



*Inspiring a love of playing  
traditional Irish music*

**Tá fáilte romhaibh ar ais chuig Craobh Na Mara CCÉ. Táimid ar bís le tabhairt faoi téarma nua .**

Welcome back to all of our students and a welcome to all of our new students. We are delighted to be back in person . As the department of education has urged schools to continue with existing precautions for the time being, we are unable to host our branch in Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín at present. We are extremely grateful to St Vincent de Paul for allowing us to use Sunshine House in the meantime.

### **About Craobh Na Mara Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann**

We are the North Fingal branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann. Comhaltas is a non-profit community organisation with branches throughout Ireland and internationally. The branch is organised by a committee of volunteers. All of our volunteers have been garda vetted. We have our AGM once a year and all members are welcome to attend. We promote Irish music, song and dance.

### **House keeping**

- Strictly no parking on the grounds of sunshine house. There are a few parking spaces which have been reserved for staff.
- Please do not turn your car at the gates of sunshine house in the interest of the safety for young children.
- Unfortunately for now, parents are not allowed to wait for children in the building. We will review this as soon as we feel it is safe.
- We have a supervised practice room for any child who needs to wait for a second class or band practice. The practice room will be operated in small pods.
- There is a once off covid declaration for all students. After this, please ensure that any students are kept at home if they have any of the symptoms associated with covid or are close contacts. The attendance register will be used for contact tracing if necessary.
- Children are not allowed to leave the building unless they are being collected by parents or if they're old enough to walk out themselves. The playground is not for our use.



*Inspiring a love of playing  
traditional Irish music*

- The corridors will be supervised by committee members who will also be there to remind children not to run etc; if needs be.
- All students over 12 are expected to wear face coverings in communal areas, however, they are not required during class.

### **Classes and fees**

Fees are transferred directly into our bank account. We endeavour to keep fees to an absolute minimum in order to cover basic running costs. They must be paid by the second week of lessons. Students who have not paid fees by week 4 of lessons will not be able to attend lessons. If you have any financial difficulties, please contact a member of the committee in confidence and we will work out a payment plan for you.

Classes are 30 minutes long, so it is very important that students are on time. Regular practice is very important. It does not have to be long but students who do not practice at all will hold back the rest of the group. We will hold a number of tuning workshops at the beginning of the year. It is important for children to arrive with their instruments tuned so that the teacher can concentrate on teaching tunes and technique.

Students use the music book 'ceol tracks' which is available online.

Students may be changed into different classes if the teacher feels there is a more appropriate level for them.

Céilí band practice is at 8pm. Band is available to all students. Beginners can start after term 1. It is a great opportunity to learn how to play with other musicians, listen to other instruments and widen their repertoire of tunes. It is also a very sociable and fun way to finish the evening.

### **Branch activities**

Pre covid, the band met regularly for sessions in various parts of North Fingal. We intend to resume with sessions this year, once restrictions allow for indoor meetings.

From time to time, we play at events such as summer festivals and fleadh. We have previously had an end of year concert and hope to do so this year.

We usually have parties at the end of terms. Students may dress up before Halloween break.



*Inspiring a love of playing  
traditional Irish music*

### **SCT exams**

Students have the opportunity to enter the Comhaltas SCT exams although there is no obligation to do so. This happens in late spring / early summer. We will have additional theory classes for any student who needs it in the run up to exams.

### **Gaeilge**

We encourage the use of Irish and love to hear the 'cúpla focal' no matter how little you know. Phrases like 'dia duit' . 'slán' and 'go raibh maith agat' are encouraged.

### **Designated liaison and deputy Liaison people**

Riona Ní Shúilleabháin is the designated liaison person and Doireann Ní Ghiobún is the deputy designated liaison person. If you have any concerns that relate specifically to child welfare, please contact either of the above.

### **Instrument loan scheme**

Many of our students have availed of our instrument loan scheme. Please look after the instruments well as we hope to have them available for students for many years to come.

### **Social media**

If you engage on social media, please follow us on Facebook / Instagram / twitter. We would be delighted if you could share some of our contact.

Our website [www.craobhnamaracce.com](http://www.craobhnamaracce.com) is a good source of information

If you have any questions, please ask a member of the committee.

Míle buíochas

Coiste Craobh Na Mara