



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #2

16th of Oct 2025

A Chairde,

Welcome to October's newsletter.

Thank you to all who supported our recent SBN Open Day on September 24th. It was lovely to see many current as well as prospective parents on the day. Thank you to our 6th class pupils who were fabulous ambassadors for our school as they showed the prospective parents and pupils around our school.

Details and dates for upcoming parent/teacher meetings can be found in this newsletter. Parents are encouraged to meet teachers in person. Phone meetings can be arranged where required.

We will break for mid-term on Thursday, 23rd of October as the school will be closed on Friday, 24th of Oct. for the Presidential Election. Children may come to school in their Halloween costumes on this day if they wish. The PA are organising a sponsored walk that day and monies raised will go towards the purchasing of new decodable books to compliment the UFLI programme. Please ensure that children are comfortable and warm and are wearing correct footwear for an active day!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Power who has been appointed to the position of Acting Assistant Principal II due to Ms. Kelly's secondment with Oide. I look forward to working with her on our In-school Leadership Team.

Yesterday, we attended Mass as a whole school, thank you to Ms. Flannery for coordinating the mass with Fr. Dave, to Ms. Hayes and Jacqui Scriven who worked so hard in preparing the hymns with our newly formed school choir. The pupils were so well behaved in the church. I was really proud of them all.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable mid-term break.

Mise le Meas,

Orla Ní Shé agus Foireann na Scoile

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.

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 2nd are supervised in the halla from 8.35 to 8.50am. Children from 3rd to 6th go directly to their classrooms where they are supervised until 8.50am. The school day starts at 8.50am and runs until 1.30 for infants and 2.30 for all other classes.

IMPORTANT DATES AND SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025/26

- Friday, October 24th. School Closure due to General Election
- Monday, 27th - Friday, October 31st: Mid-Term Break.
- Science Week, November 9th to 16th.
- Tuesday, November 18th, Parent-Teacher Meetings closed at 2.20 pm
- Wednesday, November 19th: Parent-Teacher Meetings Closed at 12 midday
- Wed, December 19th, School Closes at 12 for Christmas Holidays.
- Monday, January 5th, School Reopens.
- Monday, Feb 2nd Bank Holiday Closure.
- Thursday & Friday, February 19th & 20th Mid Term Break.
- Monday, March 16th. Extended bank holiday closure
- Tuesday, March 17th, Bank Holiday Closure.
- Friday, March 27th School Closes at 12 for Easter Holidays.
- Monday, April 13th, School Reopens.

ENROLMENTS SEPTEMBER 2026

We are currently accepting applications for enrolment for Junior Infants in September 2026. All applications should be with the school office by the closing date, Oct 31st at 3 pm. Application forms can be completed on our website www.scoilbarranaofa.ie

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher meetings will take place on Tuesday, Nov 18th and Wednesday, Nov 19th. To facilitate these meetings, children will finish at 2.20 on Tuesday, Nov 18th and at 12 pm on Wednesday, Nov 19th. Please note the finish time for infants will be 11.50 on Wednesday, November 19th.

As is customary, timeslots for p/t meetings will be released on a phased basis via Aladdin. Time slots will be released for parents of 4 pupils, 3 pupils, and 2 pupils, followed by all others. We will commence this process following the mid-term break. We encourage parents to meet with teachers in person; however, if you are unable to meet in person, we are happy to facilitate phone meetings where required. Parents who require a phone meeting should not book a timeslot on Aladdin but rather email the school office at info@scoilbarranaofa.ie and mark for email for the attention of the class teacher in question. Phone meetings will be organised separately from in-person meetings. Your child's class teacher will contact you with available times.

GREEN SCHOOLS NEWS

A new Green Schools Committee has been formed. Well done to all those who put themselves forward for nomination to the Green Schools. There were some very interesting speeches and election posters. Thanks also to the teachers for promoting Green Schools in their classrooms. The new members are Robyn Barry and Tom Cunningham, 6th Class. Ambie Browne and Hazel Barry from 5th Class, Caoimhe Power and Nina Clifford 4th Class, MJ Linehan and Asha Gallagher 3rd Class and representing 2nd Class, our youngest members on board are Bonnie Bird and Kate Banks. Congratulations to all the new members, and we hope they will enjoy their experience on the SBN Green Schools Committee. This week, we will do our marine litter survey throughout the school.



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The deadline for the student council elections is this Friday. Ms Power is looking forward to working with the newly elected Student Council this year.

WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

The members of the well-being committee include.... Thank you to Ms Treharne for coordinating the committee. The following activities will be the focus for this year:

- Raising awareness of neurodiversity
- Drop Everything and Breathe
- Raising awareness of the Bí Cinéalta policy and keeping it on the agenda- they felt that it had reduced bullying incidents in the school
- Feel-good playlists for classes
- Fill Your Bucket
- Friendship February
- We have applied for the Amber Flag

GAELBHRATACH

Seo é an chead uair sa scoil ina bhfuil Cóiste Gaeilge ann. Tá Oisín Beale, Holly Galton, Edie Bruen, Florrie Ryan, Alexi Griffiths, Kate Webb, Mary Kenneally, Sadie Webb, Jack Ryan agus Brody Hayes ar an gCoiste. Bhí an chéad cruinniú acu ar an Máirt le Bean Uí Shé. Bhí said ag labhairt faoi an plean gníomhachtaí spraoi trí Gaeilge a heagrú do na daltaí i rith na mbliana, mar shampla, cluichí bingo, cluichí chlós agus diolachán cacaí chun an Gaelbhratach a fháil don scoil. Tús maith leat na hoibre!

MATHS WEEK

We had a fantastic time celebrating Maths Week 2025 here at Scoil Barra Naofa with a range of fun and creative activities for all classes. Pupils in 3rd and 4th Class and in 5th and 6th Class took part in special online maths quizzes, while our senior pupils acted as "Maths Trainers", teaching card and number games to the younger classes. During the week, children enjoyed a PE Through Maths Day, combining movement with problem-solving, and took part in the Great Graph Challenge, collecting and presenting real-life data. We also displayed pupils' work in a colourful Maths Colouring Art Gallery in the hall. The week finished with a fun Digit Dress-Up Day on Friday, where children wore numbers or maths-themed outfits and danced to some lively maths songs.

It was a wonderful week full of numbers, creativity, and fun learning for everyone! Thank you to Ms. Power for co-ordinating a fabulous Maths Week in SBN!

SCIATH NA SCOL

Our Senior Class pupils have had an extremely busy few weeks with their Sciath na Scol campaign with games against Gaelscoil Carrig Uí Leighin, Ballygarvan, Eglantine, Shanbally and Our Lady of Lourdes NS (cailíní) and Aghabollgue, Cloughduv and Shanbally (Buachaillí). We were extremely proud of all our pupils who participated and were heartened by the level of skill, determination and team work on display. Míle buíochas to Ms. Power and Mr. O' Connor for training the pupils, referring the matches and co-ordinating all the games, they were supported as always by Jen!

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 1st to 6th 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.

Parents' Association Update

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our events last year — together we raised around **€6,000!** Your generosity helped fund **two new classroom whiteboards** (each costing approximately **€2,500–€3,000**) as well as **new sports equipment** and a range of **fun school activities for the children.**

This year, we're aiming even higher with a **fundraising target of €7,000.** If we reach this goal, it will go a long way towards helping to fund **Lego Spike sets, Chromebooks, iPads, and new readers for UFLL** for the children, along with our **regular PA-supported events and activities** throughout the year.

We have lots of exciting events planned, including a **Halloween Spooky Walk, Bingo Night, Christmas Mulled Wine & Carols Evening, a Spring Fling for Parents, Grandparents' and Junior Infants' Intro Days, Ice Cream Trucks, and the 6th Class Disco!**

All event dates will be added to Aladdin, so you can stay up to date and join in the fun.

Frasaí na Míosa

Slán

Slán leat agus go raibh maith agat

Slán go fóill, tar ar ais arís

Go n-eirí an bothar leat

Conas atá tú?

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat

Tá mé ar fheabhas, buíochas le Dia

Tá me go h-iontach, agus tú féin?

Conas atá an aimsir inniu?

Tá sé ag éirí níos fuaire níos deanaí

Tá sé tirim

Tá sé scamallach

Tá sé ag cur báistí