

FAMILY NOTE NO. 24 (24th June 2010)

Dear Parents,

As the end of yet another year approaches we are busy sorting out the many end-of-year tasks that arise and making some preparations for a fresh start on 1st September. It is that time also when we look back at what was once again a very busy, exciting and successful year for all of us who work, learn and share our lives within Scoil Barra. We feel Scoil Barra's 25th Anniversary year has been celebrated in style and a fitting tribute has been paid to all who have helped in so many ways since 1985 to make Scoil Barra the special place we believe it to be. To all the teachers, other members of staff, the Board of Management, the Parents and Friends Association, you the parents and your children - our pupils, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the great work, support and encouragement which was so obvious to me throughout the year.

1. Cork City and County Primary School Sports: Congratulations and well done to the members of the Scoil Barra Athletics Teams on their enthusiastic participation and success at yesterday's 'City Sports'. Mr. Murphy, Athletics Coach, and all other Staff members were very proud of the efforts of all the runners. A fine haul of medals and trophies made the journey back to school this morning. *Maith sibh uilig.*

2. Personal Belongings: Parents are asked to remind their child(ren) to bring home from the classrooms all of their various 'personal belongings' including toilet bags, lunch boxes, coats, hats, etc. As the traditional summer clean up gets under way next week, any items not taken home are in danger of ending up in the bin!

3. Uniform: A very large attendance at the Uniform Sales Event on last Wednesday, 16th June, indicated that the opportunity provided was appreciated by the parent body. A few items you might wish to note regarding uniform:

- As notified in June 2009, and following requests from parents and staff members, the Board of Management has directed that from Sept. 2010 **grey** socks/tights for girls will become the official uniform standard (i.e. white socks or navy tights no longer acceptable from Sept. 2010).
- **High/Large Heels Policy:** As advised previously, the number of accidents and injuries occurring to pupils as a direct result of the wearing of high and/or large heels was a cause of concern to the Board of Management in the past. The Board developed a school policy in this regard and the wearing of shoes with heels greater than half an inch in height (13mm. approx.) was prohibited in Scoil Barra with effect from the 1st September 2005. I am glad to report that this policy has met with great support and success since then resulting in a marked decrease in the number of injuries sustained by pupils such as twisted ankles, torn ligaments etc. Please understand again that the decision of the Board of Management in this regard was governed by its concern for the health and safety of the pupils attending the school. It is now opportune to remind parents again of this policy ahead of the purchase of 'new' school shoes in readiness for next September. Please do not allow your child's wish for 'high fashion' to govern your purchase of school shoes during the summer! Pupils wearing high/large heeled shoes in September will be required to replace them. (Please note that shoes without heel supports ('mules') do not provide good support for children's feet and should also be avoided).
- **Girls' Trousers:** A reminder to all parents that girls have the option of wearing grey trousers rather than the grey pleated skirt/pinafore as part of the school uniform (please note that the skirt should be pleated and of **mid-grey colour**). Following consultation with parents, pupils, staff and Board of Management members a few years ago, it was agreed that the girls' trousers should be sourced from one outlet only to ensure uniformity in style and colour. **Parents are again reminded that the girls' trousers should only be purchased from Mick Murphy's Store on Nth. Main St.**

4. New School Year:

All pupils (except the new Junior Infants) will return to school on Wednesday, 1st September. In an effort to streamline the return to school, pupils in all classes from First to Sixth classes should go to the Senior Yard (at the back of the school) on Wednesday, at 9.00 a.m. They will line up there as normal with the rest of their classmates and be taken by their teacher to their 'new' classroom, thus repeating the process as per last September. On the 1st September, the 'new' Senior Infants (currently Junior Infants) should gather on the Infants Yard (as they do presently). Both Junior and Senior Infants will again be located on the same corridor next year (near the Staff Room area).

Wednesday, 2nd September : 10.00 a.m. New Junior Infants – (finishing at 12 noon)

5. School Closures 2010-2011:

In order to assist with your long-term planning, please note the general outline of the next school year, insofar as it is available to us at this time.

Day(s)/Date(s)	Event	Time
Wednesday, 1 st Sept.	<i>All pupils (except for Junior Infants) return to school.</i>	9.00 a.m.
Thursday, 2 nd September	<i>'New' Junior Infants start</i>	10.00 a.m. (home at 12 noon)
Mon. 25 th Oct.-Fri. 29 th Oct.	<i>Mid-Term Break</i>	School Closed
Thursday, 23 rd Dec.	<i>School Closes for Christmas Holidays</i>	12 noon
Monday, 10 th Jan. 2011	<i>Pupils return to school</i>	9.00 a.m.
Mon. 21 st –Fri. 25 th Feb.	<i>Mid-Term Break</i>	School Closed
Thursday, 17 th March	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	School Closed
Friday, 18 th March	<i>School Holiday</i>	School Closed
Fri. 15 th April	<i>School Closes for Easter Holidays</i>	12 noon
Tues. 3 rd May	<i>Pupils return to School</i>	9.00 a.m.
Mon. 6 th June	<i>Public Holiday</i>	School Closed
Wednesday, 30 th June	<i>School Closes for Summer Holidays</i>	12 noon

6. Copies of the 25th Anniversary Book ('Scoil Barra: A Coming of Age') continue to be available for purchase (Cost: €15) from the Secretary's Office, Ballincollig Post Office, The Plaza Restaurant and Downs' & Quishes' Super Valu: A really great read for anyone who wants to reflect on the past 25th years of Scoil Barra.

I hope the children have a very enjoyable, safe and restful Summer. See you all on Wednesday, 1st Sept., P.G. (apart from the 'new' Junior Infants who will join us on Thursday, 2nd Sept. at 10.00 a.m.)

Please note that school finishes on Wednesday next, 30th June, at 12 noon for all pupils. Junior and Senior Infants may be collected at 11.50 a.m. (Tuesday next is the final day of milk delivery for this year).

Donal O' Sullivan P.O.

P.S. PLEASE RETAIN THIS NOTE FOR SEPTEMBER: *It may help to reduce the number of queries at the end of August! All Family Notes are also posted on the school website: www.scoilbarra.ie The School Calendar of Events and Dates is also posted on the school website.*

