



Family Note No. 3 – 1st October 2019

Dear Parents,

Below are two important notices and then....Nature Trek Matters!

- **Reminder: Meeting for Parents of Junior Infants in the School Hall tomorrow night, Wednesday, 2nd October** at 7.30 p.m. This meeting covers all areas of the Junior infant Curriculum and suggests ways in which you can help your child as they start on their Primary School journey of learning.
- **Uniform: Now that we are into October, the children wear full uniform with proper dark shoes** that keep their feet warm and dry as we head into colder and wetter weather. Hooded jackets/coats should be worn coming to school or rainmacs. There is nothing worse for a child than to have to sit in class wet for the day because they have not worn a rainproof jacket/mac or not worn proper shoes that keep their feet dry. We are always going to have rain in Ireland...we just need to dress for it!

It is that time of year again....Nature Trek time!!

We are hoping that weather will not act against us and that we can enjoy our annual walk in the lovely Regional Park this Friday, 4th October....fingers crossed!

As we are working an email system now, we should be able to keep you abreast of decisions regarding the walk, given that bad weather is predicted for Thursday and Saturday, somebody is keeping Friday dry for us, we hope!

For now, the children need to come prepared by bringing wellies and raincoats as they always have done. These need to be brought in a separate plastic bag so they can change out of them when they get back to the school after the walk.

We will email parents the evening before with a tentative plan, depending on what the forecast is. If the plan on Thursday evening is to go ahead, and the weather is looking very 'dodgy' on Friday morning, we will email parents around 10.00 a.m. approximately on Friday morning with a definite decision.

If the weather is very bad on Friday and we cannot go for our walk, we will go ahead with our guest speakers in the hall and classrooms, and the party after lunchtime, so as not to disappoint the children. Then the following week, each teacher will bring their class on a walk at a time of their choosing to fulfill our obligations of the sponsored walk whereby people have sponsored us to do so.

This year, we are having some Basketball Stars to open our Nature Trek and address the children. We hope to have a party of three:

- **Andre Nation:** Ballincollig Tradehouse Central National League Basketball Team's American All-Star Professional Player who is back with the team again this year.
- **Daniel O'Sullivan:** Past Pupil of Scoil Barra, PE/Maths Teacher in BCS - represented Scoil Barra, BCS, Ballincollig, Cork, Munster and Ireland as a player. Daniel also played with Blue Demons' Super League Team and is presently on Ballincollig Tradehouse National League Team also.
- **Ciarán O'Sullivan:** Basketball Development Officer with Cork Sports Partnership - represented Gaelscoil Uí Riordán, Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig, Cork, Munster and Ireland as a player. Ciarán also played on Blue Demons' Super League Team and is the current player/coach of Ballincollig Tradehouse Central National League Basketball Team.

The following is our timetable for the day:

10.10 -11.30 a.m.	Basketball Celebrities meet Infants to First Classes
11.30 a.m.	Infant Classes start on their walk, First Classes follow behind
11.30 a.m.	Basketball Celebrities meet 2 nd - 6 th Classes in the hall
12.00 p.m.	2nd - 6th Classes start out on their walk

*****[Pupils go home at the usual times.](#)**

All parents are welcome to meet in the hall for tea/coffee & biscuits after the walk:

..... compliments of the Parents & Friends Association (PFA) who will be organising same. Once again, we express our sincere gratitude to those volunteers on the PFA who give their time to help out on occasions such as this. It was very heartening at the first PFA meeting of this school year a fortnight ago to see some new faces joining the group. Again, if you would like to help out with any aspect of the Nature Trek without giving full commitments, please email Vera, our Chairperson, at scoilbarrapfa@gmail.com. 'Manning' certain points of the walk that may need supervision is always a job to be done if anyone is interested and available.

We would be delighted if as many parents/family members as possible would accompany us on the Walk, especially the parents/family members of the younger children.

Children wear their tracksuits and polo shirts on the day with a raincoat and old runners/wellington boots:

When they return to school they should remove their boots/wellingtons at the door and put them in a bag. It may be wise to give your child an additional pair of socks to change into for when we return from the Park. If parents of Junior/Senior Infants are available to help the teachers with getting the children ready beforehand or more importantly with removing boots and tying laces afterwards, please let the Class Teacher know in advance. **Raingear is essential as we will be undertaking the Trek unless conditions become extreme!**

*****[School Bags must be brought to school on Friday morning.](#)**

We will have our usual post-trek party on Friday (even if the walk doesn't go ahead!):

Please give your child some treats for the party which can be shared among their classmates on their return to the classroom. Traditionally, the school provided water and plastic cups. However, in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, we will not be providing plastic cups this year. The children all have their own water bottles at this stage, so please ensure that your child has their water bottle filled with water coming to school as a drink.

Thank you for your continued efforts with the fundraising:

If your child is going from door-to-door, please make sure they are safe and accompanied. Encourage the children to collect their money as soon as possible and return it to the school. Again it is understandable that some families may not have money to return to the school but it is **vital and a legal requirement that all Sponsorship Cards are returned, especially if they are empty.**

Please do not send money in on the day of the Trek as the organisation involved would not allow for proper recording.

We would appreciate it if all Nature Trek Cards could be returned to the school on/before Friday, 18th Oct.

While we love dogs:

..... please avoid bringing them along on the day as they can get a little excited and some children become anxious when this happens.

We are keeping fingers crossed for Friday's weather and looking forward to all the fun and positivity that goes with the occasion!

Karen O'Sullivan (Principal) & Orla Lande (Nature Trek Co-ordinator)

