



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #8

11th May 2021

A Chairde,

This month's newsletter is packed full of exciting and uplifting news. After a challenging year it is important that the children have lots to look forward to this term. School tours and celebrations may look a little different this year but these important rites of passage will be marked and celebrated as the children deserve. Our children have demonstrated immense flexibility, courage and good humour over the past year and it is important to acknowledge their accomplishments. We have a busy final two months ahead but we look forward to ending the year on a high and look forward to brighter days ahead.

Mise le Meas,

Ger O'Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING DATES

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
Fri	June 11 th	Release of School Reports and Results
Mon-Fri	June 14 th – 18 th	SBN Active Week
Friday	June 25 th	School closes for Summer Holidays at 12pm

See school tour section below for further important dates to note.

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 appreciated.

Communions and Confirmations are not permitted under current government and public health regulations. We may be permitted to organise the sacrament of First Confession in the near future. As soon as we have further information to share on these sacraments we will share this with you. In the meantime teachers will continue to prepare the children through religious instruction in class.

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.

STANDARDISED TESTING AND RESULTS

All primary schools are instructed to complete standardised testing this year.

Standardised Testing will take place at Scoil Barra Naofa during the month of May.

Spelling and Reading tests will be administered during the week of May 4th and

Numeracy tests will be administered during the week of May 10th.

Further parental information on standardised tests and interpretation of test scores can be found via the following link;

https://ncca.ie/media/1424/standardised_testing_sten.pdf

Standardised tests are one method used by teachers. The class teacher uses many different ways to build a picture of your child's learning during the year. Teacher observation, class tests, work samples and projects, parental feedback and children's self-assessment such as the [two stars and a wish](#) method are all valuable methods of assessment. The class teacher uses a broad range of assessment tools to evaluate learning, celebrate your child's achievements and plan the next steps needed to build on progress made.

The past 14 months of your child's schooling have been anything but standard! When evaluating and monitoring progress and attainment we do not focus solely on a test score. Now more than ever, it is important that we manage our expectations and interpretations of test scores. It is reasonable to expect there will be a drop in test scores this year. Given the lack of consistency and the challenges posed by remote teaching and learning it is reasonable to expect that results will be lower than in the past. [This is assessment for learning and not assessment of learning.](#)

Class Teachers and Special Education Teachers have been, and will continue to be, in regular contact with the parents of any children we have concerns about. Results of standardised testing will not be shared via the school report but will instead be available to view via Aladdin Connect. Each year we discourage parents from sharing results with their children. This year in particular it is important to be mindful of the possible negative impact sharing results might have on the children. When speaking to your children about their academic progress we do encourage you to focus on the information contained within the school report. This information paints a full picture of the child and celebrates a variety of strengths and achievements.

It is important to keep in mind other achievements and accomplishments of our children since March 2020. Our children have shown themselves to be adaptable, resilient, courageous, good humoured and tenacious. They have managed to Seesaw their way through the past 14 months both literally and metaphorically. They have seesawed in and out of school closures and re-openings. Each time, returning to school full of enthusiasm and positivity. They have seesawed their way through the digital world of remote learning. They have all become digital learners and developed life long skills in this regard. In many ways they have shown us adults how to deal with change and challenge.

30 Things a Standardized Test Can't Measure



Resilience Passion Strength
wit Faith
Compassion Intuition
a sense of humor
Kindness self-esteem
INTELLIGENCE MOTIVATION FORTITUDE
Morals
Courage Work Ethic
empathy Determination
Personality manners
Diligence common sense
Grit Ingenuity
Character
Physical Fitness a love of learning
creativity Effort LIFE SKILLS

ACTIVITIES & SCHOOL TOUR INFORMATION

While we cannot plan school tours in the traditional sense this year there are many extras planned for the children of SBN in the weeks and months ahead. As well as local walks, trips to playground, teddy bear's picnics and games in the park we have booked a variety of visitors and activities for the children. If we cannot go on a tour then the tour will come to us! Dates and details will be confirmed by individual class teachers in the coming weeks. General information is as follows;

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class will be visited by Magician and Scientist Tony Baloney.

Second, Third and Fourth Class will be visited by The Animal Roadshow.

Fifth Class will have a fun day/games day in the park with a coach from Munster Rugby.

Sixth Class tour will take place in Oysterhaven Outdoor Activity Centre.

Sixth Class will also take part in separate sports day/treat day in lieu of the traditional graduation ceremony. Further details will follow in June.

All children will receive ice cream and treats on the day of their "school tour".

As well the activities above we are also hosting a virtual show in association with "Hysterical Histories" during the month of June. Every class will take part in this virtual event which provides a unique and memorable version of the history of Cork. Following the show the children will be taken on a virtual tour of Cork, complete a number of fun follow on activities based on mapwork, scavenger hunts, art, singing, drama and of course history!

Payment links will be set up on Aladdin later today. The cost is of tours, treats and virtual event is 5Euro per child. Cost of Sixth Class tour will differ. See Aladdin Connect payment link for further information.

With the exception of "Hysterical Histories" virtual event all activities will take place outdoors and will follow public health protocols in relation to Covid 19.

BOOK WEEK



SBN Book Week will take place during the week of May 31st. Every day the children (and staff) will take part in a school wide DEAR initiative.

DEAR stands for drop everything and read. School will be particularly quiet for 10-15mins everyday while we all enjoy reading our books!

As well as DEAR we will be holding different competitions for the different class levels. Book mark design, book cover design and creative writing competitions will be held with homework passes and book vouchers as prizes. We will use our newly developed digital literacy skills to connect classes and support paired reading and puppet shows via Google Meets. We will finish the week by hosting a dress up day when all children (and staff) are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters. Further details to follow soon. Many thanks to Ms Mulrooney for organising this event.

ACTIVE WEEK

SBN Active Week will take place during the week of June 14th. During this week the children will take part in a variety of daily physical activities both in class, on yard and around Monkstown. We are delighted to welcome a number of different coaches to the school. This is the first time we have been in a position to do so since last March. The children will experience HIIT and games with Ora Fitness, Zumba and gymnastics. Many thanks to Ms Flannery for organising the Active Week Events.

Monies collected for sports during the last school year have been used to purchase PE equipment for the children. Equipment such as orienteering packs, sets for tag rugby, soccer and GAA for older classes. Equipment such as “lava tiles” scooter boards, stilts and balance boards for younger classes. The remainder of this money, along with fundraising monies from the Christmas and Easter raffles will cover the cost of Active Week activities.

These activities will take place outdoors and will follow all public health protocols in relation to Covid 19.



ENGINEERING IN A BOX

Mr Walsh's 4th class are currently taking part in the Engineering in a Box Programme. The children will enjoy a wide variety of science lessons through this initiative. Up to now they have been learning about characteristics of human life and growth. Next week they will begin to study viruses! A very topical subject that will give them a great insight into the current pandemic and most importantly an insight into how to prevent and fight against viruses. Here's to the scientists of the future! Keep an eye on the website for pictures.

Thanks to Mr Walsh for organising and well done to all.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION AND ROAD SAFETY



Parents are 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. **Please do not park on the bend or reverse around the corner at Diamond Hill.**

Many children and families walk from Diamond Hill to SBN and the practise of reversing around this corner puts these people in direct danger.

As the weather improves and more children are walking, scooting and cycling to school it is more important than ever that all adults act responsibly and safely and drive with due care and consideration during drop off and collection.

RETURN TO EDUCATION DECLARATION AND ILLNESS

Parents are reminded that a Return to Education Declaration should be completed and uploaded to Aladdin following each absence or school closure (excluding weekends).

Please seek the advice of your GP if your child becomes unwell and please follow government and public health guidelines at all times.

In the event of a child becoming unwell at school parents will be contacted and requested to collect their child.

In the event of a child displaying symptoms of Covid 19 (new cough, temperature, breathlessness and loss of sense of taste or smell) the child will be required to wear a mask and remain in the isolation area while awaiting collection.

As society reopens and adults return to work places please ensure that you have included an emergency contact in the event that we cannot reach the primary contact.

BOOK LISTS 2021/22

Book lists for the 2021/22 school year are currently being finalised. These lists will be shared with parents in the coming fortnight and payment can be made via Aladdin Connect. To facilitate the significant task ahead please ensure payments are received on time.

Many thanks to Carla James, Emma White, Gail Sheil for their time and commitment. Carla James and Sandra Moynihan will be replaced this year by Lisa Hanna and Melissa Lordan.

Míle Buíochas Ó Chroí.

SCHOOL GARDEN

Our school garden is looking great at the moment. Full of foliage and colour. Many thanks to Aoife Fleury for the beautiful hanging baskets and the colourful bird signs. Vivian has displayed these weatherproof, colourful and labelled images of our native birds around the school grounds. The Green Schools Committee have hung bird feeders to attract birds to our garden. Many thanks to Audrey and to the boys and girls that assist her everyday in watering the plants and caring for the garden. Keep an eye out for the fairy doors currently under construction in 3rd class. These will make a gorgeous addition to the garden. Thanks to Ms Proutt, Mr O' Connell, Vivian and of course to the children!

We are very lucky to have such a lovely garden to enjoy throughout the seasons.



SHAMROCKS GAA UNDERAGE ACADEMY 2021

Training continues every Friday at 6pm in Shanbally. Boys born 2010 to 2017 most welcome. Contact 0861914926 with enquiries
Monkstown NS students especially welcome.

