



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #2

14th Sep 2021

A Chairde,

Céad Míle Fáilte ar ais ar scoil chuig gach uile duine! Welcome back to school everyone! We are thrilled to welcome all families back to school this September. We offer a special and warm welcome to our 20 new Junior Infants and their families.

Although this is only our second full week back at school we have been very busy and we have plenty of exciting activities planned and exciting news to share. Station Teaching is up and running in Junior Infants and First Class, elections for the Student Council will take place before the end of September, the SBN Virtual Open Night will be recorded this Thursday, a new and exciting interactive spelling programme will be piloted in 5th and 6th this month and GAA coaching will also resume for 5th and 6th this month.

The Parent's Association will hold their first meeting this month. Any parents interested in taking part in the PA are welcome to email pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie The parental Wellbeing Focus Group will also meet this month. Further information on how you can be involved in school planning can be found in this newsletter.

Thank to you to all parents for your support and cooperation since reopening. We look forward to a fruitful and enjoyable year working together at SBN.

Mise le Meas,

Ger O' Brien agus Foireann na Scoile



WELCOME TO STAFF

Welcome to our new staff members Ms Kate Irish (rang 2) and Ms Aoife O' Connor (rang 4). Welcome back to Ms Cremen who returns to teach 5th Class.

IMPORTANT DATES AND SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021/22

Wednesday Sep 29 th	Confirmation	11am (6 th Class) 3pm(past pupils)
Saturday October 9 th	First Holy Communion	10am

Mon October 26th – Friday Oct 29th Mid Term Break.

Wed December 22nd School Closes at 12 for Christmas Holidays.

Thurs January 6th School Reopens.

Thursday & Friday, February 18th & 19th Mid Term Break.

Thurs March 17th and Fri Mar 18th School Closed St Patrick's Day.

Friday April 8th School Closes at 12 for Easter Holidays.

Monday April 25th School Reopens.

Mon May 2nd Bank Holiday Closure.

Mon June 6th to Wed June 8th (inclusive) Bank Holiday Closure.

Wed June 29th School Closes at 12 for Summer Holidays.

Class Expenses payment links will be sent towards the end of this month through Aladdin.

Dates for parent teacher meetings or school inservice to follow at a later time.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



dreamstime On Wednesday September 29th our present and past pupils will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two ceremonies will be held. The first ceremony will take place at 11am and this will include our present 6th Class. The second ceremony will take place at 3pm and will include the pupils of 6th Class 2020/21. We wish our pupils, past and present, and their families a special and memorable day.

Our 3rd class children will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday October 9th. The ceremony will take place at 10am. We hope that the sun shines for you all and that you have a wonderful day boys and girls. Arrangements for First Confession will be shared once agreed with Fr Seán.

Children making Confirmation and Communion may be joined by 5 family members. This figure includes their sponsors (Confirmation) and any other children in the family.

Each family bubble, consisting of a maximum of 6 people, will be assigned a separate pew. All Confirmation and Communion Children will sit with their families on the day. As is the case with any mass or religious ceremony physical distancing is essential, as are masks. We appreciate your cooperation.

Due to limits on those attending the mass a photographer or videographer will not be present in the church during the Confirmation and Communion Ceremonies. We hope to organise a photographer to take group photographs following the ceremony. Further details will follow.

If parents would like to organise family photos before or after the mass we are happy to recommend Audrey Hastings. Audrey took the Communion photos last year and she can be contacted on 0864470281. You can view a selection of Audrey's work on www.instagram.com/audreyhastingsphotography or www.facebook.com/audreyhastingsphotography

We look forward to seeing you all on your special day.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The SBN Student Council is made up of 2 representatives from classes 2nd to 6th. Each year the Student Council organises fun activities for the pupils as well as fundraisers for local charities. Elections for Student Council will take place before the end of the month. Each class will agree a suitable day for voting. All students are encouraged to take part if they wish to do so. Some children may not wish to stand or may not feel ready yet. Standing for election is completely optional and should be a positive experience rather than a pressure. The Student Council encourages pupil voice and pupil involvement in the running of the school. Being part of the Student Council is a wonderful opportunity for those elected while ensuring that all children have a voice via their class representatives.

Student Council meetings will take place outdoors and in a safe manner. Details on chosen charities and events will be shared with parents following the first meeting in early October.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AT SBN

Parental input and open communication is vital to the success of all schools. In an effort to involve parents and facilitate parental contribution to the planning and day to day running of the school we facilitate a number of different groups involving the parents of SBN.

Our Parent's Association consists of parents of children across all classes of SBN. The PA are the primary link between school and home and help promote a positive working relationship between parents and school. The PA meet termly and the Principal meets the Chairperson of the PA regularly to discuss school matters. The PA organises special events during the year as well as Communion, Confirmation and Graduation gifts for the children. We encourage all parents to take part in the PA. We understand that some parents may not be in a position to take part on a regular basis but may be happy to assist on an ad hoc basis or assist at specific events. If you would like to be involved or contribute in any way please email pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie

The Board of Management has overall responsibility for the running of the school. The Board is made up of 8 members including 2 parent representatives, ideally one mother and one father. Rather than presenting parental issues to the Board the role of the parent representative is to offer a parental perspective in decision making. Presently, the Board of Management of SBN is seeking expressions of interest from parents interested in becoming members of the Board. We are particularly looking for fathers who may be interested in this role. Our previous male representative was required to step down as his child has moved on to Secondary School. Expressions of interest should be made in writing and addressed to the Chairperson of the Board of Management on or before Friday September 24th.

A Parental Wellbeing Focus Group was formed in term 3 of the 2020/21 school year. The group consists of parents of children across all classes of SBN. The focus group have offered feedback to the Principal via surveys and a planning meeting will be held in the coming fortnight. It is hoped that this group will inform and contribute to wellbeing initiatives and events at SBN.

Parental input is sought on the topic of uniforms. Our SBN Uniform Policy will be reviewed this year. As part of this review we hope to organise a parental focus group. In advance of the formation of the focus group we ask parents to email the school office with your ideas or thoughts on the current school uniform. In order to manage the responses please enter the heading Uniform Review in the subject bar. Responses should be emailed to info@scoilbarranaofa.ie on or before September 30th.

SUMMER WORKS

Over the Summer months a new roof was fitted at SBN. Associated works such as replacement sky lights and Velux Windows, electrical works and painting were also completed. The recent wet weather provided the perfect opportunity to test out our new roof and we can confirm that the roof passed with flying colours. Many thanks to Viv and Greg for assisting in getting the school building and grounds ready in time for the children's return on September 1st.

COVID 19 PROCEDURES AT SBN

We have shared our updated SBN Covid Response Plan on our school website www.scoilbarranaofa.ie This is a living document and may be edited and updated in accordance with any changes in DES/HSE policy. If you have not had time or opportunity to read this plan we would encourage you to be very familiar with the sections covering children feeling unwell at school and dealing with a suspected case of Covid 19 in school. Please note the inclusion of new "uncommon" symptoms of Covid 19.

At Scoil Barra Naofa we aim to take a common sense approach to dealing with children displaying "uncommon" symptoms of Covid 19 while also remembering that no child should be in school if they are unwell. Children regularly complain of tummy pains and regularly have runny noses etc. Staff will endeavour to ascertain the cause of any such complaints and will monitor children's tummy aches etc. When a decision is made to ring home and request a child be collected from school we would appreciate that parents collect their children as soon as possible.

Parents are asked to ensure that contact details of another friend/family member/minder are available to the school should you not be in a position to collect your child. Details can be updated on Aladdin or can be emailed to the school office on info@scoilbarranaofa.ie

We place a high level of trust in parents to inform us of important information relating to your child's health/illness. Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell and please seek the advice of your GP.

When dealing with a suspected case of Covid 19 in SBN we will follow DES guidelines. This means that a child will be required to wear a mask, will be isolated from the other pupils and will have their temperature checked. We acknowledge that this may be unsettling for children and indeed for parents, however, this is what is required of all schools in dealing with a suspected case during the school day.

Should we have a confirmed case of Covid 19 within the school the HSE will step in at this point and oversee contact tracing. The school will not be permitted to share details of those affected and as such we ask parents not to contact the school seeking this information. The school will be guided by the HSE and DES. If you or your child are considered a close contact then you will be contacted by the HSE and informed of this. The HSE will advise you of the next steps e.g. isolate or test. If you are not contacted by the HSE then your child should arrive to school as usual.



SEESAW

Seesaw is the chosen online learning platform at Scoil Barra Naofa. The Seesaw accounts of each child are currently being “rolled over” to their new class level. Homework will be assigned and completed via Seesaw on a weekly basis. Your child’s teacher may also share pictures and announcements via the Seesaw account. If you wish to read our SBN Remote Learning Plan this can be found on our school website www.scoilbarranaofa.ie A wide variety of school policies as well as photos and general school information can be viewed online and our website is updated regularly.

HEALTHY LUNCHES



At SBN we have a healthy eating policy. Fizzy drinks and crisps are not permitted and treats are for Friday only. Chewing gum is never allowed. Children’s lunchboxes, bottles and other equipment should be cleaned thoroughly daily.

Separate bins will be in place in classrooms. A large pedal bin will be used for tissues, paper towels etc and a recycling/paper bin will be used for recyclable waste.

Children and staff are required to dispose of their own lunch waste/compost at home by taking this home in their lunch box.

UNIFORMS/TRACKSUITS

From October 1st all children from First to Sixth Class should wear their full school uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays and their full school tracksuit on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Only those children with a genuine medical/care need may wear tracksuit instead of uniform. In such cases the parent/guardian should apply for exemption through the school office by providing confirmation from your GP/Consultant. This application should be made before September 30th and will be discussed/sanctioned by the BOM.

Wearing tracksuit and uniform on alternate days will provide ample opportunity to wash and dry clothes regularly. We request that school uniform and tracksuit are worn for school related activities only and that uniforms/tracksuits are taken off straight after your child/children arrive home from school.

We ask for your cooperation and understanding in this area. Uniforms, cleanliness relating to uniforms and following uniform/tracksuit days relies on the good will of all. The whole school community relies on all families taking personal responsibility for ensuring their children's uniforms and tracksuits are washed regularly, worn only for school activities and worn on the correct day. Please help us to instil confidence and reassurance in the school community by adhering to rules relating to uniforms and tracksuits.

DROP/COLLECT AND PARKING

Before school and home time can be a chaotic time with regards to cars and parking around the school. A few points for us all to remember:



- Please be aware that the both wheelchair accessible spots, inside and outside the gate, are in daily use.
- As much as we would like it, we **cannot all be parked in the spot nearest the school**. It is a good idea to have pre-arranged a 'Park & Stride' option, a little further from the school with your children. This will also help us maintain physical distancing as the children enter and exit the school grounds.
- **Dropping and turning outside school gates is not permitted**. This is a pedestrian entrance and exit for children and must be kept clear to allow for safe entry and exit at all times.
- The roads around the school are access roads for all of the local residents and we must be conscious of this and courteous to that.
- **We CANNOT at any stage BLOCK or OBSTRUCT the road on the hill** outside the school, even for a brief time. If a resident has parked outside their home, cars should not park across from them. If there was an emergency in any home in the locality, or indeed in the school, emergency services would not be able to come up or go down the hill. While I appreciate the fact that the roads around the school are narrow to begin with, it is important that there is room for traffic to pass.
- **It is an 'unwritten' practice amongst parents, which can prove useful, to drive up the hill by the school and down the hill by the Sacred Heart Church.**
- I will be speaking with all pupils in the coming days about road safety and crossing the road safely, both before and after school. I would appreciate it if all parents could speak further about this at home, especially in the cases where your son or daughter has to walk home / to the car.
- I have made contact with Cork County Council in relation to providing safe crossing options for children. We will continue to work on this over the school year.

Thank you for your co-operation with all of the above. The health and safety of every member of the Scoil Barra Naofa community is of vital importance to the school and the Board of Management.

SHAMROCKS GAA

Shamrocks Boys Academy continues every Friday at 6pm on the pitch at Shanbally. Children can make new friends and have fun. Shamrocks look forward to welcoming students of SBN born 2010 – 2016. Contact Pa on 0861914926 for further information.

PASSAGE GAA

Passage GAA invites all boys and girls from 5 to 13 years of age to come and join the fun with their underage teams. Pasáiste Óg (U5-U7) training takes place every Thursday from 6.15 to 7.30pm at the all weather pitch in Manning Park. All other age groups train throughout the week. Contact 0868518070 for further information.

ORA FITNESS

Thursday: Outdoor Cardio 9.30-10.15am

Saturday: Outdoor Cardio 9.45am -10.30am

Outdoor Cardio is held in the Basketball Courts in Monkstown Park.