

Family Note No. 13 to Parents – 8th April 2019

Dear Parents,

It is with great sadness and disbelief that we acknowledge the tragic death of one of our past pupils, Noel O'Connell who, along with his siblings, attended Scoil Barra in the 1980s and 1990s. Noel and his wife Marguerite are also parents in the school at present of pupils Fionn in Second Class, Laura in Senior Infants and Áine in Junior Infants. Our hearts go out to his family, his parents, siblings and friends.

We fondly remember Noel as the bright and funny 'Doorman' who greeted Dorothy and her entourage at the Gates to the Emerald City in the School Musical '*The Wiz*' in 1990. We also remember Noel for his love of challenges. He continued to embrace life to the full throughout his adult life. Only hours before his death, he completed a triathlon in Co. Wicklow and was captured on camera with his hands in the air, medal around his neck, and an exuberant smile on his face for having succeeded in yet another challenge.

This morning, at our Senior Assembly, the staff and children, united in song and fond memories, prayed for Noel, his wife Marguerite, his children Fionn, Laura, Áine and Chloe, Noel's parents, siblings and friends. At tomorrow's Junior Assembly, we will do the same in the hope that our prayers will provide some comfort and support for his family and friends at this terribly sad time. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

Regarding this Friday, 12th April 2019:

- The pupils, in keeping with custom and tradition, **will finish school at 12 p.m. this Friday** to mark the end of this school term and the start of the Easter Holidays.
- To alleviate traffic congestion, given that all pupils are finishing at the same time, **Junior and Senior Infants may be collected from 11.50 a.m. onwards.**
- Children will return to school at 9 o'clock on Monday, 29th April 2019.
- The PFA (Parents and Friends Association) are holding a '**No Uniform Day**' on Friday as a fundraiser for the school. **The children pay €2 to wear their own clothes.** (**€5 for a family** who have more than 2 children in the school). The PFA will also raffle 2 Easter Eggs per class on the day. Once again, we appreciate the momentous work taken on by the PFA, it is endless....but, hopefully, not thankless!

Well done to our **School Hurling and Camogie Teams** who have been fighting gallantly over the past few weeks in the Sciath na Scol Competition. We have had some losses and some triumphs but, overall, the children have done us proud with their positive attitude and fighting spirit. Likewise with our **Fifth and Sixth Class Basketball players** who represented the school in a local Basketball Blitz held in BCS, and likewise with our **Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams** who took part in a soccer blitz each in the past fortnight. Both soccer and basketball blitz teams had great fun, developed great skills in the process and did us proud. The **Girls' Camogie Team have made it to the semi-final** next Wednesday, 17th April, against the Gael Scoil in Douglas...*go néirí an t-ádh leo!* Much appreciation is due to all teachers who constantly give of their time to train teams and accompany them to matches both during and after school time.

This Family Note marks the first electronic memo to be sent from the school. Over the next few weeks, there may be memos sent to the parents of particular classes as opposed to the whole parent body. This system will allow us to send notes more frequently and notes that may be short as reminders etc. To notify parents that a memo has been sent by email, the children will have it noted in their Homework journals on the day. **Please continue to check your child's journal every night from Monday to Thursday** in order to oversee that written work is completed, to check learning and reading work and to check for notification of school emails. Please continue to sign your child's journal each night to indicate to the school that journals and homework have been seen and checked.

It has been a very busy term both at home and at school for parents, pupils and staff alike. Enjoy the Easter Holidays, the break from routine and hopefully, there will be opportunity to get plenty of fresh air to recharge the batteries before we return and launch into the last term of the school year....hard to believe!

Karen O'Sullivan (Principal)