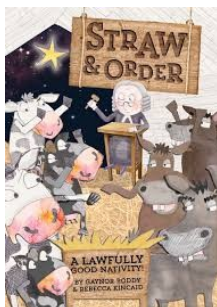


SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

Christmas Show

We had a wonderful attendance on Wednesday 19th December for our annual Christmas concert, held in the Community Centre. The children, right from Junior Infants all the way to 6th class, came together to give a fantastic presentation of our show 'Straw and Order'. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!



Our choir and musical ensemble finished the night with some beautiful musical performances.

Well done to our soloists **Ellie Bourton, Orlaith Duffy, Megan Eaton, Amber Mc Ardle, Cian McElroy, Kayleigh McGee, Ruby Mulligan and Stephanie Ntemuse.**

A big thank you to **Kathleen Ryan**, Ella's grandmother who volunteered to work with our choir again this term.

Thank you all for your donations at the door, and for your support of our raffle. Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners!



Thanks also to our sponsors for the raffle, **Nortech IT, McCaugheys Farm Shop Castleblayney, PC Office and The Spotted Dog.**

Bambinelli Sunday



On Sunday 16th December, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we celebrated Bambinelli Sunday.

Fr Gerry extended an invitation to all families to bring Baby Jesus figures from their cribs at home to 10am Mass for a special

blessing. The Baby Jesus figures were then brought home and put under the tree, to be placed in the family crib on Christmas morning.

It is hoped that this will be a new Christmas tradition in the parish.

PA Pop-Up Shop

Kilkerley Parents Association would like to thank everyone who helped out with the recent Pop-Up Shop in the Longwalk Shopping Centre. The fantastic total of **€1792** was raised through this fundraiser. This will go towards the cost of new IT equipment.



Christmas Theatre Trip



Ms Tansey's Junior Infants and Mrs Curran-Butler's Senior Infants are travelling to An Táin Theatre on Thursday 20th December for a Christmas production of 'Little Bo Peep's Christmas Mix Up'. The boys and girls will be helping to find BaaBaa and the other sheep to ensure that Santa gets to stay warm enough to bring Christmas to the whole world!

Visit to St Mary's Nursing Home Drogheda

A group of children and teachers visited the elderly residents in St Mary's Nursing Home in Drogheda on 4th December. The children delivered hand-made Christmas cards, made some Christmas art, and played board games with the residents. They also gave a lovely musical performance. Thank you to Vicky McGauley, Zach's Mammy, for facilitating this visit.



Care Programme Theme:

Our care programme theme for this month is '**Belonging**'.

A sense of belonging is a human need, just like the need for food and shelter. Feeling that you *belong* is most important in seeing value in life and in coping with painful emotions.

The children have been working on building a sense of belonging, while celebrating their individuality.

The *Children's Interactive Prayer Station* in the church has been designed to tie in with the school care programme. Please consider visiting it with your children this month.



St Vincent de Paul Musical Performance

Thank you to the children who volunteered with Mrs Donnelly to perform Christmas music at the opening of the St Vincent de Paul Christmas shopping event on Tuesday 4th December.

It was great to see how many children gave up their evening for this worthy cause.



Highlanes Gallery Visit



Ms Fahy and the children of 6th class recently attended 'Crossing Lines', an exhibition focussed on the themes of protest and dissent in the

Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda. The children received a guided tour of the exhibition.

The artist Clare Halpin subsequently visited 6th class at school, and conducted artistic workshops based on these themes.

The children will return to the Gallery in the New Year, and will be able to view their own work on display as part of this exhibition.

Ceremony of Light

6th Class took part in the 'Ceremony of Light' in the church on the evening of 5th December.



They are working hard to prepare to celebrate their Confirmation, which will take place on Friday 15th February 2019 at 11am.

Christmas Food Appeal

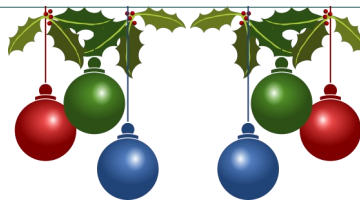


Thank you to all who donated non-perishable food items to our Christmas Food Appeal.

The items have been given to St Patrick's and will help needy families this Christmas time.

Advent Penitential Service

The annual advent penitential service for 3rd-6th class took place in the Church on Monday 17th December.



BHK Credit Union Poster Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the BHK Credit Union Poster Competition for this year:

- **Kate Rice**
- **Stephanie Ntemuse**
- **Oran McMahon!**

Prizes were presented on the 18th December. Well done!



Magnet Coffee Morning

Mrs Lambert, the Student Council, and some of our altar servers attended a Coffee Morning in the Magnet Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Dundalk on Wednesday 12th December.

The Magnet Centre has a particular interest in Family Ministry and offers pre-marriage courses, bereavement support, and the Rainbow Programme which helps children and young people cope with the loss of a parent through death or separation.



Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Our school is once again participating in the nationally run Junior Entrepreneur Programme.



Ms Conlon and 5th Class have already been working on ideas and products for next year's programme. Under their teacher's guidance, and with the inspiration of local entrepreneurs, the children will discover their strengths as individuals and as part of a team.

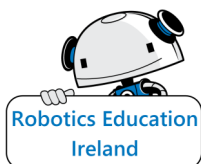
Together, they'll choose, invest in and produce their own product or service from scratch, all the way to making it available for sale at a school-hosted JEP Showcase Day – and enjoy the profits at the end!

In January we will have our own version of "Dragons Den", when entrepreneurs **Jay Coleman** (father of Nancy, Kitty and Tom), **Caroline Mulligan** (mother of Ruby and Charlie) and **Ciarán Kirk** (father of Noel and Ailis) will visit the school. 5th class will showcase their business ideas and get some real-life advice from the Dragons! Many thanks to Jay, Caroline and Ciarán for participating in the programme this year.



VEX Robotics Competition

This year our school is participating in the VEX Robotics Competition. This is an exciting and fun programme where the children learn about Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM).



The children design, build, programme and compete with their robot in a spectacular competition, organised by Dell. In addition to STEM, the students acquire other skills such as project management, presentation skills, teamwork, leadership, PR and much more.

Mrs Donnelly and our team of Nancy Coleman, Oisín Donnelly, Eoin Larkin, Naoise Harris, Sadhbh McElroy and Alana Quigley have been meeting weekly to work on this project. A big thank you to Eoin's Dad Neil Larkin who has been assisting the team over the last number of weeks. They will attend the first round of the competition in DKIT in January. We wish them the very best of luck!

Santa Claus

You'd better watch out! Rumour has it that Santa Claus will be paying a visit to all of the good boys and girls at Scoil Mhuire gan Smál very soon!



Free Music Lessons

The Cross Border Orchestra and the LCDC are offering free music lessons for young people aged 11-16 years. Lessons will be two hours long, and will take place at weekends commencing in January 2019. Participants will be provided with an instrument on loan and free weekly group lessons. Those interested can apply online at www.cboi.ie by Friday 21st Dec.



Greener Christmas Poetry

Congratulations to **Aibhilin Scilley**, **Michael Kirby** and **Ellen Tumulty** whose poems were chosen for entry into the Louth County Council Greener Christmas Poetry Competition 2018. This competition, which is open to all the primary schools in the county, aims to promote a festive season where we try to reduce waste and recycle more.

Ellen and **Michael** both won prizes in the competition, and they have recorded their poems for broadcast on LMFM over the festive period. Their poems are below:

Christmas at Last by Ellen Tumulty

The crash of bottles, the crunch of tins,
All piled up in our bins,
Landfills bursting at the seams,
Killing our planets hopes and dreams.

Plastics in our seas,
Pollution killing bees.
The ozone wearing thin,
So organise your bin,
Brown, green, blue, black
Get in the habit and don't look back



Let's wrap the planet in love,
And let that be our Christmas gift.
Because it will take each and every one of us to make this
lifesaving shift!

Greener Christmas by Michael Kirby

Waste not, want not, so the old saying goes
But despite this, the waste mountain grows.
Year on year the pile gets bigger
The facts are there, it's not hard to figure.

With a mountain like this it's easy to despair,
We can reverse this, with just a little care.

Boxes, cards, wrapping and wreaths,
Can all play a part in the recycling deed.
So set yourself a task this Christmas season,
Recycle what you can, there's every good reason.



beannachtaí
na
Nollag
agus
Aibhíliam
Faoi
mhaise!

Christmas Holidays

School closes at 12pm on **Friday 21st December** and will re-open on **Monday 7th January 2019**.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas time and blessings for the New Year.

See you in 2019!