



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #9

15th June 2021

A Chairde,

This is our last newsletter of the 2021/22 school year. As always, the last term has flown by us and we are now getting ready to finish up for the Summer. This year the children have worked harder than ever and they deserve a well earned Summer Break. They have been exemplary in coping with new protocols in school and during further school closures and reopening in March. We hope that the final fortnight of school will not present us with any further challenges and will allow staff and children to enjoy the final weeks and events planned. This newsletter contains information pertaining to September. Final arrangements for September will be communicated via an August Newsletter. Wishing you all a restful and healthy outdoor Summer.

Mise le Meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING DATES

June 14 th – 18 th	SBN Active Week.
June 17 th	5 th Class Sportsday.
June 18 th	6 th Class Sportsday.
June 24 th	Magician's Visit (Junior Infants to First Class)
June 24 th	6 th Class Graduation Service at 10am.
June 24 th	6 th Class Pupils Finish at 12pm
June 25 th	Juniors to 5 th Finish for Summer Holidays.

Juniors and Seniors finish at 11.35am.

First and second finish at 11.50am

Third to Fifth finish at 12pm.

CLASS ALLOCATION 2021/22

Ordinarily, we would communicate the teacher assigned to your child's class during the month of June. It is not possible to confirm teachers assigned to classes at this point. Medically vulnerable and pregnant teachers were instructed to work from home from March to Easter. This arrangement was subsequently extended from Easter to Summer.

Currently, schools have not been informed whether this arrangement will remain in place in September. Without knowing our full compliment of staff this September it is not possible to confirm the teachers assigned to each class at this stage.

Following over a year of immense change and challenge it is our intention to enact as little change as possible. For the most part, we hope that teachers will continue to work at their current class level/set. Teachers assigned to classes will be confirmed in August.

SNA ALLOCATION

Currently, SBN has an allocation of 3 full time snas and 1 part time sna. We have recently applied for a review of this allocation. We feel an increase in allocation is needed to best meet the needs of our children. At this stage, it is not possible to confirm the caseload of each sna for the 2021/22 school year but it is our hope to enact as little change as possible given the changes and challenges already experienced this past year. Details on sna allocation will be confirmed with parents in August.

PUPIL ENROLLMENT AND TEACHER ALLOCATION

Staffing arrangements and details on teacher allocation are communicated to schools annually. The allocation of class teachers is dependent upon the numbers of pupils enrolled within the school. Currently SBN has 8 Class Teachers and 3 Special Education Teachers. This figure will remain unchanged for the 2021/22 school year. The enrollment figure on the 30th of September 2021 will determine our teacher allocation for the school year commencing September 2022. As things stand we are in very real danger of losing a teacher starting September 2022.

Our incoming Junior Infant enrollment is much lower than expected and this, combined with the loss of other pupils moving elsewhere, puts SBN in a very precarious position for 2022/23. The loss of a teacher equates to the loss of a Class Teacher and not a Special Education Teacher. This would have negative consequences for all pupils within the school as it would

result in splitting 8 classes between 7 Class Teachers.

We ask you to let your friends, neighbours and relatives know that SBN has plenty of places available for Junior Infants this September. As well as this we have a limited number of places in other classes. Anyone interested can contact the school office on 4842159 or by email on

info@scoilbarranaofa.ie

We will continue to accept email applications throughout the Summer.

Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021/2022

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.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Arrangements currently in place in SBN as a result of Covid 19 will remain in place for the first term of the 2021/22 school year. These arrangements be reviewed regularly.

Classes will continue to operate as bubbles, bubbles will be kept separate and individual classes will be arranged in pods. Children may be swapped within their pod every few weeks but the constitution of the pod can only change when we have a two week break. Staggered start and finish times will remain in place as will mask wearing for adults and hand hygiene practices throughout

We hope to reintroduce Station Teaching in September thereby allowing all children to benefit from extra support and intervention. Station Teaching involves the 3 Special Education Teachers working with the Class Teacher to provide small group support and intervention in a variety of areas including reading, phonics, writing, creative writing, comprehension strategies, maths and number work and play!

Outside coaches and sports may be reintroduced after term 1. This will be reviewed at the time.

GRADUATION SERVICE FOR 6TH CLASS PUPILS

On Thursday 24th of June the boys and girls of 6th Class will finish out their schooling at Scoil Barra Naofa. To mark this special day Fr Seán will celebrate a Graduation Service for the children at 10am. Due to public health restrictions and limits on numbers attending church services we are not in a position to invite the parents to the service. You are welcome to stand outside before/after the service to clap and cheer the children on their way.

Following the service the children will return to school and will be presented with their Graduation Certificates, Yearbooks, treats and a memento from the Parent's Association. The children will finish at 12pm and the pupils of SBN will line the school grounds to clap and cheer the 6th Class boys and girls as they leave SBN. While we cannot invite parents inside the school for the occasion you are welcome to stand outside the school and join us in showing our support for the children.

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION DETAILS

In the past week Bishop Fintan has written to schools in relation to Communion and Confirmation Ceremonies. We have discussed the arrangements with Fr Seán and Fr Con and provisional dates have been chosen. All dates and arrangements are dependent upon Covid 19 and public health guidelines in September. Times of ceremonies will be confirmed closer to the date.

- Confirmation Ceremony for current 6th Class is planned for Friday August 27th. To allow parents and family members attend with their child we will have two separate ceremonies. The first ceremony will commence at 4pm and the second will commence at 5.30pm. Confirmation Robes will not be issued this year. Dress can be chosen by parents and children and should be appropriate to the

occasion.

- Confirmation Ceremony for the current 5th Class is planned for Friday September 10th. To allow parents and family members attend with their child we will have two separate ceremonies. Both ceremonies will take place during the school day. Times to be confirmed closer to the date. Confirmation Robes will not be issued this year. Children may wear their uniform or clothes can be chosen by parents and children. Dress should be appropriate to the occasion.
- Communion Ceremonies for the current 2nd Class are planned for Saturday September 25th. To allow parents and family members attend with their child we will have two separate ceremonies. Both ceremonies will take place during the morning and times will be confirmed closer to the date. Blazers will not be issued this year and children may wear their uniform or their own choice of clothing appropriate to the occasion.
- The Sacrament of First Confession will take place Mid-September. The date and time will be shared with parents on return to school.

ACTIVITIES & SCHOOL TOUR INFORMATION

This week marks Active Week at SBN. As part of this initiative the children will take part in a number of outdoor activities and classes such as Zumba, Gymnastics and HIIT. 5th and 6th Classes will take part in class sportsdays and all children will be active on walks in the community and trips to the park. Active homework will be assigned nightly and we encourage as many children as possible to walk, cycle or scoot to school. If you require a car to travel to school we encourage you to park and stride. Enjoy the fine weather, fresh air and beautiful view! Many thanks to Ms Flannery for organizing our Active Week events.

The postponed visit by Tony Baloney will now take place on June 24th. Children from Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class will enjoy class magic shows and an ice cream treat after!

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 for “tours” and activities are set up on Aladdin Connect. The cost of tours, treats and virtual event is 5Euro per child. With the exception of “Hysterical Histories” all activities will take place outdoors following public health protocols in relation to Covid 19.

CREATIVE CLUSTER SUCCESS

We are delighted to share the news that Scoil Barra Naofa has been chosen to take part in the Creative Clusters Initiative run by Education Support Centres of Ireland. Creative Clusters involves a team of schools working together to promote creativity and artistic expression in our schools. To enable each child to reach their creative potential.

Scoil Barra Naofa, as the lead school, will work with Canovee NS and St Catherine’s NS during the 2021/22 school year. Funding is provided to successful schools to engage the services of a specialist facilitator to help the schools build a programme of learning and activities tailor-made for their students. We are delighted to say that the children of Scoil Barra Naofa will enjoy music, songwriting and Gaeilge sessions with local singer songwriter John Spillane next year.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils. Only one application is chosen by the Cork Education Support Centre and we are proud to be successful on this occasion. Well done to Ms Mulrooney for leading the application and liaising with our partner schools. This promises to be a very exciting and enjoyable project.

BOOK LISTS & UNIFORM 2021/22

Book lists for the 2021/22 school year have been finalized and shared with parents. 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.

Laura's Boutique in Douglas are taking appointments. Parents can avail of a 10% discount on early purchase and uniforms can be changed for size in September if necessary.

SCHOOL GARDEN & TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

Our school garden and play spaces will be fitted with new benches in the coming weeks. Monkstown Tidy towns have also organized new flowers for our school garden. Thank you to Aoife Fleury for organizing these well needed spaces.

Winners of the recent Tidy Towns Poster Competition are Julia O' Neill (Seniors) and Maeve Clarke (third). Runners up include; Abi o' Sullivan (Seniors), Oliver Kenneally (first), Keelin O' Herlihy (second), Aisling Uí Shuilleabhéain (second), Matilda O' Carroll (second), Ella Mae Slattery (second) and Maeve Cash (second). All children received a prize. Well done to all and thank you to Monkstown Tidy Towns for the fantastic prizes.

Keep a close eye on the area at Monkstown "cut and cover" in the coming weeks. Art work submitted as part of the mural competition will be on exhibit there. The winner of the mural competition will be announced very soon. Good luck to all who entered and we look forward to seeing all of the boys and girls artwork on display.

FLOWER POSIES

Many thanks to Vivienne Garcia for organizing the Lily of the Valley posies for the girls of Second Class. This beautiful tradition has been kept alive by Vivienne over the past two years despite the interruptions to our Communion Ceremony.

PARENTS'S RAFFLE

During the year we have held two raffles for the children. They have enjoyed Christmas Treats and Easter Eggs. Now, is a chance for the parents to win a treat for themselves! The past year has been challenging and changes have been forced upon us all. We want to thank you for your support and cooperation throughout the year. Our Parent's Association has organized two hampers for parents. These hampers containing gorgeous Johnsons products.

As always, all parents name's will be entered into our draw. If you wish to make a donation in lieu of buying a raffle ticket the payment link can be found on Aladdin. The minimum amount permitted by Aladdin is 5Euro. You may input your chosen amount. Good luck to all!

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.

PASSAGE GAA UNDERAGE 2021

Passage GAA are inviting all boys and girls aged 5-13 to come and join in the fun with their underage team on Thursdays from 6.15 – 7.30pm. Training takes place at the all weather pitch in Manning Park. Enquiries to John O' Connor 0860269734.

Society Of St Vincent de Paul

Annual Clothes Collection , Saturday 19th June .

10.00am to 4.00pm

Carpark opposite the Bosun Restaurant.

All Donations gratefully received .

