



# SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

## Newsletter March 2022

A Cháirde,

Welcome to our March newsletter. The past month has been a month of celebrations and the coming month proves to be no different!

During the past month we have celebrated Pancake Tuesday and all children were treated to pancakes by their teachers and SNAs. We celebrated World Book Day and children dressed as their favourite book characters. We are currently celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge. The children have enjoyed working with friends in other classes on poster activities and tráth na gceist (quizzes) Seactain na Gaeilge celebrations will culminate in a Lá Glas (Green Day) this Wednesday. All children are invited to dress up for St Patrick's Day and we will hold a parade around the school grounds. If you want to learn more about any of our recent celebrations or see pictures please see our website and Facebook page.

Over the coming month we are planning an Easter Art Competition, a cake sale and a very special surprise for the children to mark our first full Easter Term at school since Easter 2019!! Full details will be shared closer to the time but this is a surprise not to be missed!

*Mise le meas,*

*Ger O' Brien agus Foireann na Scoile*



### **Upcoming Dates**

March 7th 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> to 6<sup>th</sup> 12pm. Please note change to time here.**

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

Thurs Mar 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; First Confession Ceremony.

Thurs Apr 7<sup>th</sup> & Fri Apr 8<sup>th</sup>; Special End of Term Surprise.

Fri Apr 8<sup>th</sup>; Cake Sale.

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. 10:30am.

## **SBN UNIFORM REVIEW**

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete our uniform survey. We are currently collecting and reviewing feedback from pupils and staff.

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 during term 3.



## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AND COACHING AT SBN**

Last week all staff at SBN took part in PE training with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). As part of our training we focused on the importance of developing children's fundamental movement skills. Through the development of these skills it is hoped that all children will access the PE curriculum and feel a sense of motivation and achievement no matter their age or ability. This is especially important for those children who may not enjoy competitive sports. We wish to ensure that as broad and balanced a PE curriculum as possible is taught throughout the classes where the emphasis is on variety, participation and enjoyment more than achievement or competition.

At SBN we are fortunate to be supported by local clubs and coaches. Although Covid 19 restrictions impacted on our ability to welcome visiting coaches to school we are delighted to say that we have recommenced this programme. Our middle classes are

now taking part in GAA sessions with past pupil and Passage West clubman Eddie O Mahony. Our senior classes are taking part in tag rugby sessions with Vincent O' Leary from Munster Rugby. During term 3 Niamh Marie from the Attridge Academy of Dance will resume Irish Dancing lessons and Colm from Gymnastics Inc will resume gymnastics lessons.

Swimming lessons will recommence during the 2022/23 school year.

## **CHANGES TO SCHOOL AND LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS**

On Monday February 28<sup>th</sup> restrictions associated with curbing the spread of Covid 19 in schools were lifted. While we are delighted to see the lifting of restrictions but we will be taking a gradual, phased and sensible approach to this. Keep in mind that the last full school year was the 2018/2019 year. This means that our current Juniors, Seniors and First have never known school without Covid protocols and our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes may not accurately remember school before these rules and protocols.

In recent weeks the classes have been mixing on yard and in school. We are reviewing and tweaking our yard arrangements in order to try to maintain ample space for children to remain as physically active as we witnessed during the staggered breaks.

The buddy system is now in full swing. Juniors and 6<sup>th</sup> are buddies, Seniors and 4<sup>th</sup> are buddies. Children can now enjoy a full range of activities with their buddies, indoors and outdoors. After-School activities will resume during term 3 and school trips and end of year tours have been organised.

Some of the changes implemented over recent years have had a positive effect on school life and teaching and learning. There may be some protocols we choose to keep in place. One example of this is the practice of dropping and collecting from the school gate rather than the halla. The current system has proven very positive for pupils and teachers and we are considering keeping this practice in place. Over the coming weeks we plan to streamline our collection times and ensure that 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes will finish at the same time. We will communicate with you on this and any other changes over the coming weeks.

## **AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

Kids Inc will hold an information evening in the school halla on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Please be advised that this service will be provided on the basis that there is sufficient interest. Places must be booked in advance. If you would like to book a place or have further questions please email Kids Inc directly by emailing [lisacostelloe@kidsinc.ie](mailto:lisacostelloe@kidsinc.ie)

As this service will be provided by an outside agency all questions should be emailed directly to Kids Inc



## **BOOK SWAP**

Thank you to all who donated books for our parents book swap. The weather has not been kind to us this past week and we haven't been able to organise a day where books could be swapped. We will pick a day next week (week of Mar 21<sup>st</sup>) to hold our book swap. We will email beforehand. Books will be left on tables outside the school gates and you are welcome to come and donate/swap/pick a book for yourself. All we ask is that you encourage your children to read their books too! There is no better way of encouraging a love of reading than by leading by example.

If you haven't had the chance to donate a book yet there is still time to do so. Simply send your books in to school with your child and their teacher will organise a collection point in each room.

## **EASTER CUPS AND ART COMPETITION**



This Easter we will be holding an Easter competition with a difference. Easter Cups containing goodies such as sweets and treats, pens and pencils will be available to buy for 6 Euro. Cups are individually wrapped. Many cups will contain homework passes and some lucky cups will contain vouchers for the Art and Hobby Shop. Children are invited to then decorate their cup as they wish. The most creative and original cups will win prizes. Children should return their decorated cup to school on or before April 6<sup>th</sup>. Winners will receive Easter Eggs and Easter Treats.

A payment link for 6 Euro will be set up on Aladdin from March 22<sup>nd</sup>. You can order more than one cup if you wish. Funds raised will go towards our continued investment in IT equipment throughout the school. Easter Cups may be a nice alternative to an Easter Egg for someone special. Children can personalise the mugs for the lucky recipient. Please see our Facebook page for pictures of our Easter Cups. Competition cups should be clearly labelled as they will be returned to children afterwards. Get creative and enjoy!

## **GREEN SCHOOLS**



As you are aware this year the Green Schools Committee is exploring the concept of fast fashion. 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?

Clothes Pod are organising clothing collections for schools across the country in conjunction with the Green Schools. Collections such as this help to reduce waste to landfills, recycle old clothes and donate clothes to those less fortunate than ourselves. Clothes Pod are Ireland's largest textile recycler and are 100% Irish owned and licenced. Clothes Pod have over 25 years of experience. If you wish to learn more about this company please see [www.clothespod.ie](http://www.clothespod.ie)

On Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> will be accepting donations of the following items;

Clean items of clothing in good condition, shoes in good condition and in pairs, sheets, blankets and curtains.

Clothespod.ie do not accept duvets, pillows, toys and any items that are soiled or wet.

Donations should be bagged and delivered to school on Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> only. We do not have the space to accept donations before this date. Clothes Pod will collect donations on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be weighed and a sum of money paid to the school (400 Euro per tonne). All monies will then be donated to Unicef.

## **CONCERT WITH JOHN SPILLANE**

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! Well done to Grace and Ross Murray on their composition, the *Fr Con Song*. A beautiful tribute to a beautiful human. On April 6<sup>th</sup> we plan to join with our Creative Cluster partners and perform a concert with John at Fitzgerald's Park in Cork City. Children will sing their own compositions as well as other popular songs. Save the date and we will share further information, including the concert time, very soon. A massive well done to all of the boys and girls as well as teachers Mr O' Connell and Ms Mulrooney.

## National Parents Council Primary (NPC)

### FREE Online Training events during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2022

#### Supporting your child's move from Primary to Post Primary School

Each day during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2022, NPC would like to offer the parents of children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class the opportunity to take part in one of our virtual training sessions on how to support your child's move from Primary to Post Primary School.

On **Monday – Thursday** there will be both a morning session at **10am** and an evening session at **7.30pm**.

On **Friday** a morning session only will be held, at **10am**.

This session will look at:

- Choosing a school for your child
- Preparing your child for post primary school
- Subject choice
- School Policies
- Home school communication
- People you might meet in post primary school
- Parent/Teacher meetings

If you would be interested in attending (virtually) one of these sessions please register your details

here [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Registration\\_Transition\\_Primary\\_to\\_Post\\_Primary\\_March\\_2022](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Registration_Transition_Primary_to_Post_Primary_March_2022)

## **DESIGNER MINDS**

Designer Minds have launched their Spring Term. Science, Design, Technology and Experiments are aimed at boys and girls from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class. Classes run in Ballincollig, Midleton and Rochestown every Saturday. For further details and bookings please see [www.designerminds.ie](http://www.designerminds.ie)

## **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.

## **Passage Gaa**

Gaelic Football for Woman every Tuesday 8-9pm at Passage Gaa Club

No experience needed and a great fun evening. Turn up on the night if interested.

