



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #7

April 2022

A Chairde,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our pupils and their families a Happy Easter. We have celebrated our first full Easter Term since Easter 2019 with Circus School, a cake sale and lots of fun activities in class and with our buddies. We look forward to school tours, sports events, Communion and Graduation in term 3. This newsletter contains important dates for term 3 as well as the next school year. Please read carefully.

We look forward to seeing you all on April 25th.

Mise le meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Fri	Apr 8 th	School Closes for Easter Holidays.
Infants finish at 11.50am, 1st to 6th finish at 12pm.		
Mon	Apr 25 th	School Reopens.
Mon	May 2 nd	Bank Holiday School Closure.
Wed	May 4 th	Class Photos.
Sat	May 14 th	First Holy Communion 10.30am.
Fri	May 20 th	PA/Parents Summer Night.
Tues	May 31 st	Information Night for Parents of New Infants
Wed&Thurs	June 1 st &2 nd	Induction Afternoons for New Infants
Fri	June 3 rd	Cork City Sports.
Mon/Tues/Wed	June 6 th /7 th /8 th	Extended Bank Holiday Closure.
Mon	June 13 th	Early Closure for Staff Meeting.
Week of June 13 th		SBN Active Week.
Wed	June 15 th	End of Year Reports Shared with Parents.

Thurs June 16th PA School Sports Night.
Wed June 29th Early Closure for Summer Break.

- Please note, there will be one further early closure during term 3. This is to facilitate staff training on the Primary Language Curriculum. Date to be confirmed.
- Date and details of 6th Class Graduation to follow.
- Dates of details of school tours will be shared on an individual class basis.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022/23

The arrangements for the 2022/23 school calendar are as follows;

Staff return on Tues August 30th.

Children return on Wed August 31st.

October Mid Term Break; Mon Oct 31st to Fri Nov 4th inclusive.

Christmas Break; School closes at 12 on Wednesday December 21st & reopens on Thursday January 5th.

Feb Bank Holiday; Mon Feb 6th.

February Mid Term Break; Thursday Feb 16th and Friday Feb 17th.

St Patrick's Day Closure; Fri March 17th.

Easter Break; School closes at 12 on Friday Mar 31st & reopens on Monday April 17th.

May Bank Holiday; Mon May 1st.

June Bank Holiday Closure; Mon June 5th.

School closes for Summer Break at 12 on Fri June 23rd.

THE SUMMER SIZZLER

After a long break from all things social happening the Parents Association would like to invite all the parents, friends, family and the wider SBN community to an evening of fun at Monkstown Golf Club. It's sure to be a great night with DJ, wonderful food catered by the Golf Club as well as fab prizes. The continuing support from the parents of the school is greatly appreciated. All proceeds go towards fundraising projects in the school. Tickets are €20 which includes the famous "Monk" burger available on Aladdin.

Scoil Barra Naofa P.A Presents
A Night Not To Be Missed

**Fri
20th
May**

**8
Till
Late**

BBQ

Prizes

THE SUMMER SIZZLER

AT MONKSTOWN GOLF CLUB

**DJ
Y2K**

**Old
Skool
Disco**

**Tickets
€20 inc.
Food**



SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES AT SBN

The SBN sporting calendar of events restarted in recent weeks and we are thrilled to see the children back at matches and blitzes again. They too are happy but truth be told the bus journey is as appreciated as the game itself!

We have a Blue and White Team competing in the Munster Schools Tennis Cup. Our White Team lost their first game against Whitechurch and will play Bandon after Easter in the Shield. Our Blue Team beat Tramore in their first game and will play their next cup game after Easter. Our opposition is unknown for now as we await the result of the draw.

Our Sciath na Scol Hurling Team have been in action over the past fortnight. A friendly against Passage provided their first win. This was followed by a competitive win against Little Island and a loss against Glenville. Winning ways returned in our match against Scoil Naomh Eltin, however, a heart breaking one point defeat against Leamlara ended

our Sciath na Scol dreams for this year. The boys and girls were outstanding in their final game and left everything they had on the pitch. They can be very proud of themselves in the knowledge that they could not have done any more. One point losses are heart breaking and it takes time to recover from the experience. Well done boys and girls. We are so proud of you and know that in time you will look back on the match with pride and the loss will be your motivation.

Many thanks to Mr Walsh for training the team and for organising and overseeing both the tennis and the Sciath na Scol games.

MUSIC AND ARTS AT SBN

A huge congratulations to the boys and girls of 3rd Class. This week the children performed with John Spillane and their Creative Clusters partners in Fitzgerald's Park. They performed their own compositions; The Moon Shines Over Monkstown, Scoil Barra Naofa and Fr Con's Song. A video was taken and will be shared. Keep an eye out in the Echo and Carrigdhoun papers as the children have featured in a lead up article this week and will feature again on Fri and over the weekend. They deserve all the fame and applause they get. We are very proud of our boys and girls. Well done to all! Memories for life were made this week!

Many thanks to Ms Mulrooney for applying for this initiative and for organising our concert in such a spectacular venue. To be chosen for Creative Clusters is an honour and a reflection of the time and work required to be successful. Many thanks to Class Teacher Mr O Connell, SNAs Audrey and Jackie and our Creative Clusters Partners Berrings NS and St Catherine's NS who were also fantastic on the day.

UNIFORM

From May 1st children may wear their Summer uniform to school every day if they wish to do so. The Summer uniform consists of the SBN navy shorts and jumper and a plain white polo shirt. If you wish to purchase a stich on crest for your child's polo shirt we have a small number available for purchase from the school office, however, this is not essential and purely for your choice and preference.

6th class pupils may wear their leavers hoodie to school for the month of June if they wish to do so.

Please ensure that all items, particularly jumpers and hoodies, are clearly labelled. During the fine weather (hopefully) children often take off their jumpers and these can be misplaced or mixed up.

The PA plan to organise a uniform swap and drop during term 3. Date and details to follow.

RESULTS OF SURVEY ON SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you for your input and feedback in relation to our school uniform review. As well as parental input we have sought staff and pupil input and all information has now been discussed by the SBN Board of Management.

Results show that abolition of school uniform or extension of school uniform to infant classes are the least preferred options with 5% of parents in favour of the extension of school uniform to infants and 8% of parents in favour of abolishing the school uniform. Pupil and staff feedback echoes this result. Subsequently, as we continue the process of reviewing our school dress code these options will no longer be taken into consideration.

The vast majority of parents are happy with temporary arrangements, however, there remains a strong appetite for a school uniform going forward.

We will now turn our attention to looking at the SBN uniform and tracksuit and how we can modernise our uniform while also ensuring the uniform is flexible enough and comfortable enough to engage in daily physical activities.

This will involve working with suppliers and obtaining a variety of samples. Samples will be displayed in school and parents will again be asked for their input. This process will take time and will not be finalised before the beginning of the new school year. Indeed, as this is the busiest time for schools and suppliers it may be term 1 of next year before we have samples to share. In the meantime, we are conscious of the cost of purchasing uniforms and tracksuits for September. There will be a transition period and for a time, children may wear the new or old uniform/tracksuit. Changes will be gradual as we do not wish to add to financial demands already faced by parents.

Further information on our uniform review will be shared in due course.

STANDARDISED TESTING

Standardised testing will be completed during the month of May. Standardised testing in Spellings, English and Maths takes place annually in classes 1st to 6th. Early literacy and numeracy standardised tests are also administered in Senior Infants.

Standardised testing is one form of assessment used in schools. Many other forms of assessment are also used throughout the year. These include; teacher observation, child/parental feedback, self-assessment, work samples (including those on Seesaw), projects, quizzes and weekly/termly tests. Standardised tests have many merits but do not measure many aspects of a child's learning and ability. Standardised tests do not measure resilience, creativity, critical thinking, self-discipline, social skills or motivation.

It is important that as parents and educators we do not allow our children to be defined by the results of test.

Results of standardised tests will be communicated to parents via Aladdin Connect. These will be communicated separately to your child's Summer report in an effort to differentiate between consistent hard work and effort all year and a snapshot of a child on a particular day. Results and reports will be forwarded to parents on June 15th.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION



Staggered drop off and collection times introduced in response to the Covid 19 pandemic are no longer required in schools. We will move to streamline our start and finish times across all class levels from May 2022. We will not return to the previous practice of dropping children to the halla. In the past this has caused upset for many children and often delays the start of lessons due to the volume of children entering and exiting the halla.

Parents should continue to drop children to the school gate and children should continue to go directly to their classroom. Gates will open at 8.35am and all teachers will be present in all classrooms from 8.35am.

Class assembly time forms part of the school day. Assembly will commence for all classes at 8.40 and run until 8.50am. During this time, teachers and pupils will engage in informal activities such as play, news, collection or correction of homework etc. No formal teaching will commence before 8.50am and in many of our younger classes playtime, news etc extends well beyond 8.50am. Social engagement and learning through play is an extremely important aspect of their school day and individual development.

From May 2022 the school day will commence at 8.40am for all pupils. Children may continue to arrive at school between 8.40 and 8.50am and no child will be considered late up to 8.50am. No child will miss out on formal teaching up to 8.50am.

From May 2022 the school day will end at 2.20 for classes 1st to 6th.

We are conscious that parents of infants have long standing arrangements in place for 1.30pm collection. No change to infant collection time will take place until September 2022. From September 2022 the infant day will end at 1.20pm.

Parents are also reminded that the area outside of the school gates is a pedestrian access point and is not suitable for parking or turning. There is an informal system in place whereby parents are asked to drive up the hill parallel to the school, stop

momentarily to allow the children exit the car and step onto the footpath outside of the school and exit by driving down Chapel Hill or continuing on to Fairy Hill.
Thank you for your continued cooperation.

CLASS PHOTOS

Class photos will be taken on Wednesday May 4th. All children should wear their full school uniform on the day. It will not be possible to organise photos with siblings on this day but we plan to organise this for term 1 of the new school year.

KIDS INC AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE AT SBN

A Kids Inc information evening was held at Scoil Barra Naofa on March 22nd. If you have an enquiry or wish to make a booking you can contact Kids Inc directly by emailing lisacostello@kidsinc.ie

Please note that a minimum number of bookings is required in order to provide this service. Without the required number of bookings this service cannot be provided in September.

POLICY REVIEW

The annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour and Child Safeguarding Statement will take place in term 3. Policies are reviewed by staff and Board of Management in collaboration with parents. Please note that these policies are available on the school website. If you would like to communicate your thoughts on any of these policies, please put your response in writing and send to the Chairperson of the Board of Management via the school office before May 31st 2022.

SUMMER CAMP

SBN Summer Camp is back! Summer camp is run by Kim Treharne and Aoife O' Connor. Camp will run from Monday July 4th to Friday July 8th from 9.30 to 1.30 daily. For enquiries and bookings please contact 085 1769077.

SHAMROCKS GAA

Shamrocks GAA Fun Academy

We welcome Monkstown NS boys aged 5 to 11 years of age to our fun Academy. We have 1 more week indoors in the Marine College in Ringaskiddy on Friday nights at 6pm until 8.30pm before we switch outdoors to our pitch in Shanbally from April 22nd onwards until the summertime. Come and join the fun, contact 0861914926 for further

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.