

Family Note No. 19 (12th May 2010)

Dear Parents,

Please note the following:

1. **First Holy Communion Ceremony:** Congratulations and well done to all pupils who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 8th May. Special mention of the commitment and attention to detail of the teachers involved: Emily Hunt, Orla MacNamara, John Carroll, Lucy O' Connell and Joanne Doherty supported by the SNAs: Ber Finnucane, Ita McCarthy, Jackie Sheehan and Emma Tobin. Thanks also to the members of the Senior Choir (with conductor, Terry McCarthy) for their valuable and melodious support on the day. Once again, the sun shone to compliment the great work of pupils, staff and parents in preparation for this very special Ceremony. Many thanks again to the volunteers from the Parents and Friends' Association who organised and supervised the post-Communion refreshments in the hall and in the two classrooms. Thanks also to those generous parents who sent in food items: very much appreciated. The congregation at the 11.00 a.m. Mass on the following Sunday morning were also impressed to see so many First Communicants in the Church, singing and praying to their hearts delight! *Maith sibh uilig.*
2. **25th Anniversary Celebrations:**
 - a. As you are aware Scoil Barra is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year (1985-2010). A special Pupil Activity Day is planned for Tuesday, 1st June, when all 493 pupils in the school will be involved in a variety of exciting and entertaining activities throughout the day, both indoors and outdoors. It has been described as 'a sort of large birthday party for the school' being 'a fun day full of 25 min activities'!! The members of the Organising Committee are busy planning for the 'Big Day' and further details will be circulated later.
 - b. Copies of the much-anticipated 25th Anniversary Book (**'Scoil Barra: A Coming of Age'**) will be available for purchase from the Secretary's Office from Tuesday, 1st June (Cost: €15). This promises to be a very special publication, full of brilliant photographs and nostalgic stories, both past and present: a 'must read' for all who have travelled the road with us on Scoil Barra's journey over the past 25 years.
3. **Summer School Uniform:** Now that the summer is upon us, pupils will again be allowed to wear the school Polo Shirt (instead of the shirt and tie) for the remainder of the school year.

4. **Staff Meeting:** The last Staff Meeting of the year is scheduled for Friday, 4th June. All pupils will finish school at 12 noon on that day.
5. **Manchester Tour:** Best wishes to the Sixth Class pupils and the accompanying group of teachers as they prepare for their Tour to Manchester this week: departing Wed. 19th and returning on Saturday night, 22nd May. Once again, the lure of Alton Towers, Anfield, Knowsley Park and the Trafford Centre has proved too great to resist: hopefully all goes well and we will return ‘safe and sound’ as per the past 13 years of Manchester Tours.
6. **Books Sales Day: Thursday, 10th June:**
Book Lists for the next school year will be circulated to all parents later this month. *The annual ‘Books Sales Day’ is scheduled for Thursday, 10th June, when parents will have a once-off opportunity to pay for all Book List Charges and to purchase all workbooks, stationery, etc required for the next school year (Approx. cost €90-€120 depending on the Class Level).* Please ensure that you plan ahead for this opportunity to purchase/pay for all items listed on the Book Lists. Alternatively, if you yourself cannot attend on the day, you should make arrangements to have some other adult present who can do the necessary purchasing/paying for you.
7. **Information Meeting for Parents of next year’s Junior Infants:** An Information Meeting for parents of next year’s Junior Infants will take place on Thursday night, 27th May, in the School Hall at 7.30 p.m.
8. **‘City Sports’: Friday, 11th June:** We have been advised that the annual ‘Cork City and County Primary Schools Sports’ will take place in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Friday, 11th June. The athletes are getting ready for the fray once more! Further details later for those selected to compete.
9. **Scoil Barra School Sports’ Days: Wednesday, 16th June:** Because of a clash with the date for the ‘City Sports’, our own School Sports’ Day is re-scheduled for Wednesday, 16th June. Please note change from that indicated on the 25th Anniversary Calendar completed earlier in this school year.
10. **Sporting Round-Up:** ‘Top Spot’ this time around goes to our female sports-stars as the Girls’ Soccer Team emerged as County Champions in the FAI Schools’ Soccer Competition and the Camógie team have qualified for the Final of the Sciath na Scol Competition: a fantastic double. Please see overleaf for further details of all the ‘Sporting Matters’.
11. **School Extension:** Thankfully, the Extension is finally completed and we are really delighted with the finished product. Visitors to the school should use the new Entrance to gain access to the school. Please note that the Secretary’s Office is not ‘womanned’ from 11.10 -11.30 a.m. approx. and from 1.25 – 1.45 approx. as Eileen takes her breaks at that time. p.t.o.

Sporting Matters: Term 3.

Since our return from the Easter Holidays, there has been a plethora of sporting activities keeping us busy and entertained. Well done to all the players and their coaches on displaying great commitment and enthusiasm in the different codes. A brief summary reads as follows:

- a. ***Camógie News:*** Congratulations to the Camógie team on qualifying for their Final of the Sciath na Scol competition. A potential double is now on the cards in this our 25th Anniversary Year! The girls played with flair and determination to record great wins over Kilbrittan, Passage West, Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin and Faranree, to set up a mouth-watering final against Ballinspittle, most likely in the first week of June: a very impressive achievement by any standards! Best wishes to the players and coaches as they go in search of glory: Ms. Smyth, Ms. Coffey and Mr. Ó Súilleabháin sense a surprise in the offing!
- b. ***Girls' Soccer:*** Congrats to the Girls' Soccer Team on qualifying as Cork Champions to contest the Munster Section of the FAI Schools' Soccer Competition in Waterford on Wednesday, 12th May: a marvellous achievement. Having come out on top in Cork, the girls were unlucky to suffer two narrow defeats in Waterford but Mr. Dwyer, Ms. Galvin and all the players should of course feel very proud of their achievements: it's not every day that a school qualifies as County Champions!
- c. ***Boys' Soccer:*** Congratulations to the boys who recorded wins against Blarney and Clonakilty, and drew with Glasheen, to win their qualifying group and qualify for the County Finals at Turners' Cross. There, a draw with the North Mon., a win against Glasheen and a loss to St. Anthony's B.N.S. meant our lads had to be satisfied with finishing as 'Runners-Up' in the County. Nevertheless, a great achievement according to the coaches, Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Carroll, in a competition of a very high standard.
- d. ***Sciath na Scol Hurling:*** Congrats and well done also to our hurlers who competed so gallantly in their Sciath na Scol competition. The boys had a great win against Gaelscoil Carraig Uí Riada but suffered defeats to Blarney, Gaelscoil Carraig Uí Laighean, Kilbrittan and Brooklodge. A tough campaign but Mr. Murphy and Mr. Carroll, assisted by parent Liam Murray, are confident of better days ahead for the pupils in Fourth and Fifth classes next year.
- e. ***Rugby:*** Well done also to the boys and girls who competed in the Tag Rugby competition. Fun and skill development was the focus of the day and that was achieved 'in buckets' according to the coaches, Ms. Doherty, Ms. Lehane, Ms. Clifford and Rose Derham.

Donal O' Sullivan, Principal.

