these rooms was no longer fit for purpose and the new flooring is not only brighter and fresher but cleaner and safer. The rooms have also been fully repainted and decorated. New noticeboards and units were hung and every inch of space has been maximised. New baskets have been installed under each desk to allow for individual storage and clear and clean desk tops. New stoppers have been placed on chairs to protect out new floor. The bathrooms in each classroom have also been fully refloored and repainted. Many thanks to Vivian and Greg for their work. Many thanks to McDonnell Paints for supplying the paint and many thanks to Fox Flooring for a super job! The children are returning to very bright and welcoming rooms.

The reflooring and repainting of all classrooms throughout SBN is now complete. New blinds and furniture are in place. The final section of the Classroom Renovation Project involves fitting sink and counter units in the classrooms from 3rd to 6th. We hope to complete this work during Summer 2021.

This work was made possible by a combination of school fundraising, private donations and DES grants. Thank you to all for your support. The child's physical environment really does have an impact on their wellbeing and their learning experience. Your support makes a huge difference to the children and your support is greatly appreciated.





SUMMER WORKS

We are delighted to say that funding has been approved by the Department of Education for a new roof at SBN. This funding has been secured under the Summer Works Scheme. Work will take place throughout the Summer on replacing the roof of the 1983 building encompassing all classrooms, halla, corridors and main school entrance. As well as a new roof the building will also be insulated and decorated. This is our third major project in 12 months and will compliment the new boiler and heating system installed last year. This will make a big difference to the heat of the building and the comfort of all of the boys and girls.

EASTER RAFFLE

Next week we will be running an Easter Raffle. We have a number of Easter Eggs and treats for the children. Similar to our Christmas Raffle all children's names will be entered in the raffle. If you wish to support the raffle by making a contribution online you can do this on Aladdin Connect. The minimum amount must be set at 5 Euro, however, parents can chose the amount they wish to donate. As always there is no obligation on anyone to donate. All children will be included!

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S HEALTH & WELLBEING THROUGH SPHE

A reminder that as part of our School SPHE Plan the Stay Safe and RSE (sensitive) lessons will be taught in the months of March & April. All parents should have received an email to inform you in advance. This email includes links so you can view the lesson content in advance of classes. Furthermore, the SBN SPHE Handbook for Parents was published this year and can be read on our website www.scoilbarranaofa.ie

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.

To further support our children's health and wellbeing the children in 3rd to 6th class took part in internet safety webinars last week. These webinars are run by Cyber Safe Ireland and cover topics such as ;

3RD CLASS – Engage An introductory session that prepares children for beginning their online journeys safely and smartly.

4TH CLASS – Educating children on key topics such as social media and gaming, and how to protect information and identity.

5TH CLASS – Exploring how social media & advertising works. Looking at how not to get caught by scams & misinformation.

6TH CLASS – Empowering children to behave appropriately online (incl cyberbullying and managing your digital footprint.

POLICY REVIEW

The annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour and Child Safeguarding Statement will take place in term 3. Policies are reviewed by staff and Board of Management in collaboration with parents. Please note that these policies are available on the school website. If you would like to communicate your thoughts on any of these policies please put your response in writing and send to the Chairperson of the Board of Management via the school office before April 30th 2021.

