



# SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

## Newsletter #6 February 2022

A Cháirde,

It gives me great pleasure to share our first newsletter of Spring with you. It is a newsletter jam packed with information on fun and exciting activities and events planned for the coming month.

We were very happy to see the end of January and say goodbye to the challenges the month brought. We now look forward with a sense of hope and optimism for the coming months. We are making tentative plans for tours, religious sacraments and graduation celebrations. We remain cautious but cautiously optimistic. We await updated guidance from the DES and will share updates with parents as soon as we have this information.

Please read this newsletter carefully. In particular, please make note of changes to the school calendar as a result of the new Public Holiday on March 18<sup>th</sup>. You will also read about the wonderful work undertaken by our pupils, staff and parents. How lucky we are to be part of such a vibrant and hardworking community!

*Mise le meas,*

*Ger O' Brien agus Foireann na Scoile*



### **Upcoming Dates**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February** closed for midterm

Thursday Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>; World Book Day.

March 7<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>; Seachtain na Gaeilge.

**Wed Mar 16<sup>th</sup>**; Early Closure for Primary Language.

**Infants finish 11.50am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 12pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 12.10pm.**

Thurs Mar 17<sup>th</sup> and Fri 18<sup>th</sup> **and Mon Mar 21<sup>st</sup>** St Patrick's Day Closure.

Fri Apr 8<sup>th</sup>; School closes at 12pm for Easter Holidays. Reopening 8.35am on Apr 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sat May 14<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion. Time to follow.

## **CHANGE OF 2021/22 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Due to the additional Public Holiday recently announced by the government we wish to advise parents that we will now be closed on Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>. This closure takes place in lieu of the planned closure on March 18<sup>th</sup> which has since been designated a Public Holiday. Pupils will finish early on March 16<sup>th</sup> (see times above) to facilitate staff training on the Primary Language Curriculum and will reopen on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **UNIFORM/TRACKSUIT ARRANGEMENTS**

As you are aware, we are always trying to balance adequate ventilation in classrooms with keeping children warm. To this end, all children may wear their school tracksuit daily if they wish. It is hoped that this measure will allow children to layer up and keep warm. Given the continued cold weather this temporary arrangement has been extended until Easter and will be reviewed again at that stage.

## **SBN UNIFORM REVIEW**

This year we are undertaking a review of the 2012 SBN Dress Code. As part of this review we have sought parental feedback during the first term. Based on your feedback we have compiled a survey and we ask that each family complete this survey. One response per family.

The survey will be shared on Aladdin Connect on Monday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and will remain open until Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Upon logging on to your personal profile you will have access to all questions on the general noticeboard. All questions should be answered regardless of the age/stage of your child(ren). Results of the survey will be visible as overall percentage responses. Individual responses will not be visible to others.

Before completing the survey, we ask that parents include their children in a family discussion on this matter. Their opinions should also form part of our review and should be reflected in all feedback.



Keep in mind that current arrangements regarding wearing of SBN tracksuits are temporary and in response to Covid 19/Ventilation procedures. Your response is sought in relation to the long standing SBN Dress Code which states that school tracksuit should be worn 2 days a week and the full formal school uniform worn 3 days a week. Under our current policy the children in Junior and Senior Infants wear their school tracksuit 5 days a week.

Please be assured that regardless of the outcome of this review, the wearing of uniform/school blazer for First Communion will continue to be an option for parents and children who wish to avail of this option.

The Board of Management wishes to thank those parents who have shared their feedback during term 1. If you did not have the opportunity to email us during term 1 and would like to offer feedback at this point please email the school on [info@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:info@scoilbarranaofa.ie) Your participation in the review process will help to ensure a broad and balanced review of the SBN School Dress Code. Pupil and staff feedback will also form part of this review.

Results of all surveys and general feedback will be discussed by the Board of Management. Feedback will determine the course of our review. This information will be shared with the school community in due course.

## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AND FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS AT SBN**

Daily physical activity and the development of fundamental movement skills (FMS) are key priorities at SBN. Developing basic skills such as running, hopping, jumping, climbing, kicking and catching leads to greater participation in, and enjoyment of, sport. Crucially, daily physical activity keeps our children fit, healthy and happy.

The development of FMS forms a key part of PE and physical activity across all class levels at SBN. We are currently working with the Professional Development Service for

Teachers (PDST) to ensure our children are enjoying the highest quality lessons and developing their FMS year on year.

Thank you to Ms Flannery for organising the recent visit from One Arena, Cork. Children of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class were treated to a number of sessions with the trainer from One Arena. Children enjoyed the games very much, the lunges and burpees maybe not so much!

Over the coming months we will also welcome a number of our external partners and coaches back to SBN. Thank you to Ms Flannery for organising the Irish Dancing, Gymnastics and Tag Rugby sessions.

Many thanks to Eoin Barry, Passage GAA and sponsors Centra, Rochestown for their continued support in providing GAA training to the children of SBN. We are looking forward to welcoming back past pupil Eddie O 'Mahony in the coming weeks.

We are also looking forward to (and training hard for) the return of the Sciath na Scol. Mr Walsh will be overseeing the training and participation of the children of SBN. The last time we competed in the Sciath na Scol in 2019 we were crowned champions of our Gaelic Football division. Here's hoping for similar success this time. We certainly have the best coach and team for the job!

## **HEALTHY EATING WEEK AT SBN**

SBN Healthy Eating Week took place from Jan 26<sup>th</sup> to Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to the Parental Wellbeing Committee for organising the Zoom online cookalong with local nutritionist Aisling Kelly. This event was widely enjoyed by the pupils and I believe many a tasty and healthy dinner was had. I hope the children have a new found appreciation for all of the effort that goes into preparing and cooking a healthy family meal! Many thanks to the PA for funding this event and providing plenty of fruit and veg for tasting and smoothie making throughout the week. Please see the school website and Facebook page for photos of smoothie making & healthy plate competition winners.



Many thanks to our SNAs for teaching the children how to make smoothies and many thanks to Ms Mulrooney, Ms Kelly and the SBN Student Council for coordinating events and organising the competition. Well done to all who took part in the fun (and the preparation and clean up!)

## **AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

Many thanks to those of you who took part in the recent survey on the provision of after school care at SBN. Kids Inc have shared the results with the Board of Management and we are confident that there is sufficient demand to provide this service. We are currently working on the finer details of this arrangement. Kids Inc plan to hold an information night for parents around Easter. Full details on the provision of after school care will be shared with parents at this point. Please be aware, that while child care will be offered during holiday times as well as after school we have been informed that September 2022 is the planned commencement date for this service.

## **PARENT'S ASSOCIATION**

This year the PA's fundraising efforts will be focused on the creation of multi purpose space for all children at SBN. As we have invested in a laptop trolley and full set of laptops we plan to redecorate our computer room and create a multi functional space, full of colour, cool furniture, beanbags and activities that can be enjoyed by all. A space where classes can go for chill out time, play board games, have a disco or watch a movie on the large interactive screen (like their own mini cinema). Smaller groups or individuals may visit the room and use the sensory activities and functions. It is hoped that this room will provide a unique space to stimulate creativity, discussion and innovation or offer a quiet space to relax and unwind. We will keep you posted on this development. We will post pictures to our website and Facebook page as the project evolves. Below is a first photo. The benches and desks have been dismantled and the true size and potential of the room can be seen. Next step will be new flooring.



Remember all parents are welcome as members of the PA. You can help out on a continuous or one off basis. If you are interested in joining the PA or wish to learn more about the PA please email [pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie) or see [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie) Likewise, if you are interested in working with the Wellbeing Parents Group please email the school office on [info@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:info@scoilbarranaofa.ie) and we will be happy to connect parents.

## **GREEN SCHOOLS & PICKER PALS**



The Green Schools Committee would like to remind the school community that we are working on the Global Citizenship, Energy Flag. We are learning about how to conserve energy in our school, homes and in the environment. Parents can help by reminding children of the importance of turning off appliances around the house, turning off unnecessary lights etc.

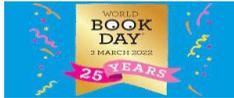
We ask parents to help us care for our school environment by walking children to school when possible and always turning off car engines when waiting at drop off and collection times.

This year, the Green Schools Committee is also exploring the concept of fast fashion, the energy this industry uses and the violation of rights this industry is often associated with. Did you know that it takes approx 7,500l of water to make 1 pair of denim jeans?! That includes the water to grow and harvest cotton, make the denim and get the pair of jeans ready for the shop.

The SBN Green Schools Committee asks you to think about how we shop and how we use our shoes and clothes. Can we pass on clothes that no longer fit? Can we donate these to charity? Most importantly, can we buy fewer clothes?

Well done to the boys and girls of Rang 2 who are taking part in the Picker Pals Initiative! Picker Pals is a nation wide initiative that encourages children to keep their local area clean and litter free by undertaking litter picking adventures like the cartoon characters in the Picker Pals videos. Thank you to those of you who have shared photos of your children as they take part in Picker Pals. We have uploaded photos to the school website and Facebook page. Parents are also welcome to share their photos with the Picker Pals directly via Instagram. Keep up the great work boys and girls, you are an inspiration to us all.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**



World Book Day 2022 takes place on Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. To celebrate WBD we will be running a number of events during the week of Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) will take place daily, as well as rannta agus léitheoireacht as Gaeilge, Paired Reading and Buddy Reading. The emphasis will be on reading for pleasure and not for accuracy. On Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> children are invited to dress up as their favourite characters from their favourite books. Prizes and book vouchers will be awarded to the most original and creative costumes.

A love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children. Reading opens up new worlds and new possibilities to the children. The information absorbed and skills developed are transferrable throughout subjects and life experiences. Reading also helps build empathy, one of the key skills we all need in order to play a meaningful role in society. It is widely accepted that when children see the adults in their lives reading they too are inspired to read. In an effort to demonstrate our love of reading and inspire our children we will be facilitating a book swap for all parents, staff and members of the local community! If you have pre read and pre loved books you would like to pass on to others, you can be drop these books off in the collection boxes at the school gate during the week of Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> you can browse through the books donated and pick your book of choice. Please note that on this occasion we are limiting the book swap to adults only. We have other plans for a children's book swap. Our fabulous caretaker, Vivian, is building a *Free Little Library* that be set up outside the school gates. This will remain in place as a permanent book swap feature for adults and children alike. More to follow soon!



## **SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE**

Beidh Seachtain (nó Coicís I ndáiríre!) na Gaeilge á chéilliúradh againn i SBN an mí seo chugainn. (Márta 7ú – Márta 17ú) Bí linn ag iarraidh do chuid Ghaeilge a úsáid gach lá. Ní líofacht atá á súil againn ach iarracht!! Is fíor an seanfhocal “Is fear Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste!!” *Seachtain na Gaeilge (or fortnight of Irish technically) is happening in SBN next month (March 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>). We hope you will join us in trying to use your Irish everyday. We are not expecting fluency – just effort! As the Irish saying goes – “Broken Irish is better than clever English” – i.e. the effort to speak our native tongue is important!*

Ms Ní Bhéara has organised a number of activities, games, singing and dancing in order to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Our celebrations will culminate in a Lá Glas, Green Day, on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Children are invited to dress in green, white and gold this day. The traditional Infant Parade will take place on this day.

Bainigí go léir taitneamh as an deireadh seachtain speisialta ag céilliúradh ár gcúltúr agus Naomh Pádraig! Beidh an scoil dúnta go luath ar an gCéadaoin an 16ú agus beidh an scoil dúnta ar an 17ú, 18ú agus 21ú lá de mí Márta. *We hope you all enjoy the long weekend celebrating our culture and honouring St. Patrick. A reminder that SBN will close early on Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> (times above) and will remain closed on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March.*

Don't forget to keep an eye on the school website and Facebook page for further information and photographs from Seachtain na Gaeilge as well as all other special events taking place this coming month.

## **CREATIVE CLUSTERS**

The boys and girls of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class have been enjoying weekly song-writing and singing workshops with John Spillane throughout January and February. Their original composition is called *The Moon Shines Over Monkstown*. Those of us lucky enough to have been given a preview are very impressed!

After Easter we plan to join with our Creative Cluster partners and perform a concert with John. Children will sing their own composition as well as other popular songs. Full details will be shared closer to the time.

A massive well done to all of the boys and girls as well as teachers Mr O' Connell and Ms Mulrooney.



## **LOCAL ROADWORKS; SCHOOL DROP OFF & COLLECTION**

Works on the pedestrian enhancement scheme are due to commence this week at the Sand Quay area. Provisional start date is Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, although, this may be delayed until Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be traffic disruptions in the Sand Quay area while works are underway. You may need to factor this into planning your child's school drop off and collection.

When dropping or collecting please be responsible and be mindful of all of our children and look after all of our children. Do not park, turn or reverse in the area outside of the school gates. Please do not leave engines idling when dropping. This is potentially dangerous as well as damaging to the environment.

We encourage parents/guardians to park and stride where possible. If park and stride is not possible or on wet mornings, 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!*

Thank you for your cooperation.

## **SHAMROCKS GAA**

Shamrocks Boy's Academy continues every Saturday morning at 10.30 on the pitch at Shanbally. Children can make new friends and have fun. Shamrocks looks forward to welcoming students from Scoil Barra Naofa born 2011 – 2017. Contact Pa on 0861914926 for further information.

Shamrocks Ladies Football Club always welcome new members to the club. Training takes place every Sunday at the following times;

U6/8 & U10 training 10 – 11am,

U12 & U14/16 training 11 – 12pm,

U18 & Adult Juniors training 12 – 1pm.

Susan O Mahony, secretary of Shamrocks Ladies Football Club, and all members of the club look forward to welcoming the girls of Scoil Barra Naofa to join this developing club.

## **EASTER CAMPS IN LITTLE ACORS**

Little Acorns Monkstown Easter Camp  for children aged 3-6 years  
Monday 11th -Friday 15th April 9.30 am -12.30 pm Arts & crafts  
,Baking ,Sports, Dancing & Music fun and lots more 5 days booked €70 or  
individual days €15 per morning. Contact Jackie on 0872831899 for booking.

## **STAR CAMPS**

Starcamp Summer Camps will return to Carrigaline and Douglas this Summer. If your child would like to take part in Ireland's biggest, best and most magical camp ever see [www.starcamp.ie](http://www.starcamp.ie) for booking and further details.