



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #7

20th April 2021

A Chairde,

This is our first newsletter of Term 3. This term will be short but busy. The focus of teaching and learning will remain on the key curricular areas of literacy, numeracy, Gaeilge, PE and SPHE. As well as this we are planning a number of fun activities and events to keep the children enthused and active during the term. Already this past week children have enjoyed baking, scavenger hunts outside and circuits.

We are conscious that traditional school tours may not be possible due to restrictions on activities, travel and business but the staff are discussing alternatives and we will ensure that the children have plenty to look forward to. We look forward to a productive and exciting term.

Mise le meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING DATES

Mon	May 3 rd	Bank Holiday School Closure
Mon	May 17 th and 24 th	Early Closure for Staff Training&Meeting
Mon-Fri	May 31 st – June 4 th	SBN Book Week
Mon&Tues	June 7 th and 8 th	Extended Bank Holiday School Closure
Mon-Fri	June 14 th – 18 th	SBN Active Week
Friday	June 25 th	Early Closure for Summer Break

FURTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES TO NOTE

On Monday May 17th and Monday May 24th SBN will close early to facilitate staff training. Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 1pm. First and Second will finish at 1.15pm and Third to Sixth will finish at 1.25pm. Please exit school grounds once you have collected your child(ren) and as always we ask that you do not congregate at the school gates. Your cooperation is greatly appreciation.

Standardised Testing will take place at Scoil Barra Naofa during the month of May. Results and reports will be shared with parents, via Aladdin Connect, on June 11th.

At this point we have not received further information on Communion or Confirmation ceremonies. As you are aware under current regulations these ceremonies cannot be held. When we are in a position to plan and to share information with parents in relation to the Communion and Confirmation we will do so as promptly as possible.

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.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021/22

The arrangements for the 2021/22 school calendar are as follows;

Staff return on Tuesday August 31st.

Children return on Wednesday September 1st.

October Mid Term Break; Mon October 25th to Fri 29th inclusive.

Christmas Break; School closes at 12pm on Wednesday December 22nd and reopens on Thursday January 6th.

February Mid Term Break; Thursday Feb 24th and Friday Feb 25th.

Extended St Patrick's Day Closure; Thursday March 17th and Friday March 18th.

Easter Break; School closes at 12pm on Friday April 8th and reopens on Monday April 25th.

May Bank Holiday; Mon May 2nd.

Extended June Bank Holiday Closure; Mon June 6th to Wednesday June 8th inclusive.

School closes for Summer break on Wednesday June 29th 2022.

SUMMER UNIFORM

From May 1st children may wear their Summer uniform to school every day if they wish to do so. The Summer uniform consists of the SBN navy shorts and jumper and a plain white polo shirt. If you wish to purchase a stich on crest for your child's polo shirt we have a small number available for purchase from the school office, however, this is not essential and purely for your choice and preference.

As has been the case all year we kindly ask parents launder uniforms regularly and ensure that uniforms are not worn to any after school trips/activities.

6th class pupils may wear their leavers hoodie to school everyday if they wish to do so.

Please ensure that all items, particularly jumpers and hoodies, are clearly labelled.

During the fine weather (hopefully) children often take off their jumper and these can be misplaced or mixed up. We aim to encourage children to be mindful and careful of their possessions and minimise the need for handling or sorting by others.

Ordinarily SBN operates a uniform swap and a lost and found facility. Due to Covid 19 and associated restrictions we are not operating either facility this year.

STANDARDISED TESTING

The Department of Education has instructed all schools to ensure that standardised testing is completed during May 2021. Standardised testing in Spellings, English and Maths takes place annually in classes 1st to 6th. Early literacy and numeracy standardised tests are also administered in Senior Infants.

As a result of school closures during term 3 of the 2019/2020 school year standardised testing was not undertaken. Subsequently, this year's standardised test results must be interpreted with caution and understanding. While the test paper has not changed we know the experience of the children over the past 12 months has been anything but standard.

Results of tests will serve as assessment *for* learning rather than assessment *of* learning. In practice this means that teachers will use information harvested from the testing process for the purpose of identifying gaps in teaching and learning and identifying the content/strands which need attention.

Standardised testing is one form of assessment used in schools. Many other forms of assessment are also used throughout the year. These include; teacher observation, child/parental feedback, self-assessment, work samples (including those on Seesaw), projects, quizzes and weekly/termly tests. Standardised tests have many merits but do not measure many aspects of a child's learning and ability. Standardised tests do not

measure resilience, creativity, critical thinking, self-discipline, social skills or motivation. It is important that as parents and educators we do not allow our children to be defined by the results of test. We have learned so much from our children over the past 12 months. Their resilience, ability to be flexible and adapt and their sense of wonder and joy is to be commended and encouraged.

Results of standardised tests will be communicated to parents via Aladdin Connect. These will be communicated separately to your child's Summer report in an effort to differentiate between consistent hard work and effort all year and a snapshot of a child on a particular day. Results and reports will be forwarded to parents on June 11th.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION/EARLY COLLECTION



Parents are reminded that if you wish to collect your child outside of the regular collection time you should do so at **10.30am and 12pm**. This system minimises the traffic in and out of classes, maintains the integrity of the class bubbles and is in place for the ease and safety of pupils and staff.

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.

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.

SHAMROCKS GAA UNDERAGE ACADEMY 2021

We're really excited to get back on the pitch on Friday April 30th at 6pm in Shanbally. We will continue every Friday thereafter up until the summer.

Boys born 2010 to 2017 most welcome. Contact 0861914926 with enquiries
Monkstown NS students especially welcome.