



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #8

June 2022

A Chairde,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the 2021/22 school year. This is a lengthy newsletter and maybe best read with coffee/tea!

At this time of the year we strive to give the children plenty of opportunity for fun, active learning, outdoor learning, trips and sports. As our school tours, matches and outings are coming to an end I would like to say how proud we are of the children and what a credit your children are to you all. It is a pleasure to spend our days with them and a pleasure to take them on trips. Their behaviour and manners are impeccable and they represent themselves and their school to the highest standard.

It is also a time for reflection on the year gone by. This newsletter provides lots of interesting information on curricular and pastoral development over the 21/22 school year as well as plans for the year ahead.

I would like to thank each and every parent for your support and involvement in SBN over the past year. As a school we are constantly striving to improve and develop. Parental support and feedback contributes greatly to a positive school atmosphere and is very much valued by the school community.

I wish you all a healthy and happy Summer break.

Mise le meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Week of June 13 th	SBN Active Week.
Wed June 15 th	End of Year Reports Shared with Parents.
Thurs June 16 th	Sports Night.
Wed June 29 th	Early Closure for Summer Break.



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.

There will be three early closures (one per term) to facilitate staff meeting and continuous professional development. Dates will be finalised and shared in September.

CLASS ALLOCATION 2022/23

Junior Infants; Ms Marshall.

Senior Infants; Ms Kelly.

First Class; Ms Flannery.

Second Class; Ms Irish.

SNAs;

Senior Infants; Jacqui Scriven.

First and Second Class; Mary Hannigan.

Third Class; Mr O' Connell.

Fourth Class; Ms O Connor (Sep to Christmas) Mrs Donnelly (Jan to June).

Fifth Class; Ms Cremen.

Sixth Class; Mr Walsh.

SNAs;

Fourth Class; Mary Hannigan and Audrey Cassidy.

Sixth Class; Audrey Cassidy and Jackie Ryan.

Special Education Teachers;

Ms Ní Bheara, Ms Treharne, Ms Mulrooney.

Classrooms remain unchanged.

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES AT SBN

A huge congratulations to the SBN Boys Sciath na Scol Football Team, winners of the Carrighoun Sciath na Scol title 2021/22. The boys emerged victorious in their matches against Minane Bridge NS, Lower Harbour NS Ringaskiddy and Ballyheada NS. A double celebration for Jack Cunningham who was named Man of the Match and for Morgan Kelleher, Seán Cash, David O' Connor (Captain) and Mark Barry who won their second Sciath na Scol Football Title. A little piece of SBN history and a massive achievement for the boys. We are so proud of you, your commitment and hard work has paid off and the earlier disappointment experienced in the Sciath na Scol Hurling Competition only serves to sweeten the victory. Well done to bainisteoir extraordinaire Jack Walsh!

Well done to the children of SBN that took part in the Cork City Sports recently. It is a great achievement to represent your school at this level and we are proud of all of our children that took part. Winners on the day include; Ambie Browne (sprint), Aisling ní Shúilleabháin, Edith Hanna, Maeve Clarke and Maisie Hanna (relay), Edith Hanna (sprint), Charlie Vaughan (sprint) and Beth Barry (sprint). A fantastic day was had by all and you did your school proud.

Our Blue Tennis Team of Luke Meagher, Beth Barry, Sophia Creighton and Óran Power were finalists in the Munster Schools Tennis Competition this past month. Unfortunately, the team was beaten by a very strong Carrigaline team on the day. Well done on reaching the final. The standard was exceptionally high and it is a remarkable achievement to be finalists in this provincial competition.

This week is Active Week at SBN. The children will be enjoying Zumba, HIIT and Sports Day at the park with Vincent from Munster Rugby. Boys and girls from 6th will be taking part in an inter-schools Gaelic Football Blitz on Tuesday and Wednesday. SBN Abú! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for pictures of all activities. Thank you to Therese Flannery for organising.



SPORTS NIGHT

The SBN Sports Night will take place on Thursday June 16th at the practice field, Monkstown Golf Club. Events will commence at 6pm. Please note that there will not be a shop/toilet. Parents are asked to bring a family picnic, a rug and lots of energy!!

This event is organised and run by parents and volunteers are always needed. If you are able to help out on the night itself or in the preparation, please contact Lisa Hanna on 0879150004. Many thanks to all volunteers and helpers. This promises to be a great night for parents and children!

We ask if parents take pictures on the night could they wat app them to the school mobile on 0867035900 to share on our website and Facebook page.

SBN PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Many thanks to the Parents Association of SBN. Georgina McHugh (Chairperson), Jill Ryan (Secretary), Claire Stafford (Treasurer), Susan O' Keeffe, Mairéad O' Sullivan, Deirdre Dineen, Sarah Hyde, Jessica Bird and Lorna O Connor. Your positive outlook and supportive

involvement in the school are crucial and have such a positive effect on the children's school experience.

The PA recently organised the Summer Sizzler event at Monkstown Golf Club. Parents had the opportunity to meet socially for the first time since the outbreak of Covid 19. This event raised €2200.00 and these funds will be directly reinvested directly back into the children. Many thanks to Tom Browne for the generous donation of a stunning painting. Congratulations to the winner, Louisa O' Connor.

The PA have recently engaged local mural artist Jamie Howard to work with the children in creating a mural for our "new" room. An ice cream van will visit the school on June 24th and all children will enjoy a treat. A neon disco including neon snacks and glow sticks has been organised for the children of 6th Class and gifts purchased for our graduates and Communion children. These very important and much valued events and treats would not be possible without the work of the PA and without the support of our parent body in general. Míle Buíochas Ó Chroí.

I would encourage all parents to consider joining or helping the Parents' Association. The PA engages in the fantastic organisation of the wonderful social and fundraising occasions across the school year. The PA meet approximately once a month and it is an excellent way to meet other parents, to get to know the workings of the school, school policies and other aspects of school life. Your involvement, whether on a regular or occasional basis, is very much appreciated.

GENERAL PARENT SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT – THANK YOU!

At this time of the year it is important to acknowledge the support of all of the parents of SBN. Your support, time and the interest shown not only in your children's progress but interest in the school in general is valued by staff, BOM and the wider school community.

Thank you to all parents that took the time to complete surveys, email responses and feedback, attend meetings, organise displays, act as photographers, assist with or drive

children to matches and training or gave your time in any way. It all helps and it all has a positive impact.

Thank you to our parent representatives on the BOM, Paula Flannery and Denis Ryan. Thank you to our Treasurer, Nora Fitzgerald, Patron's Representative, Lee Gardiner and Teacher's Representative, Kim Treharne, all of whom are parents too! These individuals, along with Chairperson, Frank O Connell and Patron's Representative, John Cunningham voluntarily give their time and energy to the development of the school and enhancement of school life. Míle Buíochas Ó Chroí!

Thank you to Aoife Fleury, parents on the Tidy Towns and any parent that has helped to improve our school grounds and gardens in anyway. We have received much support from the Tidy Towns and wish to acknowledge the new stencils on the yard and new large wooden weighing scales provided.

Thank you to the parents of the Book Rental Committee. In particular, thank you to Lisa Hanna, Emma White, Gail Sheil and Melissa Lordan. This fantastic group of parents take the pain out of booklists for all of the other parents. This is an incredible service and we are lucky to have you!

Thank you to the parents who volunteered to be part of a Wellbeing Committee this past year. In particular, thank you to Audrey Hayes, Lisa Hanna, Belenda Ryan, Clíona Dolan, Debbie O' Connor, Mairéad O Sullivan, Candice Kiely, Maria Webb and Amy Murphy. These parents have helped to inform our school protocols and routines as we navigate a new path Post-Covid and post-closures. Thank you for your considered responses and input. These parents have also organised coffee mornings and afternoons for parents of new infants, an online cook-along and a supply of fruit and veg during Healthy Eating Week.

Thank you to Eoin Barry, Rochestown Auto Centre and Passage GAA for their continued support. Your support has contributed to our recent victory and more importantly participation for all in GAA at school and at a number of blitzes held locally. We are fortunate to have a wonderfully supportive parent body. Your support and generosity has such a positive impact upon the school and in particular upon the children's experience at school.

If you would like to help in anyway, either on a regular basis or on an ad-hoc basis, please get in touch or talk to the other parents. Many hands make light work.

UNIFORM REVIEW UPDATE

This year we have sought pupil, parental and staff feedback on the current SBN Dress Code. Subsequently we have met with local suppliers, 4orm and Laura's Boutique. Steve from 4orm will soon meet the PA and parents from the BOM. We will work with suppliers in obtaining a variety of samples which will be displayed in school next year. All parents will be able to view samples and will be asked for their feedback. This

process will take time and will not be finalised before the beginning of the new school year. In the meantime, we are conscious of the cost of purchasing uniforms and tracksuits for September. Children may continue to wear the school tracksuit on a daily basis while we phase in our new uniform. If your child prefers to wear a uniform, they may wear this three days a week and tracksuit on the days chosen by the class teacher.

When our new uniform is launched there will be a transition period and for a time, children may wear the new or old uniform/tracksuit. Rest assured this will be a gradual process and any uniforms or tracksuits purchased for the coming school year will not go to waste. 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.

CURRICULAR REVIEW AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

2021/22

During the 2021/22 school year the staff and BOM of SBN have worked on the review and development of a number of curricular areas. As Primary Schools across Ireland continue to engage with the new Primary Language Curriculum this will continue to be an area of focus for SBN into the immediate future. This year we have rolled out a new English programme from 3rd to 6th Class. We have also introduced a new spellings programme to 5th and 6th Class on a trial basis. Spellings for Me is an individualised spelling programme. Newest research and advice is that schools should do all we can to provide individualised spellings which support all abilities within a class by explicitly teaching spelling strategies rather than simply lists of words. As no two children are the same their spelling list should not be the same! Spellings for Me is highly interactive and combines the teaching of spelling strategies and online activities at school and at home. We are very happy with the results and feedback and plan to formally introduce the programme in the coming year. From September 2022 2nd and 3rd Class will begin using Spellings for Me and the programme will grow year on year until all classes from 2nd to 6th are using this.

This year we have refocused attention on the Building Bridges of Comprehension Programme. This programme aims to improve comprehension strategies and promote independent thought by explicitly teaching comprehension strategies through the use of visuals and open ended discussion. A staff committee was created and has worked to promote and support this programme throughout all classes. We have invested in ample supply of picture books suitable for all classes and levels and recommended by

the Building Bridges team. If you would like to learn more about Building Bridges of Comprehension, there are a number of videos available online and Youtube.

The Primary Language Curriculum encompasses Gaelge as well as English. This year, as well using Gaelge naturally throughout the day, we have made a collective effort to use Gaelge during PE lessons. Integration of Gaelge and PE took place on a whole school basis and formed part of buddies and social/games groups, baking activities and music in individual classes. We will continue to build upon this practice into next year and extend our integration of Gaelge across other subject areas during 2022/23.

The DES is offering a foreign languages module to Primary Schools for the 2022/23 school year. This programme commenced last year and although we applied to take part we were not fortunate enough to be chosen as availability is limited. We have applied again this year. French is our language of preference. Fingers crossed we will be successful this year.

As well as developing the PLC and language throughout the school we have also focussed on wellbeing and physical activity. Parental and pupil voice has informed our wellbeing strategies and initiatives at SBN as we endeavour to enable all children to achieve their full potential. A staff committee was created to oversee the development of wellbeing initiatives and strategies throughout the school and including the whole school community. The highly successful Weaving Wellbeing Programme will be extended to Junior and Senior Infants as well as First Class this coming September. Staff members have also undertaken training in the Friends for Life Programme with the National Educational Psychologists Ireland (NEPs) and DES. This specialised programme will provide further support in developing resilience, self-esteem, friendships and awareness around managing our emotions.

Furthermore, the staff have developed a Dignity at Work Charter and Conflict Charter. Ensuring that we all treat one another respectfully and with compassion and understanding (especially when conflict arises) is key to creating a positive school atmosphere for all. In the coming year we will be seeking further pupil, parental and staff input to progress this work and continue to grow and develop a supportive, positive and nurturing school culture and atmosphere for all.

Key to wellbeing is physical activity. During 2020/21 school year we continued to build on the practice of outdoor learning and daily physical activity. Whole class dance routines, running laps around school grounds, HIIT activities, trails and cooperative games formed part of the children's days.

Key to this has been the emphasis on participation over competition and development of fundamental movement skills (FMS). A staff committee was formed to oversee the progression of a FMS programme at SBN. We have taken a targeted, whole school approach to the development of FMS. Fundamental movement skills are the basic movements traditionally associated with human physical activity; hopping, skipping, jumping, kicking, throwing etc. These skills are “fundamental” to movement and by explicitly teaching and developing these skills we can promote a positive attitude towards movement and sports and hopefully encourage more children to take part in sports by developing their ability and confidence. The staff have worked with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) on the development of a FMS plan and curriculum for SBN. This will continue to be an area of focus during the 2022/23 school year and into the immediate future.

Our SBN Digital Learning Plan was reviewed by a staff committee during the 2021/22 school year. This will be published on our website shortly. The purchase of a class set of laptops and mobile charging trolley has had a hugely positive impact on the children’s learning. IT is readily available and can be easily integrated across subjects throughout the day. The purchase of new interactive boards for younger classes and laptops for special education classes means that all ages and all levels are developing their digital literacy skills, skills for life. Our digital learning platform, Seesaw, will continue to be used at SBN into the future. Likewise, our set of ipads continue to be used in class, for station teaching and for fun. Our 2nd Class are currently working on their own movies! This type of activity provides not only the opportunity for developing IT skills but skills such as critical thinking, storytelling, team work, working to a deadline etc. We are very excited to share the finished product!

The information above provides an overview or a flavour of school development this year. This list is not exhaustive and it would be impossible to list all areas or all initiatives embraced by staff and pupils. Please continue to read our newsletters, website and Facebook page to keep up to date with school life.

STANDARDISED TESTING AND REPORTS

Standardised testing was 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 only one form of assessment used in schools. While Standardised tests have many merits they do not measure many aspects of a child’s learning and ability. 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. If you would like further information on Stens and scores please see the following information from NCCA. A short video is also available on the NCCA page.

https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

If you have any concerns in relation to your child's progress or general wellbeing please contact your child's teacher to discuss. Email info@scoilbarranaofa.ie marked for the attention of the teacher in question.



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. Assembly forms part of the school day. No child will be considered late up to 8.50am and 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 UKRAINE

Well done to the Gabriella, Poppy, Rachel, Aoife and Emily from Rang a Dó. The girls organised a cake sale in the park in aid of Ukraine and raised €751. We are so proud of your initiative and kindness girls. You have demonstrated to us all that we are all capable of making a positive change in the world. Well done to the all of the busy mums working behind the scenes and all of those that supported. Proceeds from the SBN Cake Sale will be added to monies raised. Keep an eye on our Facebook page where we will post information and photos of the presentation.

NAME THE ROOM!

Our “new” room is still looking for its name. We are now looking for your ideas and suggestions. 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 There’s still a fortnight left to send in suggestions and be part of the SBN story.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for pictures of the new mural which will be added to the walls of the “new” room. The PA are working with local mural artist Jamie Howard and this promises to be a very different, interactive and cool mural that the children will love.

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.

DISNEY PLAY MAKER CAMPS AT PASSAGE AFC

Passage AFC are delighted to be one of 55 clubs nationwide chosen to host the Disney Play Maker Camp this Summer. This camp is open to girls aged 5 to 8 years old and designed to engage young girls not currently playing football. This initiative aims to inspire young girls to make friends, exercise regularly, learn life skills and develop a life-long love of football through the magic of Disney's world renowned story telling. The camp runs for an hour each Wednesday evening over 8 weeks. Time to be confirmed. If you would like further information, please contact Passage AFC.

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

