

# SCOIL NAOMH BARRA NEWSLETTER

24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 JAMES MINNOCK(PRINCIPAL) JACQUELINE MCCARTHY(DEPUTY PRINCIPAL)



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

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new teacher Caoimhe Gartlan and our new Special Needs Assistant Grace McKenna.

## Important Dates

**Enrolment** will take place for the school year 2019– 2020 in Scoil Naomh Barra between 2.10pm – 3.00pm from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Allocation of places will be confirmed by December/early January. Parents may also enrol online via our school website [www.wilkinstownns.ie](http://www.wilkinstownns.ie). We hope that our new pupils will enjoy being part of our school community.

**Mid-Term Break:** School closes on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00pm and re-opens on Monday November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings** are scheduled for Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be available in due course.

**Confirmation** will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in St. Catherine's Church, Oristown.

**First Confession** will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm in St. John the Baptist Church, Kilberry.

**First Holy Communion** will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11:30am in St. John the Baptist Church, Kilberry.

## 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 the school grounds. Your contribution, time, energy and on-going commitment to our school has been invaluable.

Thank you to the **Parents' Association** who worked tirelessly over the summer months to supply books and school materials for every child in the school. This was an enormous task and a hugely beneficial one to the entire school community. We are very fortunate to have an association that gives so generously of its time.

## Reminders

The **€40 school contribution fee** is still outstanding for some families. This contribution fee goes towards the cost of Art & Craft, I.T., photocopying, laminating materials, incidental phone calls, text-a-parent, postage, replacement of novels etc...Payments can 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 2018.19 is NOT INCLUDED in the aforementioned contribution. It is regrettable that schools should have to seek such support, however, due to inadequate, and reduced, financial funding from the Department of Education and Skills, it's impossible to meet costs.

**Car Park:** Health and safety is of paramount importance and to this end it is important that all parents observe the following guidelines when visiting the school:

- The car park is **SOLELY FOR THE USE OF STAFF** except in emergencies/or attending a meeting with a member of staff
- Pupils must use the pedestrian crossing at **ALL** times when entering/exiting the school
- Cars **MUST NOT PARK** in the drop off/collection area
- Junior Infants are to be collected at 2.00pm and Senior Infants at 2.05pm
- Where possible, Junior Infant parents should 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 request that you 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

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

**Birthdays party invitations** are not permitted to be given out within the school grounds. Please be advised that this is primarily aimed at avoiding unnecessary disappointment for some children.

**School Uniforms:** All pupils must wear complete school uniform except on P.E./swimming days when school tracksuits may be worn (see P.E. timetable below). Please label all of your child's belongings clearly.

**Contact numbers and email addresses** can be updated on **Aladdin** at your own convenience. Alternatively please advise our school secretary of any changes.

## School Calendar 2018/2019

<b>School Re-opens:</b>	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Mid-Term:</b>	Closed from 29 <sup>th</sup> October—2 <sup>nd</sup> November Re-opening Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Christmas Holidays:</b>	Closing Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December at 12 noon Re-opening Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Mid-Term:</b>	Closed Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> & Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
<b>St. Patrick's Day:</b>	Closed Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Easter Holidays:</b>	Closing Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon Re-opening Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>May 6<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Closed (Bank Holiday)
<b>June 3<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	Closed (Bank Holiday)
<b>Summer Holidays:</b>	Closing on Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June at 12 noon

## P.E Timetable

**J. & S. Infants** - Mon & Tues  
**1<sup>st</sup>** – Monday  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Tuesday  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Wednesday  
**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>** – Thursday  
**5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>** – Friday

## School Activities and Events 2018/2019

September	Gaelic Football for boys and girls (4/6 weeks)
October	Witches Walk, Maths Week
November	Cross Country, Science Week
December	School Choir (Navan), Infant Nativity/variety show
January	Swimming lessons in Kells Swimming Pool- 8 week course
February	Confirmation: 8 <sup>th</sup> February
March	Seachtain na Gaeilge, First Confession: 27 <sup>th</sup> March
April	Gaelic Football Boys/Girls Cumann na mBunscol
May	First Communion: 12 <sup>th</sup> May, Active Week, Athletics in Claremont Stadium, Basketball, Rounders (3 <sup>rd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> )
June	Water Fight/ Soccer Leagues

**Witches Walk :** Our annual Witches Walk will take place on Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am (weather permitting). All welcome to join the children on the walk.

**Cumann na mBunscol:** Boys and girls teams have been taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol GAA football competition. Our girls' team won their first match against Rathbeggan on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Our boys' team won their first match against Lismullen on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Well done to all the children involved.

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

**Music:** Recorder lessons for all children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class commenced last Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and will run each week up to and including Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>. The cost for this term up until the Halloween mid-term break is €10 per child (6 weeks in total), and we very much look forward to the experience, as last year's lessons were thoroughly enjoyed by all the class levels involved. Many thanks to you the parents for supporting this initiative. **Please ensure that any child availing of recorder lessons has their own recorder and that it is clearly labelled.**

## New School Developments

**Building Project:** The extension for our new classroom and special education room commenced last week and will hopefully be ready in January. Phase 2 of this building project will commence in the new year. This will include the development of an ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) class room, multi-sensory room and withdrawal room. All going well this project will be completed by late September 2019.

**Aladdin:** As part of our on-going commitment to the environment and efficiency we will continue to use our (paperless) online communication system through Aladdin. If you do not have access to **Aladdin** you must send in a written request to the office to receive hard copies of correspondence.

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