

SCHOOL BROCHURE



LEABHRÁN

Scoil na mBuachaillí, Cloich na Coillte

Factsheet

INTRODUCTION

Scoil na mBuachaillí is an nineteen teacher Boys' National School situated in Clonakilty with over 290 pupils. The staff comprises of an administrative principal, deputy principal, 5 special duties' teachers, 6 assistant teachers and 5 full-time resource teachers. We are also fortunate to share the services of a shared Resource teacher, a part-time Resource Teacher, 2 full time language support teachers who work with non English speaking children and 8 Special Needs Assistants.

We have a full time secretary and a caretaker.

Scoil na mBuachaillí was formed when Clonakilty Boys' Senior School amalgamated with St. Joseph's Boys Infant School in September 1995. The schools which have a long and proud tradition in educating boys in the Clonakilty area, have moved into their new building in O'Rahilly Street in March 2000.

Since then the school has been extended on 4 occasions - the most recent extension is almost completed.

Scoil na mBuachaillí has a very active, committed and supportive Parents' Association. New members are always welcome.



WHAT CAN SCOIL NA MBUACHAILLÍ OFFER YOUR CHILD



- A very committed, talented and hard working staff.
- A friendly and supportive atmosphere.
- Teamwork: the staff plan and review together curricular and organisational areas regularly to ensure the highest standard of education for your child.
- Informal Open Door Policy: Parents are regularly kept informed on what is happening in the school. A bulletin (called **LINKS**) is circulated regularly and relevant policy documents are sent to all the parents in the school e.g. Code of Discipline, Anti - Bullying Policy, Homework Policy, Healthy Lunch Policy, Mission Statement, Safety Statement, Acceptable Use Policy, Substance Use Policy, RSE Policy, SPHE Policy etc.
- A Positive and Consistent Attitude to Discipline: A Code of Discipline has been drawn up which has Self-Discipline as its primary objective.
- High level of student involvement: e.g. refereeing matches, litter wardens, Road Safety Wardens, DIY, recycling etc.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities - listed on the following pages.

MISSION STATEMENT

1. Scoil na mBuachaillí, Cloich na Coillte has a Catholic Ethos, promotes Irish language and culture, is caring-centred and respects different colours, creeds and intellect.
2. Every pupil is encouraged to achieve his full potential – socially, personally and intellectually – in a happy, secure learning environment.
3. The discipline in our school encourages and fosters respect and self-esteem among the pupils.
4. We endeavour to develop supportive and open communication among pupils, teachers, parents, Board of Management and the community.
5. We aim to have a staff that will continue to be committed, progressive and creative.

Extra-Curricular Activities

ORIENTEERING
Scoil na mBuachaillí entered the Cork School's Primary Orienteering Competition for the first time in 1996 and won! The School then went on to win the All-Ireland Schools' Orienteering Competition. In 1998 we came second in the All-Ireland Finals and Jason Lynch (a sixth class pupil) was the All-Ireland Individual Champion. In 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 we won the All-Ireland Competition.



Orienteering is a very exciting sport, which teaches the children the mechanics of map reading in a very practical way. Children now have the opportunity to continue their interest in Orienteering when they go to the Community College.

BASKETBALL
The Basketball Club was set up in *Scoil na mBuachaillí* in 1996 and since then it has gone from strength to strength. The school has a full size basketball court. Training and competitions are run throughout the school year. These activities take place outside of school hours and are currently available to children in 5th and 6th.



Basketball league in progress

CHESS

Scoll na mBuachaillí has a very active and successful

Chess Club which meets every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, from October to Easter.

The yearly league is always very exciting. The Chess Club travels to neighbouring schools and to Cork City from time to time.

In 1998 we joined the **Cork City Chess League**, for the first time and won the competition outright.

In 2000 we won the Cork City Chess League for the second time. In 2001 we came third in Division 2A. In 2003 despite having gone up a division - division 2B, we won ! In 2004 we won Division 2 again!

In 2005 we came second in Division 1 and in 2006 we came 3rd in



2010 A Team in Cork

Division 2. In 2008 we won Division 2, and again in 2009. Last year we came third.

As is the case with Orienteering, boys can now continue with Chess in the Community College.

SOCCER

Soccer Leagues are organised for the children during the Lunch Time Breaks throughout the school year.

Children from Senior Infants to Sixth Class participate in these leagues. Local businesses sponsor trophies and medals for the competitions.

We now have 4 Soccer Courts - one for the Senior Section, 2 for Rang 1 agus Rang 2 and 1 for Senior Infants.

The Senior boys are in-



Children's Team 2010

volved in organising and refereeing the games. John Caulfield, Anthony Davis, Damien Richardson or other personalities present the medals and the Cup at the end of the year.



Gaelic Competition on grass

GAELIC GAMES Training for the upcoming **Sciath na Scol** competitions start in the Autumn term each year. The overall aim of the competition is to involve as many children as possible in Gaelic Games; participation is its primary objective. Every year **Scoil na mBuachaillí enters** a team in the competition and parents help to bring children to and from matches.



2010/2011 Sciath na Scol team

In 1997 and 1999 we reached the final. In 2001 and 2004 we won the competition outright - defeating Skibbreen in the final.

In 2007 we joined the Cork Sciath na Scol competition and we reached the final in Páirc Uí Rinn and Páirc Uí Chaoimh in 2007 and 2008.

Last school year, November 2009 we won the final!



2010 Victorious Sciath na Scol team

James O'Donovan (employed by the local G.A.A. Club) visits the school every Wednesday

to coach the boys in hurling and football.

RUGBY
Kevin O'Regan (employed by the local Rugby Club) visits the school regularly to coach the boys in rugby.



COMPUTERS
At present the school has over **30** computers, equipped with CD-ROM and DVD drives. This means that there are more than one



in most classrooms - in fact in the senior classes we have **five computers in each room!** Recently we were awarded the Digital Schools Award - an acknowledgement of the work we do in Information Technology in our school.

We now also have Interactive Whiteboards in all our classrooms!

We have an extensive CD-ROM collection which is updated regularly. We also have scanners and Digital Cameras, Digital Video Camera, CD and DVD Writers and Digital Projector. The entire school is networked, with over 50 points connected to the Internet. In the Senior Classes children undergo a Word Processing Course and also work with Multi-Media Authoring Software.

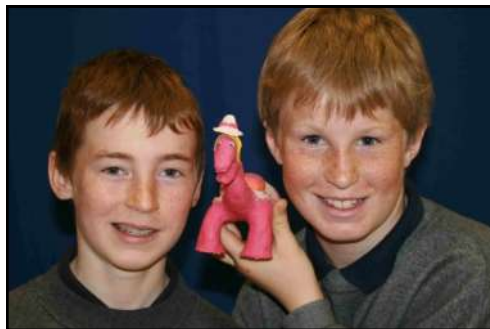
Since 2000 we have been chosen to participate in a **Special Integration Project**. The project involves classes 4th to sixth and the children will create multimedia projects throughout the year. Samples of the boys' work have been sent to England, Scotland and Brussels. The senior boys are currently working on creating their own CD ROMs. A few years ago the school was chosen as **School of the Month** in **PCLive!** Magazine.

Our school also featured extensively in the new Curriculum in IT. Last year we produced a CD ROM “A Stroll through Clonakilty’s Past” for the Department of Education and Science.

In 1997/1998 local businesses sponsored 7 computers for the school. The Minister for Education and Science Mr. Micheál Martin T.D. attended the Press Reception held to honour the businesses. The networking in the school was primarily sponsored by the **Parents’ Association**. The school has its own Web Site <http://www.snbclonakilty.com> - which is updated regularly.

CINEMATOGRAPHY AND VIDEOING

The children in the senior class have made a video of school activities and have also videoed material for their CD ROM. As part of their work in Rang 6 they now edit and render digital video using a Video-editing package. Two years ago we were chosen to participate in the a new



initiative - the Fís Project - which involved the boys in making their own films. These were shown in Clonakilty Park Cinema land at the Helix Theatre in Dublin.

The fifth class film “Mr. Swindler” won Best Song / Music Award and the sixth class film “Jack’s Revenge” won Best Comedy at the Helix Theatre.

“Jack’s Revenge” also won the Best Film Made in Cork in 2007.

“Curious George” won Best Animation at the Helix in October 2008.

REPORTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

The school publishes an annual Christmas Magazine, produced entirely by the pupils. The pupils interview local and national celebrities, write articles, take photographs, draw pictures and make up cross-words and puzzles.



Preparation begins in late autumn. The senior pupils use the school computers to put the magazine together. It goes on sale on December 8th and is sold out within a few days.

QUIZZES

Children from 3rd to 6th class are involved in a Quiz Competition from October to June. It takes place every Thursday at break time and the final is played in front of the entire Senior Section.

There is tremendous interest in the competition and prizes are sponsored by the Parents' Association.

Mr. O'Brien also brings the boys in Rang 5 and Rang 6 to the Credit Union Quiz Competition in Fernhill House Hotel every year. This year our team came second!



MUSIC

Many of our staff are musically talented, playing both guitar and keyboard. Some of the junior and senior pupils learn to play the tin-whistle to a very high standard. The school has recently purchased a large set of percussion instruments with the support of the Parents' Association.

We have also purchased a 24-channel mixer and P.A. system with microphones, stands etc and a smaller P.A. for the boys to practice for the band competition. Two years we purchased a 16 Track Studio to encourage the boys to write their own songs, record them and then hopefully in the future sell them in the local Record shop.

We have also arranged for Kay O'Flynn to come

to the school on Tuesdays to teach musical instruments to the children.



Anthony Noonan teaches drums to the boys every Friday. Gerard Condon from the Community College visits the school every Monday and teaches the children brass instruments - it is proving to be very popular. The boys in sixth class can continue their lessons with Gerard in the Community College.

Two years with the aid of the Parents we built a Music Room which is now used throughout the week.



CREATIVE DRAMA

The school puts on a Christmas Concert every year, with every class from Infants to 6th class participating.

In June 2000, for the very first time the Senior Section of the school produced a school musical with over 65 participating. The children are involved in all aspects of the production - acting, chorus, backstage, lighting, sound etc. The backstage crew helped to construct the new stage.

In June 2008 we produced our fifth musical with boys from 3rd to 6th participating. Last year in June 2010, we produced Macbeth - The Musical - see photos above.

D.I.Y.

Each year the fifth and sixth class pupils learn D.I.Y. skills and use these skills in the school environment e.g. painting, woodwork, tiling etc. These boys are also part of the backstage crew.

ART AND CRAFTS
Each classroom is stocked with every sort of artistic material. We have developed a Visual Arts' Policy for the school and purchased material that will allow the children to work creatively with not only paints but with clay, wood and 3 dimensional objects. From time to time visiting artists come to the school and work with the children.



In line with our new policy artists are encouraged to use the school to display work.. Many parents and friends have donated paintings to the school and these are hanging in the corridors.

We also purchased a kiln and the boys throughout the school now make their own pottery and stained glass.

SWIMMING

Every year the children from 1st to 6th go to the local swimming pool for swimming lessons.

FRENCH CLASSES

Every week the boys in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes are taught French. It is proving to be extremely popular.

SCHOOL GARDEN

Mr. Pat Collins and the boys in fifth class have created a marvellous school garden - growing strawberries, potatoes, leeks, pumpkins, lettuces, onions, carrots etc. The **Evening Echo** newspaper interviewed the class for their gardening supplement.

Last year Ms. O'Brien (Rang 5 teacher) has taken over the garden and purchased



a glasshouse last year.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Last year, thanks to the very hard work by Ms. O'Regan and the Green Schools' Committee we were awarded the Green Flag.

SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY

We are at present building up our stock of Science Equipment. Thanks to the Parents' Association and the Department of Education and Science we have purchased a large amount of equipment in line with our new policy. We have microscopes, switches, batteries, magnets, plastic bodies etc etc. We have also a good selection of Science Resource books.

In December 2001 the boys in sixth class raised money to purchase a state of the art new telescope and occasionally the boys come in at night to view the stars and planets.

Each year with teacher Mr. O'Brien, they take many photos of the moon and Saturn with a laptop and camera.



ELOCUTION

In autumn 2002, elocution was introduced into the school for all children - Junior Infants to sixth class. Mrs. Irene Walsh is the teacher and gives the boys the opportunity to do exams on a voluntary basis if they wish.

JUNIOR WARDENS

A Junior Warden Scheme is in operation in the Senior Section of the school. All the wardens come from fifth and sixth classes.

Each day at lunch time and at 3.00 p.m. the wardens stop the traffic and allow the children to cross the road in safety. Mr. Michael Harte (Special Duties Teacher) has responsibility for the Warden Team.



SURFING

Last year the boys in Rang 6 took surfing lessons on Inchydoney Beach for the first time. At present they are going every Friday.



KAYAKING

This year the boys in Rang 5 are going Kayaking to Lough Hyne.

LITERACY LIFT OFF

In the past 3 years the school and Parents' Association have invested almost €15,000 into the Literacy Lift Off reading programme. It has proved to be very successful and it has been extended to Rang 4 this school year and next year to Rang 6.



CD ROMS AND DVDS

At present, thanks to the support of the Parents' Association we are building a stock of Educational DVDs and CD Roms to suit children from Junior Infants to sixth class.

P.E.

Due to the fact that there is huge involvement in Physical activities in the school, we are very well resourced in this area. We have four soccer/football pitches (in the school yards), one full size basketball court/volleyball court, footballs, basketballs, skipping ropes, bean bags, coaching cones, training bibs, climbing frames, large Connect Four, Jenga, Uni-Hoc, parachute etc. A football pitch (grass area) is also on the campus.

SCHOOL SHOP

We have a School Shop stocked with copies, pens, rulers etc.

RENTAL SCHEME

Scoil na mBuachaillí has a Rental Scheme in operation for all classes from 1st to 6th. It started in 1996 and has already helped to reduce the cost of school books dramatically.

SAVING STAMPS

A Saving Stamp Scheme is in operation throughout the school. The price of a stamp is €1, which is collected every Friday morning.

This scheme, with your support, encourages your child to save from an early age. Children could use this scheme for example to save for their School Tour or Surfing Lessons..

TELEPHONE NUMBER/FAX/E-MAIL/WEBSITE

The school telephone number is - 023 8834487. This number also doubles as a Fax Number. The school's E-Mail Address is **snbclonakilty.ias@eircom.net**.

The school website is <http://www.snbclonakilty.com>

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform consists of a navy jumper, grey trousers, grey shirt and tie. This can be purchased in **Cash's** on Rossa Street.

Tracksuits are part of the school uniform for all classes and can be purchased in **Tara's (near the monument)**. It is School Policy that the school uniform is worn every day except on 'games' day, when the school tracksuit should be worn.

SCHOOL HOURS

Although the gate is open before 9.00 am, this is done solely to avoid having the children in danger near the main road.

Supervision in the school yard begins at 9.00 am.

Classes commence each day at 9.10 am sharp.

Classes end each day at-

2.00 pm [Junior and Senior Infants]

3.00 pm [1st- 6th]

Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school.

To meet insurance requirements, no pupil is allowed to remain on in school or school premises after 3.00 pm, unless supervised by a teacher or for extra-curricular activities. Because of this we ask that all pupils are collected promptly after school.

In the case of children travelling by school bus, the school cannot accept

responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school, or from the school to the bus. Parents who feel that their children need to be escorted on these occasions should make their own arrangements to ensure that some escort is provided. The school bus collects the children in the school grounds.

NOTES

- On your child's return to school after an absence please send an **explanatory note**.
- Children **will not be allowed** to leave the school premises during the school day unless they bring a note with them or are accompanied by a parent. Please collect pupils from their classrooms.
- In the case of the doctor or dentist a note is also necessary. An appointment card **will not** suffice.
- **All notices relating to school have to be signed.** This is to ensure that all notices have been seen at home. Please check your child's bag regularly for school notices.
- If children are sick, they will be permitted to stay in at Lunch Break **only** if they bring a note. It will not always be possible to provide supervision.

LINKS

Each month children are given / emailed a newsletter - called Links. Many parents now receive the Links by email as a pdf file.

LUNCH BREAK

Children who do not go home for Lunch **are not allowed to leave the school premises**. This includes visits to local shops.

ROAD SAFETY

We ask for your co-operation in this matter, especially at 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm, when there are many cars outside the school waiting to pick children up. Please encourage your child to be careful, especially if he has to cross the road to be collected or walks home.

Parents who collect children: please do not park on the double yellow lines outside the school as it restricts vision and is liable to cause an accident.

PPS NUMBERS

The telephone number for obtaining your child's PPS Number is 023 8821900.

WHAT TO BRING ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL? **(FOR CHILDREN IN JUNIOR INFANTS)**

First Day

- Children will go home at **11.30a.m. for the 2 days of school i.e. Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd.** On Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th the boys will go home at **12.00p.m.** From then on the time will be **2.00p.m.**
- **On the first day** of school in September children and parents should go straight in the main front door (by the playground) and go to the Junior Infant Classroom.
- **Please note:** the O’Rahilly Street door is not to be used by parents. It will be locked throughout the day. On wet days **please collect your child from the foyer** - near Thelma’s Office. Please wait here and your child will be brought to you.

Collecting your child:

- On September 1st and 2nd please collect children from the classroom. After that the children should be **collected from the Junior Yard** (near O’Rahilly Street) each day, except on wet days - see above. Boys will be told to tell and show the teacher the person who is collecting him.
- Please ensure that you are in time to collect your son as delays may cause him to worry. Also, make sure that he knows who is going to collect him.
- If your child is being collected by a **different person** than usually collects him - please send a **note** to your child’s teacher that morning - to avoid confusion and upset. The same applies if your child is being collected during the school day.

First Day

- The only thing that your child will need is a light healthy lunch (see Healthy Lunch Policy).
- Refreshments will be provided for parents in the Staff Room after you drop off your child.
- If you have any questions **do not hesitate to contact the school** at any time.
- **Before bringing your son** to school please explain to him what will happen re: teacher, other children, sitting down, lunches and so on. This will help ease any fears that your son may have. If possible ask older brothers and sisters to talk about school in a positive way.
- Please send in a small box clearly labeled with your child’s name for words, an old t-shirt for painting and a spare underpants during the first month.

Books

- We will write to all parents during early **July** outlining all of the above again and we will also send you your child’s **booklist** so that you will be able to get everything ready for September in good time.
- **PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHES**, in particular those that are likely to be removed i.e. coats, hats jumpers, gloves and scarves. Labels can be purchased in Cash’s. These really are essential as similar items are often impossible to distinguish between.
- There will be an information meeting for new parents in **October**.
- There is no need for the boys to bring in toys to the school, with the exception of dinkies, which the boys use to play with the car park area in the playground.
- Please keep an eye on our school website and download our Links each month. It will keep you informed of all that is going on in the school.

Sciath na Scol Football Team 2010



Christmas Pageant - December 2010



Orienteering - February 2011



Santa visits Scoil na mBuachaillí - December 2010



Pottery making - January 2011











Cooking - October 2010

















Scoil na mBuachaillí

says **go raibh maith agat** to our

Information Technology sponsors-

-  EuroSpar Shop
-  Collins, Brooks and Associates
-  Shannonvale Foods Ltd.
-  Clonakilty Park Leisure Centre
-  T.P. Houlihan and Sons Ltd. and Séamus O'Brien
-  O'Regan Homes and West Cork Building Supplies
-  Michael & Theresa O'Neill, Fernhill House Hotel and Raymond O'Neill, Con O'Neill and Sons, First National Building Society
-  Parent's Association

Other Sponsorships

-  Thanks to the Health Centre for purchasing 2 printers.
-  Thanks to Barry Kirby for purchasing a computer.
-  Thanks to Jimmy and Tara Brennan and the Parents' Association for purchasing a Scanner.
-  Thanks to Aidan and Darina Scally for purchasing a Digital Camera and a new Drum Kit.
-  Thanks to the Parents' Association, AIB, TSB and Bank of Ireland for subsidising the cost of the Digital Projector.– we now have fourteen in the school.
-  Thanks to the Parents' Association for networking the school.
-  Thanks to the NCTE, Alex Gibbons, Solicitors and KD Systems, Computers for helping to sponsor the SIP Project.
-  Thanks to Aidan and Elaine O'Donovan for their continued sponsorship.
-  Thanks to Clonakilty Guitar Festival for donating their Mixing Desk to the school.
-  Thanks to Clóna Decorators and Mark & Mairéad Coombes for their generous donation to the school.
-  Thanks to Noel Tobin for donating the Cork Football Jersey to the school.
-  Many thanks also to the many anonymous donations made to the school over the years.
-  Thanks to all who supported our building project over the past four years - parents, staff, Town Council and friends of Scoil na mBuachaillí.
-  Thanks to Mark Coombes (Photographer) for his continued support.

If you wish to enrol your son in Scoil na mBuachaillí for September, please ring 023-8834487 and leave a detailed message on the answering machine or email us at snbclonakilty.ias@eircom.net - with your name and telephone number/address.

