

SCOIL NAOMH BARRA NEWSLETTER

27TH OCTOBER 2023



School closes today (Friday 27th October) for our mid-term break and will re-open on Monday 6th November.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe Halloween.

A new school year is upon us again and we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Junior Infant class as well as our new teachers Sarah Kellett, Caoimhín King, Lauren McKenna and Annette Horan. We also welcome new pupils Danny, Amelia, Lillie and Victor to classes throughout our school. We hope that all of you have settled into your new surroundings and are very happy in Scoil Naomh Barra. The school would also like to extend a special thanks to our former caretaker Derek McFadden and former cleaner Jurgita Stoniene for all their hard work over the last couple of years.

Additional School Closure

This week, we received notice of a school closure on Tuesday November 21st: to facilitate in-service training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

Building Work:

With the building work for the new school extension now complete, external works are ongoing. Work is continuing on a new entrance to the multi-sensory garden. The heating system has also been upgraded and it is thought our new astro-turf pitch will be ready by late November. We are delighted to have these new facilities and hope to celebrate their completion with an event in the new year.

Taking Shape - The Site of the New Astro Turf Pitch



Open Evening: An open evening will take place on Monday 20th November at 7.30pm. This is an event for current and prospective parents only.

Instagram/Twitter Accounts: Our Instagram/Twitter accounts are sharing regular photos of the school building project, tours of our school, events, activities etc. If you would like to follow our accounts, you can search for:

"Scoil Naomh Barra"

or click

on <https://instagram.com/scoilnaomhbarras?igshid=ZDdkNTZiNTM=>

https://twitter.com/wilkinstownns?s=11&t=b34mkejZmu_KtLBDHKK5eQ

Caretaker Position

We are looking for a new caretaker to do general maintenance work around the school (flexible working hours). If you know anyone who might be interested, please contact the school (Phone: 046 9054329 Email: office@wilkinstownns.ie)

CCTV Policy

CCTV Policy: Please note the school's CCTV Policy is now accessible on the school website ([CCTV-policy.pdf \(wilkinstownns.ie\)](#)).

Important Dates:

Enrolment for the 2024/2025 Junior Infant intake is now available online at www.wilkinstownns.ie. Prospective parents are welcome if they would like to visit our school for the open night on 20th November. Allocation of places will be confirmed early in the New Year.

Parent/Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday November 14th and Thursday November 16th. Parents' can book meeting slot(s) soon via the Aladdin app.

Confirmation will take place on 11th March in St. Catherine's Church, Oristown at 12pm.

First Confession will take place on Wednesday 28th February at 7:30 pm in St. John the Baptist Church, Kilberry.

First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 21st April at 11:30am in St. John the Baptist Church, Kilberry.

Reminders:

Car Parking, Drop-offs and Pick-ups:

- You should **not get out of your car** in the Drop-Off/Pick up Zone.
- If you need to accompany your child to the school or if they need extra time getting out of the car, please park in the Community Centre across the road and cross the road at the new pedestrian crossing (lights due to be turned on soon). There are two disabled spaces outside the school if needed.
- Please keep the **bus lane clear** until it arrives.
- The school car park is a **one-way system** – please do not block the entrance.
- Please **only let your children out of the car in the Drop off/Pick up zone** outside the pedestrian gates (do not let your children out of the car halfway through the car park or in any area where there is no path).
- There should be **no need for the driver to get out of the car**.
- Please ensure that the children have their **coats on and their bags ready** before you arrive at the school.
- Children should, where possible, **exit the car on the left hand side**, to avoid anyone walking behind/around a car.
- **Please park in the Community Centre car park as much as possible.**
- When exiting the school car park **PLEASE TURN LEFT**.
- Please note that children will be supervised from 9 am until 3.10pm each school day. (Please avoid dropping your child to school before 9 am)
- Please **share this information with whoever is responsible for dropping your children to school** in the morning and collecting after school – grandparents, minders, car poolers etc.

School Uniforms: Jnr & Snr Infants: P.E. Gear can be worn every day. Or full uniform can be worn if you wish and PE gear for PE days. **1st – 6th:** Full uniform must be worn every day. P.E. gear is worn on P.E. days & swimming days. (Navy shorts can be worn every day during nice weather) Dark runners or shoes should be worn every day.

Bobble Hats: School branded bobble hats (€10) and shorts (€15) are available from the school office.

Active Schools

Cumann na mBunscol: Our boys' and girls' teams competed in the Cumann na mBunscol GAA football competition this term. Both teams trained hard and performed admirably but missed out on qualification for the next round of the competition. We hope they will continue to practise their football at home and with their club in preparation for next year. Thanks to all the coaches (Mr. Harte, Mr. Minnock, Ms. Martyn and Elaine Coyne) involved in training the teams over the past few weeks.

Cross Country Running: Trials were held on Tuesday ahead of the Meath schools competition in Fairyhouse which will take place on Wednesday 22nd November at 10am. Best of luck to all those who will be taking part.

Cycling: Weekly cycling workshops will be commencing for 4th Class (A and B) upon our return in November and these will continue for seven weeks.

Gymnastics: Best wishes to 2nd class student Lillie Copeland Bennett who will be travelling to Spain to represent Ireland next month.

Green Day: On Friday 13th October, the school held a non-uniform day in support of the Irish rugby team. We would like to thank Brendan and Eimear Doughty from Doughty's Mace for providing us with some treats as well as the Jonny Sexton masks!

Witches Walk: Our annual Witches Walk took place on Wednesday (October 25th). As always, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Once again, we would like to thank Nives Cooney and the Garda Mounted Unit for their attendance to calm the traffic on the road. Thanks to all of those who provided sponsorship and also to the Parents Association for providing us with some treats as well as the prize for the best dressed class. Congratulations to 6th class and Ms. Martyn who will now have €100 euro to spend on puzzles and games for their classroom.

Green Day



Ms. Martyn's 6th Class



Witches Walk 2023



Curriculum Links

Music: Ukulele lessons with Harry Long have re-commenced this term, with our first class children taking up the instrument for the first time. We look forward to showcasing the progress at a later date. Thanks to the Parents Association who purchased 30 new ukuleles over the summer.

School Self Evaluation: Our SSE going forward will be in the curriculum area of Maths. We have recently purchased new maths equipment and would like to thank the Parents Association for their generous funding in this regard. Our main focus will be on developing mental arithmetic and problem solving skills. We plan to circulate a survey to all parents upon our return to school in November.

Creative Clusters: We will be taking part in the Creative Clusters initiative again this year. Creative Clusters is a Creative Youth and Department of Education initiative led by Education Support Centres Ireland under the Schools Excellence Fund. We will be working alongside Stackallen NS and Slane NS on a creative project to be decided.

Art Project: The school is working with local artist Betty Newman-Maguire to design a piece of sculpture for the school sensory garden. Each class has been given a specific garden lifeform upon which to focus and students will develop their own artwork through drawing, painting, sculpture and poetry. We hope to complete the project in the early months of the New Year.

Drama Club: Following the huge success of “Oliver! Jnr”, we are delighted to announce that the school will be launching a drama club with Ms. Martyn and Sharon Carroll. This will commence on the week of our return after the mid-term break. More details to follow.

Buddy System: September saw the return of our buddy system when our 5th class and 6th class students link up with children from the infant classes for activities such as buddy reading and other fun activities.

Nature Walk: In early October, the infant classes went on an nature walk along the Greenway. The children really enjoyed trying to spot all the different signs of autumn.

Science Week will take place from 12th-19th November. All students will be participating in fun science activities throughout the week. For example, Mr. Byrne’s 3rd Class will be visiting Navan Library for “Dr. Brian’s Funbelievable Science Show” on 15th November.

“Roots of Empathy” Programme: Our 5th Class are currently participating in an evidence based programme called “Roots of Empathy” which is being overseen by Grainne Carroll. This course is aimed at reducing aggression, increasing caring, sharing and inclusion and promoting resilience, well-being and positive mental health. The programme will run for a total of 27 weeks. Last week we enjoyed a visit from baby Lily and her mother Aoife. We look forward to following her development over the coming months as part of this programme.

French lessons: The children started weekly French lessons under the tutelage of Anais Michaud in September and they will conclude next month.

The “Roots of Empathy” Programme



Parent's Association

Parent Representatives: Congratulations to John Finney and Emma Matthews who have been elected as the parent representatives on the school's new Board of Management. Thanks to Ciara McQuaid who has served on the board for the last four years and best of luck to the new board as they start their term.

Coffee Morning: Thanks to all those who attended the "Welcome Back!" coffee morning in the school's new general purpose room in September.

Fundraisers: Please see the adjoining posters for details of forthcoming fundraisers.

Cash 4 Clothes Collection
Monday 6th November
Times 3:15-4:15pm and 7-8:30pm
Scoil Naomh Barra - PE Hall

We are having a collection of used or unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and household textiles for recycling to raise funds for the school. It's a great opportunity to clear out the clutter and help the school at the same time!

Please bag any items from the list below and bring them to the Community Centre at the times above.

Clothes ✓ Shoes (in pairs) ✓ Curtains ✓ Handbags ✓ Belts ✓ Hats ✓ Scarves ✓ Duvet covers ✓ Pillow Cases ✓ Sheets ✓ Soft Toys ✓



All proceeds in aid of Scoil Naomh Barra

SCOIL NAOMH BARRA PARENT ASSOCIATION

Big Money Draw



€1000 MONTHLY CASH PRIZE

6 monthly draws starting in December
The draw is limited to 250 tickets.

2 WAYS TO PLAY:

€20 EACH MONTH BUY A €20 TICKET EACH MONTH TO ENTER EACH OF THE 6 MONTHLY CASH DRAWS FOR €1000

OR

€100 ONE PAYMENT BONUS BUY A €100 TICKET TO BE ENTERED IN 6 MONTHLY DRAWS FOR €1000 EACH MONTH, PLUS 4 BONUS DRAWS FOR €500 IN DECEMBER!

THIS IS A VIRTUAL TICKET EVENT. WHEN YOU PURCHASE YOUR TICKET YOUR NAME WILL BE ADDED TO THE DRAW AND A NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED TO YOU BETWEEN 1-250.

THE DRAWS WILL TAKE PLACE LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR NEW ASTRO TURF PITCH AND BASKETBALL COURTS AND WIN BIG AT THE SAME TIME!



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