



# SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

**Newsletter #1**

**22nd of September 2025**

A Chairde,

Céad Míle Fáilte ar ais ar scoil chuig gach uile duine! Welcome back to school everyone! We are delighted to welcome all families back to school this September. We offer a warm welcome to our 16 new Junior Infants and their families. Starting school is such a special time for children and their families and we are delighted to welcome you to SBN. You will be able to view plenty of photos of all classes and activities throughout the year on our Facebook page and Instagram page.

Although this is only our third full week back at school we have been very busy and we have plenty to share in this and in all newsletters. Newsletters are released monthly, usually towards the end of the month. All important information on the day to day running of the school as well as school development, policy review and upcoming activities and events are shared on the newsletter. In line with our Green Schools Programme newsletters are emailed to parents. If you require a paper copy please let us know and this can be organised for you.

Literacy Lift off is up and running in Junior Infants ( and fine motor skills) and First Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> class are doing Reading Stations, 5<sup>th</sup> class are doing team teaching in Maths, we had our first whole school assembly on Monday, the Green School Elections are taking place this week, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class have started their swimming lessons and we are busy getting organised for the SBN Open Day next Tuesday. If there are any families with younger siblings who are due to start Junior Infants next September please can you email the office for the enrolment forms. We are looking for 2 more parents to help with the teas and coffees on the day (1.30-2.30) . If you are in a position to help please can you email [info@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:info@scoilbarranaofa.ie).

The AGM of the SBN Parent's Association took place on Tuesday night. The PA are a fabulous group of parents that arrange events and activities for parents and children throughout the year. Thank you to the PA for organising a welcome coffee morning for the parents of our new Junior Infants and for organising a memorable and enjoyable afternoon in Kool Kidz last Friday for our new Junior Infants. We would like to thank the outgoing committee for their tremendous work- Susan O' Keeffe (Chairperson), Susan

Moynihan (Secretary) and Joanne O' Connor (Treasurer). We would like to wish the new committee members Jessica Bird & Gillian Sheeran (Joint Chairpersons), Fiona Boland (Secretary) and Theresa Barry (Treasurer) the very best of luck in their new roles. Their work and time is greatly appreciated and has a tremendously positive effect on school life. Any parents interested in taking part in the PA are welcome to email [pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie) Whether you can help from time to time or can help on an ongoing basis the PA would love to hear from you. All involvement makes a difference and is particularly welcomed by the children.

We will be sending out the link to pay for the class expenses on Aladdin after the Open Day. Each year we have asked for a voluntary donation of 100 euro per family. This year we are planning on painting all the corridors and halla. While we will be using our DES Minor Works Grant to cover the costs it will fall short of the full amount required so we hope that the donations will cover the rest. You can pay both the class expenses and donations in installments during the year.

Thank to you to all parents for your support and cooperation since reopening. We look forward to a fruitful and enjoyable year working together at SBN.

*Mise le Meas,*

*Orla Ní Shé agus Foireann na Scoile*



## **WELCOME TO STAFF**

Welcome to our new staff members Ms O' Sullivan (Senior Infants) and Mr. O' Connor (Rang 5). We are also delighted to have MS. Hayes back this year in Rang 4.

## **MORNING DROP OFF**

School gates open daily at 8.35am. If your child is walking to school or waiting at the gate please ensure they have a coat. The main entrance is in use as a carpark until 8.35 and no child should be on the school grounds before this time. We encourage parents and pupils to park and stride where possible. When this is not possible or on very wet days we ask that you "kiss and drop". This means that parents drive up the hill adjacent to the school, stop momentarily to kiss and drop and then leave by driving down the hill adjacent to the church and pre school. This practice helps to keep everyone safe and keep traffic moving. Please be conscious of getting out of the car and leaving your car running especially on the hill. We appreciate and understand that

infants may need to be walked into school. In this instance we ask that parents kiss and drop at the lower halla door. It is good for children to know that all mums and dads say goodbye at the door. We have noticed that it can cause upset for some children when they see other parents coming into the halla to say goodbye or drop off bags/lunches etc. Children look for their own parents for a kiss and cuddle when they see others doing this. Children from infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> are supervised in the halla from 8.35 to 8.50am. While alternative arrangements are currently in place for Junior Infants they will join the other classes later this month. Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> go directly to their classrooms where they are supervised until 8.50am.

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021/22**

- Sept 24<sup>th</sup> SBN Open Day 1.30pm -2.30pm
- October 6<sup>th</sup> Closing at 12 midday teacher training
- October 27<sup>th</sup> – returning Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>(Mid Term Break).
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> School Closes at 12 for Christmas Holidays.
- January 5<sup>th</sup> School Reopens.
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday Closure.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Mid Term Break.
- March 26<sup>th</sup>! First Confession at 7pm.
- March 16<sup>th</sup> Extended Closure.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> Closure Patrick Day
- March 27<sup>th</sup> School Closes at 12 for Easter Holidays.
- April 13<sup>th</sup> School Reopens.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> Extended Bank Holiday Closure
- May 4<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday Closure.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> School closure New Primary Curriculum
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> First Holy Communion at 10.30am
- May 29<sup>th</sup> Extended Bank Holiday
- June 1<sup>st</sup> Bank Holiday
- June 25<sup>th</sup> Closing at 12pm for Summer break

## **SBN OPEN DAY 2025**

We are delighted to welcome visitors to our SBN Open Day next Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September from 1.30-2.30. A variety of activities will take place in classrooms such as; Aistear, Art lessons, using our laptops and ipads, music and coding to name but a few. Our SET teachers will in the Library to explain our Early Intervention strategies. Ms. O'

Shea will make her address @ 2.15 in the halla. Our 6<sup>th</sup> class will be giving the new families a tour of the school. Thank you to the parents who have helped to do leaflet drops. We will have our fingers crossed for a good turnout on the day to see our wonderful school. All are welcome. Please spread the word. As parents you are our school's best ambassadors!

## **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

We are pleased to say that after school activities have recommenced at SBN. Tuesdays and Thursdays Ms. Trehane will run Homework Club. Dramarama are running drama lessons on Tuesdays. On Wednesdays Mary and Audrey will run Art & Craft Club. Ms. O' Shea's STEM Club is on Thursdays.

All parents have received an email on after school activities, however, if you have questions or queries please contact the office via email on [info@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:info@scoilbarranaofa.ie)

## **Green Schools Update:**

We are beginning the 2 year process of applying for a new Green Flag. Our theme is Global Citizenship: Marine Environment. This theme focuses on raising awareness of marine ecosystems and the work being done to protect them. This is a maintenance theme that will enable students to discover how their work on the Green Schools programme has positively influenced environments worldwide while focusing our work on our oceans and seas. In SBN classes 2nd to 6th are this month electing 2 candidates from each class to take their places on the committee.

## **SCIATH NA SCOL**

We are commencing our Sciath na Scol football competition in earnest this year. Thank you Ms. Power and Mr. O' Connor for organising the matches and training the teams. Yesterday both teams had a challenge match against Star of the Sea in Passage GAA.

Upcoming matches are as follows:

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> of Sept. @ 12.30 V Our Lady of Lourdes NS Home (girls)

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of Sept. V Shanbally NS in Shamrocks GAA (girls @12.15 & boys @1pm)

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of Sept @ 12.30 V Cloughduv NS Home (boys)

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> of Sept. TBC V Ballygarvan NS away (girls)

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Oct. @ 12.30 V Gaelscoil Charrig Uí Leighin away (girls)

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Oct. TBC V Aghabullogue NS away (boys)

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of Oct. @12 V Eglantine NS home (girls )

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AT SBN**

Parental input and open communication is vital to the success of all schools. In an effort to involve parents and facilitate parental contribution to the planning and day to day running of the school we facilitate a number of different groups involving the parents of SBN.

Our Parent's Association consists of parents of children across all classes of SBN. The PA are the primary link between school and home and help promote a positive working relationship between parents and school. The PA meet termly and the Principal meets the Chairperson of the PA regularly to discuss school matters. The PA organises special events during the year as well as Communion, Confirmation and Graduation gifts for the children. We encourage all parents to take part in the PA. We understand that some parents may not be in a position to take part on a regular basis but may be happy to assist on an ad hoc basis or assist at specific events. If you would like to be involved or contribute in any way please email [pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie](mailto:pa@scoilbarranaofa.ie)

The Board of Management has overall responsibility for the running of the school. The Board is made up of 8 members including 2 parent nominees, ideally one mother and one father. Rather than presenting parental issues to the BOM the role of the parent representative is to offer a parental perspective in decision making.

Our Garden Committee and caretaker ensure that the garden and grounds are well maintained and decorated during the year.

Many other parents assist and support the school throughout the year. Coffee mornings, Grandparent's Day, open night, the organisation of the school library etc. All parents are most welcome to be involved in any way they can.

If you have a concern about your child's progress please contact your child's class teacher first. Please send in an email detailing the nature of the concern and your child's class teacher will arrange a phone call or a face to face meeting. Please follow this step before contacting Ms. O' Shea about your concern.



## **WASHBAGS**

All children are required to bring a small wash bag to school every day. This bag should contain a small hand towel (face cloth sized) which should be changed regularly. Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> should also keep a small hand sanitiser in their washbags. Hand sanitiser units are placed around the school building and handwashing routines remain in place.

We are a Green School and we plan on reducing our waste and carbon footprint by eliminating the use of disposable paper hand towels this year. Ensuring all children have their own washable hand towel will help our efforts greatly.

## **UNIFORMS/TRACKSUITS**

During the month of September children are permitted to wear their Summer Uniform. This consists of the school shorts, polo and track top. From October 1st children from First to Sixth Class should return to wearing their tracksuit on tracksuit days and school uniform on other days. Tracksuit Days are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will be starting GAA training with Dylan Barrett commencing on Wednesday. Crocs are not permitted. Please ensure that your child is wearing runners on tracksuit days.

## **CURRICULAR ITEMS**

### **School Self Evaluation**

- Pupil and Staff Well-being- reviewing this and seeing will we continue with the same areas or look at a new area
- Well-being committee
- Amber (Positive Mental Health) Flag
- Fr. Con Kindness Award
- Spelling- UFLI (spelling, phonics and reading) in the junior classes; PHORMES senior classes
- Local History & Geography- classes will present projects in tandem with Seactain na Gaeilge

### **Bí Cinéalta**

- Defines bullying as *targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm.*
- Outlines how we can prevent bullying behaviour- Stay Safe Programme; Random Acts of Kindness; Restorative Practice; Lunchtime buddies
- Online bullying: Webwise lesson; guest speakers on internet safety, Community Garda
- Procedures for dealing with bullying and how we can support the child that is being bullied and supporting pupils displaying bullying behaviour so they won't do it again.
- BOM report

### **Gaeilge**

- Léigh sa Bhaile (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Grammadach sa Gaeilge (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
- Scríobh Leabhair
- Amhrán trí Gaeilge (Seachtain na Gaeilge)

- Gaeilgóir na Míosa
- Frasaí na Míosa
- Gaelbratach

## Music

- Christmas Concert
- Cork Pops (Senior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## School Garden

- Each class will have a little project to do every 2 months
- Passage West Men's Shed- 2 flower beds
- Viv- Sensory Water Feature
- Monkstown Sailing Club kindly donated a small boat to planting/ growing
- A number of parents have offered to help out
- Hope to enter the Muintir na Tíre schools garden competition
- Monkstown Tidy Towns- grants from the Cork County Council

## FIS AWARD

Congratulations to our current 6<sup>th</sup> class who last year entered their local history project entitled: ' *The Brave Hound of Monkstown*' into the Fis Film Competition 2025 guided and supported by their teacher Ms. Kelly who put a huge amount of work into the project behind the scenes. They received a Highly Commended certificate. This is what the judges said about their film: *We are delighted to inform you that your film is one of those awarded the honour of "Highly Commended". This recognition reflects the outstanding creativity, effort, and talent demonstrated by you and your students. Your film stood out among in a very competitive pool of entries, and we are thrilled to recognize your work with this special commendation.*

*This commendation is a testament to the quality of your work, and we encourage you to continue exploring and developing your students' filmmaking talents. We hope that the experience in creating a film together has been enjoyable and we encourage you and your pupils to continue to make more films into the future.*

## **Scoil Barra Naofa Voluntary Smartphone and Social Media Agreement**

We are delighted to announce that Scoil Barra Naofa will be implementing the Voluntary Smartphone and social media pledge.

The voluntary smartphone and social media pledge is an agreement by parents and guardians not to buy their child a smartphone or sign them up to social media apps such as WhatsApp, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, JusTalk or anything similar during their child's primary school years.

The school's role is to provide parents and guardians of each child with the opportunity to sign up to this pledge. The school will inform the parents and guardians of each class how many/what percentage of the class has signed up to the pledge. The overall commitment will be reported via newsletter.

This type of non-identifiable, collective information will be very helpful to parents grappling with fears that their child will be socially excluded if they are not given a phone or access to social media but who are also seriously concerned about the risks to the well-being of young children having access to these outlets.

Parents and Guardians will be able to sign up to the pledge on Aladdin. We would be grateful, should you be interested in signing up, if this could be completed before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Please note a parent or guardian may opt in or out at any stage following the 1 October 2025. The pledge will be up for renewal and update at the commencement of each new school year.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact ...

**The pledge (for Aladdin)**

