



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #3

12th October 2021

A Chairde,

What a busy month it has been! Our newsletter is bursting with news from the past month as well as upcoming events. It has been refreshing to see children and families gather for Confirmation and Communion Masses as well parents gathering for outdoor coffee mornings. We are looking to the future and a return to some of our SBN events and activities over the coming months.

Many thanks for your kind words on our SBN Virtual Open Night. Well done to all of the boys and girls involved. Thank you for sharing on Facebook and for helping us to show everyone in the local area, and beyond, that SBN is full of fun and kindness, full of learning and challenge and full of friendship! Don't forget to follow our Facebook page to see photos of many more activities at SBN.

SBN will close for October Mid Term Break on October 22nd. We hope you have an enjoyable Halloween break and hope to see everyone back at school, healthy and happy, on November 1st.

Mise le meas,

Ger O' Brien agus Foireann na Scoile



Upcoming Dates

Friday	22nd Oct	Halloween Dress Up Day
Mon-Fri	25 th – 29 th Oct	October Midterm Break
Saturday	31 st Oct	Closing Date Enrolment Forms for 2022
Tuesday	22nd Dec	School closes for Christmas at 12 midday

Amendment to previous newsletter; SBN will close for February Mid Term Break on Feb 24th and 25th 2022.

One additional early finish for all classes before Christmas. This early finish is required to facilitate staff training on the Primary Language Curriculum. Date to be confirmed.

UNIFORM

Reminder to all families that full school uniform should be worn by all pupils from 1st to 6th class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tracksuits may be worn on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We have recently sought parental input on the current uniform arrangements and general uniform policy. The uniform policy will be reviewed during the year and your feedback will form part of this review. A general survey will be sent to all parents and your input is very much appreciated.

SACRAMENTS



dreamstime Well done to the boys and girls of our current and past 6th

Class who received the sacrament of Confirmation on September 29th. Well done to the boys and girls of 3rd Class who celebrated their long awaited First Confession on September 28th and First Holy Communion on October 9th. It was certainly a busy few weeks for the children, their teachers; Mr Walsh, Ms Mulrooney and Mr O' Connell as well as Fr Seán. All ceremonies were beautiful. Each child had a special job on the day and the singing, prayers and ceremonies were both reverent and memorable. Thank you to photographers Amanda Greene and Audrey Hastings for stepping in at short notice to capture the images on this special day. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make the ceremonies so special.

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to our current members of the PA, many of whom have been members for a number of years and have given so much of their time and energy to the school during this period. Our Parent's Association are currently looking for new members. The Parent's Association AGM will take place in the school hall on November 4th at 8pm. All parents are encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin with a welcome address from

the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Management. This will be followed by a parents discussion and election of new members. The AGM will allow parents the opportunity to meet and discuss matters of importance as well as ideas for the future.

The PA are an important home school link. While certain fundraising and social events e.g. Santa Sunday, Grandparent's Day or Junior Infant playdate may have been on pause last year we hope to facilitate certain events in a safe manner this year. Indeed, our recent outdoor coffee morning for parents of Junior Infants was a great success. Thanks to all parents that helped to organise this event and in particular, thank you to Lisa Hanna, Audrey Hayes and Clóna Dolan for hosting the event. Thank you also to the PA and the parents of 2nd Class for organising outdoor teas and coffees following our recent Communion Ceremony.

The PA provides an important link between home and school and will help us to work together to navigate the new normal and next steps in the reopening of SBN. Parents have an important role in formulating school policy and practice. Membership of the PA provides a great opportunity for parents to get to know one another and get to know your child's school and teachers. If you can help from time to time you are very welcome as a member of the PA. If you are interested in joining the PA or wish to learn more about the PA please email pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie or see www.npc.ie



HALLOWEEN DRESS UP

On October 22nd children may wear their Halloween costumes to school if they wish. If children do not wish to wear a costume they may wear their school tracksuit on the day. Please ensure that younger children can manage to walk/play safely and can manage any buttons or zips. Any handheld items such as swords/scythes should be left at home! Thanks to Jen and the Student Council for organising prizes for the most creative and unique costumes. Weather permitting we hope to hold a Halloween Parade on the day.

STUDENT COUNCIL

This September we held our Student Council elections. Well done to all boys and girls that ran for election. The new Student council met with Ms O'Brien and have discussed ideas and activities for the coming term. Our Fun Pyjama Day and Jersey Day in aid of GOAL were very much enjoyed by all.....staff and children!

The Student Council will run three charity events this year. A payment link for 5 euro will be shared on Aladdin. This payment link will cover all three charity events. Our next charity event will take place before Christmas and the children will choose which charity will benefit. Further details to follow.

The new Green Schools Committee has met with Ms Flannery to discuss their priorities for the coming year.

GREEN SCHOOLS & PICKER PALS



The Green Schools election took place during September. Well done to all boys and girls that took part. The boys and girls will be busy working with Ms Flannery on a variety of activities this year and we look forward to following and supporting your progress.

Scoil Barra Naofa has been chosen to be part of the Picker Pals Ireland Initiative. Picker Pals World is an environmental conservation organisation running child led litter picking adventures across Ireland. This initiative encourages children to become young environmentalists and inspire others (children and grown ups) to do the same through stories, activities and fun. Once delivered the Picker Pals Pack will be distributed to 2nd Class. We look forward to following their adventures. If you would like to read/learn more about Picker Pals see their pickerpals page on instagram.



THE LUNCH BOX

We are delighted to say that we are teaming up with *The Lunch Bag* to offer a healthy lunch delivery service at SBN. This is an optional service and those interested in signing up will need to create an account and order via *The Lunch Bag App*. An information letter and booklet containing all of the relevant information is attached to this newsletter. Please note that on October 18th all children will receive an intro bag. The intro bag is not intended as a school lunch on the day but rather a chance for parents to view the product. The intro bag will be distributed at hometime and should be taken home and shown to parents. Further information is also available by emailing info@thelunchbag.ie or calling 043 3362038

PAYMENTS



In the coming week you will receive a list of class expenses from the office. For convenience and ease these can be payed through Aladdin where your link will be emailed to you. Monies can be paid in full or in installments. If you require the link to be resent please contact the office on info@scoilbarranaofa.ie Thank you as always

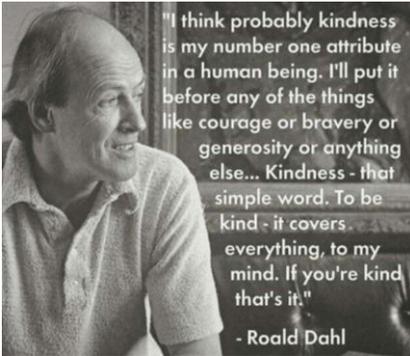
for your support.

ENROLMENTS & VIRTUAL OPEN NIGHT

A reminder that the closing date for enrolment applications for the 2022/2023 school year is 3pm on **31st October 2021**. Please ensure that forms for any younger siblings or new applicants are received by this date. **Keep in mind that the school office will close for mid term from October 22nd to Nov 1st**. Any applications posted or emailed during that week will be received by the office on reopening. Please contact Jen in the office if you wish to confirm all forms including birth certs and utility bills, where applicable, have been received.

A reminder that our new Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice are available to view on the school website. The Annual Admissions Notice is also on display at the main reception door. Future applications for enrolment can only be made during the October preceeding the year of enrolment. For example, for those wishing to enrol children in Junior Infants 2023 applications can only be made/received from October 2022. If you would like to express an interest in future enrolment or have any queries please feel free to contact the school office and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

Our SBN Virtual Open Night is available to view on our website and Facebook page. Thank you to all who shared and thank you for your lovely feedback. The children are the stars of the show. Well done to all children and staff involved!



KINDNESS & UNDERSTANDING;

SBN PICK ME UP WEEK

This week we are running *SBN Pick Me Up Week*. We are encouraging staff and children to engage in random acts of kindness throughout the week. In school we have lessons themed around the concepts of kindness, understanding and inclusion. We know as parents you stress the

importance of these traits at home also.

We hope to make this week an annual event in memory of Fr Con, whose belief in the practice of gratitude and committing random acts of kindness resonates with us now more than ever.

Every person is different and unique: we learn and play in different ways, we enjoy (or dislike) different activities. We come from different background, families, towns, cities, countries and cultures. Our experiences at home and school differ from each other and therefore, how we face the challenges each day present, differs. Pupils, parents, teachers & staff alike are facing their own challenges, that others may not be aware of.

It is important to teach our children (and remind ourselves) of the valuable life skills of kindness, tolerance and understanding. None of us know what someone else might be going through, and the simple act of a kind word or gesture can make a massive difference and make someone's day a more positive one.

As Roald Dalh said "If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face and you will always look lovely"

During this week collection jars will be placed in each classroom and children may wish to donate a few coins. We encourage children to make a small donation from their own pocket money. Monies raised will be contributed to the memorial bench fundraising initiative in honour of Fr Con. We will also plant a tree in Con's memory in the SBN garden.

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

Thank you for not using the area outside the main school gates for drop off and collection. This area is a pedestrian area and fire assembly point from 8.30am to 2.30pm each day. With the exception of those needing access to our mobility accessible spaces no other cars should be using this area to park/drop and collect. We understand that the amount of space available for drop off and collection is limited and with this in mind we ask people to park and stride wherever possible. Parking is available at the playground and the carpark opposite the Bosun. Limited parking is also available at the church. When parking please be mindful of our neighbours and keeping driveways and access roads clear.

We encourage parents to follow the informal one way system which exists whereby cars drive up Church Hill (next to school) and down Chapel Hill (at church). Parents may momentarily stop at the small pedestrian gate to *Kiss and Drop!*

COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday November 6th a coffee morning will be held in the Fr Collins Centre (old Star of the Sea building) in memory of Fr Con. Entry is free and donations are welcome. All donations and proceeds will contribute to the memorial bench fundraising. Memorial benches are planned for the Harbour Parishes, Coomhola, Kealkil and Gougane Barra. Raffle and games for kids.

Tea/Coffee kindly supplied by GGs Coffee and Ice Cream.

Further enquiries to Eleen on 087 2752848

SHAMROCK BOY'S ACADAMEY 2020/21

Shamrock Boy's Academy runs every Friday night. Training takes place from 6 to 7.10pm at the pitch in Shanbally. Boys born between 2010 and 2016 are welcome and any queries can be addressed to Pa on 086 1914926. Children from Scoil Barra Naofa are very welcome to make new friends and have fun in a friendly environment.

PASSAGE GAA

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.

GIRL GUIDES – CYGNET COMPANY

Looking for somewhere for your daughter to go on a Saturday morning? Why not join the Girl Guides? The Cygnets – the youngest section of the Girl Guides - has places available for girls aged 5 & 6. Meetings take place in the Fr Collins Parish Centre on Saturdays from 11 to 12. Further enquires to Marion Gleeson by text on 087 6168639.

SCOUTS

41st Cork Scout Group – Passage West – has places available for boys and girls aged 11 to 14. Meetings are held every Wednesday in the local Scout Hall and many more exciting outdoor adventures take place throughout the year. Further enquiries by text to Tim McCormack on 086 8387362