



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #7

May 2022

A Chairde,

This month's newsletter is packed full of exciting and uplifting news. This year has marked the first full year of in person teaching and learning since the 2018/2019 school year. The children have worked very hard all year and it is important they have lots to look forward to and to celebrate during this term. Their teachers will be providing lots of opportunities for outdoor learning and experiences. School tours and celebrations are important rites of passage and will be marked and celebrated as "normal" this year. Your child's teacher will share tour information on a class by class basis. Keep an eye on our newsletter, website and FB page for information and photographs of whole school events such as Active Week. We have a busy final two months ahead but we look forward to ending the year on a high.

Mise le meas, Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Fri	May 20 th	PA/Parents Summer Night.
Wed	May 25 th	Early Closure for Staff Training, PLC.
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- Infants classes
	12.40pm 1st -6th Class 12:50pm	
	Week of June 13 th	SBN Active Week.
Wed	June 15 th	End of Year Reports Shared with Parents.
Wed	June 29 th	Early Closure for Summer Break.

- 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.

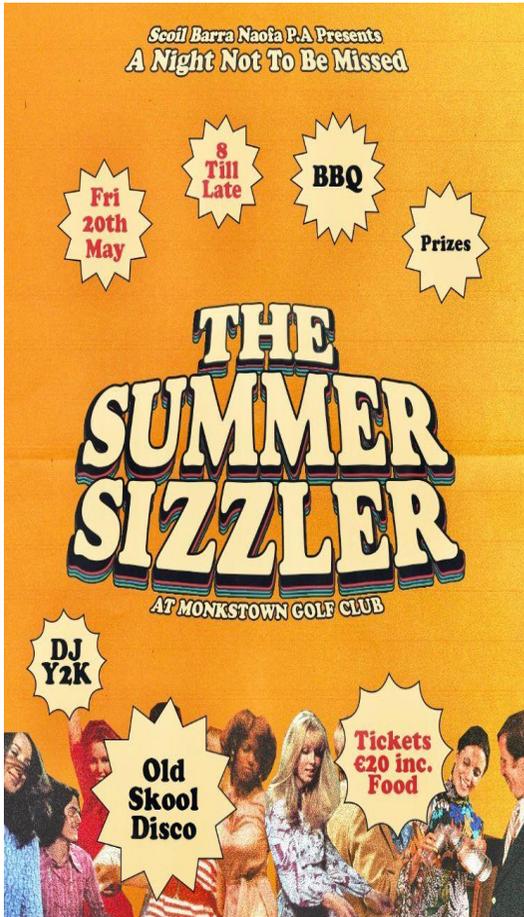
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Well done to the boys and girls of 2nd Class who celebrated their First Holy Communion on May 14th. It was certainly a busy few weeks for the children, their parents, teacher Ms Irish and PP Fr Seán. The ceremony was beautiful. Each child had a special job on the day and the singing, prayers and ceremonies were both reverent and memorable. Thank you to Ms Mulrooney for assisting the boys and girls and Ms Irish throughout the year and for her attendance at Saturday's ceremony. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make the ceremony so special and thank you to the PA for the lovely Communion reception as well as gifts for all of the 2nd class children.

THE SUMMER SIZZLER

After a long break from all things social 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. Raffle tickets are available on Aladdin and also on the night with some fab prizes .



SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES AT SBN

It has been a busy month of sports and activities at SBN. The boys and girls have been enjoying GAA, Cricket, Tag Rugby and Irish Dancing. Well done to all involved!

The FAI Inter Schools Soccer Blitz took place at SBN on Friday May 13th. Well done to the boys and girls of 4th, 5th and 6th and Míle Buíochas to Mr Walsh for organising this event.

A huge well done to both the Blue and White SBN Tennis Teams. The children from 5th and 6th have taken part in the Munster Schools Tennis Tournament over the past month. Our White Team – Jamie, Grace, Sophie and Mark reached the quarter finals of the plate and were narrowly beaten by Scoil Bhríde Bandon in a thrilling match.

Our Blue Team – Luke, Sophia, Beth and Óran have reached the final of the shield and face Carrigaline next. Well Done and Congratulations to both teams on their fantastic achievement. Míle Buíochas to Mr Walsh and to parents involved in supporting us in any way throughout this competition.

6th Class will also be involved in an inter schools tag rugby blitz this week. The event is organised by Munster Rugby Schools Section and we very much are looking forward to this blitz. The emphasis is on participation and enjoyment. This is an inclusive event for both boys and girls and all children on the panel will play on the day. Thank you to Munster Rugby for this opportunity!

The Sciath na Scol Football Tournament will follow a blitz format this year. Our girls will compete next week and the boys the following week. Best of luck to all involved and Míle Buíochas to Mr Walsh.

The Cork City Sports will take place on Friday June 3rd. All children competing have been informed and details on times and drop off will be shared once confirmation has been received from Cork City Sports. Many thanks to Mr Murphy, Ms Treharne and Ms Kelly who will accompany the children on the day.

Active Week will take place during the week of June 13th. All classes will enjoy gymnastics, Zumba and HIIT as well as our non-competitive sports in the park. Many thanks to Ms Flannery for organising.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for photos and information on all events.



BRAINBUSTERS AT SBN

A huge congratulations to the boys and girls of 5th Class who took part in the national finals of Brain Busters last week. During term 1 all pupils of 5th class entered this competition. They put their detective skills to use by cracking codes and solving

mysteries. Their creativity, leadership skills and critical thinking were put to the test and Aimee O Herlihy was chosen as a finalist. Last Tuesday we were joined by hosts, Emer and Fiona from An Post. Aimee was joined by Beth and Bella on the class team, however, all children played their part in the event. The children not only solved the mystery of the theft of the Book of Kells but did so with the added pressure of a time limit. All children showed superb attitude, tenacity and courtesy on the day and Emer and Fiona were very impressed! We are excited and grateful to share the news that our children were one of only ten classes chosen from 5,500 entries to Brain Busters with An Post. Regardless on the final result this is an incredible achievement and we are beyond proud. Well done to all involved and thank you to Ms Cremen for her enthusiasm and belief in the children.



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. Further parental information on standardised tests and interpretation of test scores can be found via the following link;

https://ncca.ie/media/1424/standardised_testing_sten.pdf



30 Things a Standardized Test Can't Measure

Click
Classes and Curriculum in a click

Resilience Passion Strength
Wit Faith
Compassion
a sense of humor Intuition
Kindness self-esteem
INTELLIGENCE MOTIVATION FORTITUDE
Courage Work Ethic
empathy Determination
Personality manners
Diligence common sense
Grit Ingenuity
Physical Fitness Character
a love of learning
creativity Effort LIFE SKILLS

REMINDER RE DROP OFF & COLLECTION TIMES



Staggered drop off and collection times introduced in response to the Covid 19 pandemic are no longer required in schools. We have moved to streamline our start and finish times across all class levels from May 2022. We have chosen 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.

BAKE SALE FOR UNICEF AND UKRAINE

Many thanks for your support during our recent bake sale for Unicef and the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Your baking skills and support helped to raise 659 Euro. Unicef is responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.

Our children are actively helping less fortunate children around the world as well as those arriving in Ireland from Ukraine. Well done boys and girls!

OUR FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

You may have noticed the new addition outside our school gates. No this isn't a hen house! This is our Free Little Library! This little gem was built by our caretaker, Vivian and is intended for sharing and swapping of children's books throughout the year. As you know, we are always looking for fresh ways of encouraging our children to read. When your child has read a book and no longer wishes to keep this book they can put this into the Free Little Library where another child can come and take home a book to enjoy. Through exchange of books in this manner we hope that children will regularly read and share and enjoy many more books and stories than before.



GREEN SCHOOLS

The SBN Green Schools Committee held a Clothes Collection on 6th April. Thanks to all who participated. In Green Schools we have discussed fast fashion and the need to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Well done and thank you to Miss Kelly and 4th Class who undertook a litter pick in Monkstown Park and Playground on 29th April as part of National Spring Clean. Monkstown Tidy Towns are working with Cork County Council to try and install a bin near the basketball court to limit the rubbish in this area.

The senior classes of SBN enjoyed a very interesting presentation from beekeeper Bryan Riney on 5th May. Thanks to Bryan who gave voluntarily of his time and knowledge.

We are entering Supervalu Save the Bees Competition. We filled our Wall Chart and could fill another chart! The competition is closed now and many thanks for sending in the tokens.



NAME THE ROOM!

We are delighted with our “new” room at SBN. What was previously a computer room has been renovated and desktops replaced with laptops in a portable trolley. This room is bright and comfortable and is used by all classes for various activities such as buddies, ipads, reading, drama, music etc. We are now looking for your input in naming this room. We would like to give this room a special name which distinguishes the space from other areas of the school. This is a fun, creative and inspiring space and deserves a name to match. If you/your child would like to propose a name please send suggestions via the school email info@scoilbarranaofa.ie The name chosen will be shared before the end of this school year.

CLASS PHOTOS

Class photos taken on Wednesday May 4th will be available for purchase in the coming weeks. The cost of the class photo is 5 Euro. A link will be shared via email and you will be able to print and share the photos as you wish.

KIDS INC AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE AT SBN

We continue to seek interest and bookings for our proposed after school care service with Kids Inc. A minimum number of bookings is required in order to provide an after school care service. Currently we do not have sufficient bookings to proceed. Without the required number of bookings this service cannot be provided in September. If you have an enquiry or wish to make a booking you can contact Kids Inc directly by emailing lisacostello@kidsinc.ie before the end of May.

INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS OF NEW INFANTS 2022

On Tuesday May 31st an information evening will be held for the parents of our incoming junior infants. The Principal, Chairperson of the BOM and Ms Lisa Marshall will in attendance on the night and we look forward to meeting you all. This event will also provide an opportunity for new parents to view the inside of the school and the facilities of SBN. Ordinarily the SBN Open Night would provide such an opportunity, however, it has not been possible to hold face to face open nights in recent years due to Covid 19. The meeting will commence at 7pm. The school will be open from 6.30pm and you are very welcome to come inside and walk around the building.

On the afternoons of June 1st and 2nd the new infants will attend their induction afternoons and the PA will provide teas and coffees for parents in the school halla. This will provide an opportunity for parents to get to know one another in a relaxed and informal setting.



INTERACTIVE TVS AND IT AT SBN

Over Easter we replaced 4 of the interactive whiteboards at SBN with new high quality interactive TVs. Juniors, Seniors, First and Second are benefitting from the highly interactive user friendly screens. They help to make learning bright, enticing and engaging for all. We hope to replace the interactive whiteboards in remaining classrooms over the coming year. Your support in all fundraising efforts greatly helps to invest money directly back into our children and enhance their learning experience as well as develop their digital literacy skills. The interactive TVs as well as the new laptop trolley, full class set of 30 laptops and set of 17 ipads means the children of SBN are at a distinct advantage in terms of their exposure to digital literacy and learning.

BOOKLISTS 2022/23

In the coming weeks you will receive information on your child's booklist for the coming school year. As always, the SBN Book Committee will organise the purchase, covering and distribution of books and materials. A payment link will be shared via Aladdin Connect. To facilitate the significant task ahead please ensure payments are received on time.

Many thanks to the members of our SBN Book Committee for all of the work you do. This is significant task and we are very grateful and fortunate to have this facility at SBN.

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.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

This year marks the 150 year anniversary of the Church of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Monkstown. This occasion will be celebrated on Sunday May 22nd. Mass will take place at 2pm and will be followed by a special community celebration. All are welcome! If anyone wishes to contribute sandwiches or baking for the community celebration you are asked to drop these items to the new building at the back of the church between 12 and 1 on the day.

SBN 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. Activities will include park trips with picnics, games, sports, arts and crafts, baking and dress up day. All welcome! Cost of camp is 90 Euro for one child, 170 for two children and 220 for 3. For enquiries and bookings please contact 085 1769077.

LITTLE ACRONS SUMMER CAMP

Little Acorns Summer Camps will run in July and August. Dates as follows; June 27th and 28th from 8.45 to 1.30. June 29th 8.45 to 12. Cost is 65 Euro.

July 4th to 8th 9.15am to 12.45. Cost is 80 Euro.

August 22nd to 26th 9.15 to 12.45. Cost 80Euro.

Children will enjoy arts, crafts, music, sports and lots more. For enquiries and bookings please contact Jackie on 0872831899.

SHAMROCKS GAA

Shamrocks GAA Boys Academy.

Shamrocks Juvenile Academy continues every Friday evening at 6pm at the pitch in Shanbally. This offers a great chance for games and meeting new friends in a fun environment. Scoil Barra Naofa students born between 2011 and 2017 are more than welcome to come along. For further information, contact 0861914926.

News on Summer Camp *Club Chiaráin* coming soon.

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.

CORK COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Summer Camps will take place at the Cork Cricket Club throughout July and August. Camps are open to boys and girls of all ages. For further information please email youth@corkcountycricketclub.com