

Céad Míle Fáilte Romhaibh

24th October 2017

You are all very welcome back to our new school year.

The Department of Education & Skills has recently approved a new school extension which will consist of a new classroom, special education room, toilets and storage area. It is hoped that the building will commence early in the new year.

*** We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new teaching staff members
Ms. Collins, Ms. Owens and Mr. Rehill. ***

Enrolment

Enrolment has been taking place for the school year 2017 – 2018 in Scoil Naomh Barra between 2.10pm – 3.00pm from Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th October. Allocation of places will be confirmed by early January. Parents may also enrol online via our school website www.wilkinstownns.ie We hope that our new pupils will enjoy being part of our school community.

Thank You

A big thank you to all the parents and helpers throughout the year. Thanks also to the local amenity group for their voluntary upkeep of the area outside and approaching the school grounds. Your contribution, time, energy and general commitment to our school has been invaluable.

Art & Craft / I.T. / Photocopying / Laminating Materials / Incidental Phone Calls / Text-a-Parent / Postage / Replacement of Novels etc.

€40 per pupil is now due. Your immediate attention in this matter would be much appreciated. Payments can now be made on-line. Information in this regard may be accessed on the link communicated through a previous text-a-parent message or alternatively, contact the school office. If paying in the school office please ensure that monies are in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class marked clearly on the outside. For administrative purposes please enclose **the exact amount as change will not be given**. Please note that PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER for 2017.18 is NOT INCLUDED in the aforementioned contribution.

It is regrettable that any school should have to seek such support, however, due to inadequate - and reduced - financial funding from DES, it's impossible to meet costs.

Car Park

The car park is **SOLELY FOR THE USE OF STAFF** except in emergencies/or attending a meeting with a member of staff. It is imperative that pupils use the pedestrian crossing at **ALL** times when exiting the school. Cars are **NOT PERMITTED TO PARK** in the drop off/collection area. As per last school years arrangement, the Infant classes' pickup times will continue to be as follows: Junior Infants 2.00pm and Senior Infants 2.05pm. We would also suggest that, if possible, Junior Infant parents use and park in the lane closest to the school while Senior Infant parents should use the lane closest to the road. * **N.B. Also we would ask that you would drive to the end of each lane for pick-ups and queue up rather than stopping at the pedestrian crossing outside the school.** * Parents may also use the Community Centre Car Park at any time. Please note that children will be supervised from **9.00am until 3.10pm each school day**. Hopefully this will help to alleviate any traffic congestion around pickup times.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Thursday November 16th and Thursday November 23rd. Further details will be available in due course.

Contact Numbers & Email Addresses

Should you have changed your telephone/mobile numbers please advise our school secretary as we are currently updating lists. Also a reminder for those of you who have an e-mail address, to send it in to your child's class teacher.

Witches Walk

Our annual Witches Walk will take place on Wednesday October 25th at 10.00am (weather permitting). All welcome to join the children on the walk.

Green Flag

Scoil Naomh Barra are currently working towards our fourth Green Flag. The theme for this flag is 'Travel'. On Wednesday October 25th we will have our Travel Action Day and 'Walk on Wednesday WOW' / 'Park n Stride' will be launched. 'Car-Pooling' will continue on Fridays. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. O'Donoghue and all the children involved in this initiative for their perseverance and hard work.

School Uniforms

All pupils must wear complete school uniform (navy tights for girl's uniform) except on P.E./Swimming Days when school tracksuits may be worn (see P.E. timetable below). **Please label all items clearly.** Children who wear v-neck jumpers must also wear a school tie, however, children with round neck jumpers do not have to wear a tie.

P.E. Timetable

Junior Infants – Tuesday & Friday,	Senior Infants – Monday,
1st Class – Monday,	2nd Class – Wednesday,
3rd / 4th Class – Thursday,	4th / 5th Class – Wednesday,
6th Class – Wednesday & Friday	

Healthy Lunches

As you are aware we have a healthy eating policy – Friday is treat day when **one treat-sized bar** is permitted.

School Calendar 2017/2018

School Re-opens:	Wednesday 30 th August.
Mid-Term:	Closed from 30 th October—3 rd November inclusive.
Christmas Holidays:	Closing Friday 22 nd December at 12 noon. Re-opening Monday 8 th January 2018.
*Additional Closure to School Calendar on Wednesday January 17th 2018	
*January 17th:	Closed Wednesday January 17 th – Teachers In-Service Training Day (<i>apologies for any inconvenience this may cause, but we have only been notified of this date in recent days by the DES</i>))
Mid-Term:	Closed Thursday 15 th & Friday 16 th February.
St. Patrick's Day:	Closed Monday 19 th March.
Easter Holidays:	Closing Friday 23 rd March at 12 noon. Re-opening Monday 9 th April.
May 7th:	Closed (Bank Holiday).
June 4th:	Closed (Bank Holiday).
Summer Holidays:	Closing on Friday 22 nd June at 12 noon.

School Activities & Events 2017/2018

September: Gaelic Football Boys/Girls (4/6 weeks), Rounders, Hurling.
October: Witches Walk, Maths Week,
November: Cross Country, Science Week,
December: School Choir (Navan), Infant Nativity, Launch of our Charity C.D. in memory of Daniel O'Keeffe, proceeds to Temple Street Children's Hospital.
January: Swimming lessons (Kells Swimming Pool – 8 week course)
February: Confirmation 9th February 2018 at 3pm in Oristown Church, First Confessions 28th February 2018 at 7.30pm in Kilberry Church, Olympic Handball 4th /5th classes.
March: Seachtain na Gaeilge, Gaelic Football 7's Boys/Girls, Soccer 5's Boys/Girls,
April: First Holy Communion on 29th April at 11.30am, Gaelic Football Boys/Girls Cumann na mBunscol (March & April)
May: Active Week, Athletics in Clarendon Stadium, Basketball, Rounders Blitz (3rd / 4th classes),
June: Water Fight/Soccer Leagues.

Other Events This Term

Cumann na mBunscol: Boys and girls teams have been taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol GAA competitions (Hurling, Football and Rounders). 3rd/4th class children participated in a 5 a side soccer tournament in Gormanston on Thursday October 19th. The Cross Country Competition will take on November 15th in Bellewstown Racecourse.

MS Readathon: Scoil Naomh Barra are taking part in a Readathon for Multiple Sclerosis.

Music: Recorder lessons for all children from 1st to 6th class have commenced since Friday September 29th and will run each week up to and including Friday October 27th. The cost for this term up until the Halloween mid-term break is €10 per child (*5 weeks in total*), and we very much look forward to the experience, as last years' lessons were thoroughly enjoyed by all the class levels involved. Many thanks to you the parents for your support of this initiative. This year the children will be involved in writing their own song. This will be professionally recorded and available on our Christmas C.D.

***Please ensure that any child availing of recorder lessons has their own recorder clearly labelled. In recent weeks recorders are being borrowed on a regular basis. This is not recommended from a hygiene perspective.**

Mid-Term Break Reminder

School closes on Friday 27th October at 3.00pm and re-opens on Monday November 3rd.

*Finally, we ask God to bless and protect all our children, parents & staff.
May we all grow in knowledge and friendship.*