

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter April 2023

First Holy Communion & Confirmation



Congratulations to all of the boys and girls who celebrated First Holy Communion on Saturday 22nd April. Fr Brian Mac Raois, our school chaplain was chief celebrant at the beautiful ceremony.

The lovely music on the day was provided by choir leader and organist Susan Mulholland and the choir members from 3rd, 4th and 5th class.



The sacrament of Confirmation was held on Friday 28th April, with Bishop Michael Router as celebrant, assisted by Fr Brian Mac Raois, parish priest, Fr Gerry Campbell and Fr Sijo John.



Fidelma Bellew was choir leader and organist for the members of the school choir. Thank you to Ms Fahy and Mrs Donnelly who assisted Fidelma. Congratulations to the 6th class boys and girls!

Thank you to all who assisted the children in their preparation for receiving the sacraments -school chaplain Fr Brian Mac Raois, teachers Ms Kane, Ms Fahy and Mr Loughran, principal Mrs Kirby, sacristan Eugene Callan, Elaine in the parish office, Ciara our school secretary parents on the Do This in Memory team, and members of the parish community.

Message from Mrs Kirby

Fresh from the recent celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, our pupils and staff are looking forward to the summer term. May heralds the start of summer and hopefully some nice weather, so that we can enjoy lots of outdoor activities in our lovely, spacious grounds. I recently came across this lovely Apache blessing for May;

May the sun bring you new energy by day

May the moon softly restore you by night

May the rain wash away your worries

May the breeze blow new strength into your being

May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.

You couldn't ask for anything more from May.

Le dea-ghuí,

Donna Kirby

Fr Brian—Golden Jubilee

To celebrate Fr Brian Mac Raois' Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination, a mass will be held in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilkenny, on Friday June 16th at 6.30pm. This will be followed by a meal, presentation and entertainment in the Community Centre following mass. Tickets are priced at €35 and will be on sale from 6th May after both masses in Kilkenny, from the Parochial House in Knockbridge (9am-1pm Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri), from sacristan Eugene Callan, and from Kilkenny school (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm). This is an adult only event. All are welcome to



Wellbeing Corner

Our care programme April theme was "My Health" and our May theme is "My Decisions".



School Tours

School Tours will take place as follows:

1st & 2nd Class -> GR8, Castleblayney, Thursday 25th May

Junior & Senior Infant -> Fort Evergreen Thursday 8th June

6th Class -> Carlingford Adventure Centre, Thursday 15th June

3rd, 4th & 5th Class -> Emerald Park, Thursday 22nd June



Kilkerley Parents Association News

Communion/Confirmation Refreshments

Sincere thanks to all who helped serve refreshments provided by the Parents Association following the ceremonies of Communion and Confirmation this month.

Flag Day

The annual Kilkerley PA flag day will be held on **Friday 19th May** this year. Please keep this date in mind.

A rota will be sent out soon and we are hoping for lots of volunteers!

Swimming Subsidy

Our PA are once again subsidising swimming lessons for 3rd-6th class, thereby reducing the cost to parents. Swimming lessons begin in May.

Final Meeting of School Year

The final PA meeting of this school year will be held on Thursday 4th May at 8pm in the school.

All are welcome. Please make an effort to attend.

Cumann na mBunscol Final!

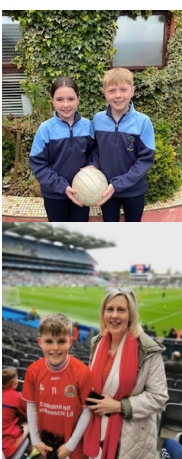
Well done to our boys team who made it all the way to the final of the Cumann na mBunscol All County 7s held at Darver this month.

They played some tough matches against Muchgrange NS, Ballapousta NS and Mell NS.

What a fantastic achievement for these boys. We are very proud of them.

The team members were:

Harry Babington, Ronan Burgess, Seán Clarke, Cian Cunningham, Jack Fitzgerald, Liam Kelleher, Cian Larkin, Ben McCreesh, Dylan McElroy & Thomas Mulholland.



Cumann na mBunscol—Skills Challenge

Congratulations to Ellie Clifford and Jack Fitzgerald from 5th Class who, following school trials, were picked to represent our school in Darver at the INTO/Cumann na mBunscol Skills Challenge this month.

Well done to Ellie and Jack!

Cumann na mBunscol—Louth v Carlow

Congratulations also to Harry Babington from 5th Class who had the honour of playing for Louth v Carlow as part of the INTO mini 7s team during half time at the Leinster semi final in Croke Park last Sunday. He represented our school and our county exceptionally well.

Here he is pictured with his aunt, our SNA Ms Elizabeth!



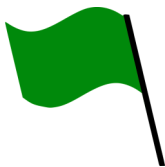
Comhghairdeas le Conall

Conall Ó Máirtín from Rang a 2 was recently awarded U9 Player of the Year at the Dundalk Rugby Club Minis awards day.

Maith thú a Chonaill!

Green Schools

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in achieving our 8th Green Flag with the theme of **Global Citizenship Marine Environment**. We look forward to receiving our new Green Flag soon. Well done to our wonderful Green Schools Committee and a big thank you to all the staff and students of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál as well as the many parents and members of our wider community who supported us throughout this process.



Junior Entrepreneur Programme

A big thank you to Brian and Cian McElroy who recently visited 5th class as part of the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. Brian and Cian gave a presentation on their business Sponge Bins, and gave the children lots of helpful advice on the skills they will need to cultivate to make their JEP company a success too!

Rang a 5 also recently took part in the JEP 'Meet the Dragons' morning, where they presented their products to Ms Ridley, Mrs Kirby and to Eimear Clarke. Thank you very much to Eimear for participating and for helping the children with their product ideas.

The Dragons gave the class lots of feedback on their products and useful tips on moving forward with the chosen product: Multi Banz!

Rang a 5 are now looking forward to moving on to the next phase of their Junior Entrepreneur Programme—watch this space!



Active Schools

Tennis lessons with Coach Gary from Dundalk Tennis Club are back, this term for Junior and Senior Infants and 5th & 6th Class.

Swimming in Aura Leisure Centre Dundalk for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class will commence in May and run for 6 weeks.

Sports Day will take place during the school day this year. The date is yet to be decided.



Testing

Testing in English and Maths will take place in classes 1st-6th in May/early June.

Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to Ms Frankie Kane, 6th Class Teacher, who was married this month in Darver. We wish Ms Kane and her new husband Niall every blessing for their future together.



Welcome Back

A big welcome back to our Deputy Principal Ms Aisling Fahy, who returned to work following her maternity leave this month.

Ms Fahy was teaching 6th class since Easter, and resumes her role as SET teacher in May.

Caretaker

Our Board of Management has ratified the appointment of Peter O'Hare as school caretaker. We are delighted to welcome Peter to our staff.

Newry Feis

Congratulations to Bébhinn Harris and Lucy Smartt who recently competed in the Newry Feis violin competition.

Lucy received a highly commended certificate and Bébhinn received a silver medal.

CCTV

Our school CCTV system was upgraded recently.

Dates for your Diary

Bank Holidays:

The school will be closed on Monday 1st May, and on Monday 5th June for bank holidays.

Summer holidays

The last day of term will be Wednesday 28th June.

