

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE



Newsletter December 2020



Parent Teacher Meetings

We would like to remind you that the school will close at **12:30pm** on **Wednesday 20th January 2021** to facilitate Parent Teacher Meetings.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meetings this year will be conducted by telephone.

Farewell

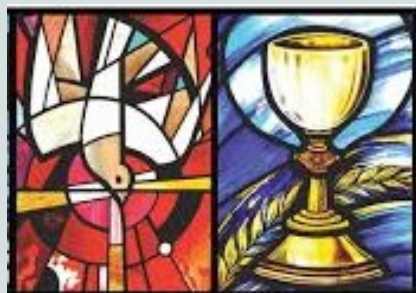
Aoife Copas and Luke Savage from DKIT recently finished their placement with us.

We thank Aoife and Luke for all of their hard work here in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, and wish them the very best in the future.



Dates for Sacraments 2021

As parents and guardians of children in 2nd and 6th classes have already been informed, we have been given the dates of the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion for 2021. Confirmation will be celebrated at **11am** on **Friday 16th April 2021**, while First Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Saturday 15th May 2021**, at **11am**.



Principal's Letter

As our first term in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál draws to a close, we can all breathe a huge sigh of relief next Tuesday—we made it!

Thank you to everyone for adapting to the changes we had to make. Like never before, we look forward to the new year and a gradual return to the social interactions that we took so much for granted. Nollaig Shona agus beannacht Dé oraibh go léir.

Le dea-ghuí,
Mrs Kirby



Christmas Raffle Winners!

Our Christmas Raffle was held today, 18th December. We thank our hard working PA committee for organising the prizes kindly donated by our school community. Thank you all for your support, and congratulations to all of the winners:



€100 Credit Union Voucher: Eoghan Murphy; Amazon Fire Tablet: Sénón Connolly; HP Colour Printer: Éinín Stacey; €40 Spotted Dog Voucher: Chloe Conlon, c/o Adrian;

Taste Buddies Cookie Kits: Dylan McCreesh, Ryan Murtagh; O'Neill's Voucher from Kilkenny Emmets: Mrs Halpin; Art & Craft Hamper: Molly Larkin; Pamper Hamper: Mark Holland; Movie Night Hamper: Zoë Corrigan

Christmas Hampers: Marie Mulholland, Isabelle Byrne, Isibéal McGuinness, Cormac Browne, Stephen O'Hanlon, Aoibhe McEneaney, Jaxon Lambe, Amy Griffin, Grace Connolly, Zach Ramsbottom McGauley, Gerry McCabe, Harry Trimble, Shea Kelleher, Jack Fitzgerald, Oisín McGee, Amelia McGuill, James Madden, Alanna Conway and Aoife Copas

Christmas Show 2020

Our Christmas Show for 2020 has moved online due to Covid-19 restrictions. It will be available to view next week from our website. We would like to thank:

- **John McCarthy** and **Ms Michelle Condon** for recording and editing the show.
- **Mrs Rilla Kelly** for her work with our musical ensemble (5th and 6th class only this year).
- All of our teachers and pupils for their hard work! We hope you enjoy the results!



Advent Penitential Service

Fr Brian and Fr Gerry celebrated a penitential service for Advent on Wednesday December 16th with classes 3rd-6th.

We thank Fr Gerry and Fr Brian for their continued service and support offered to us here in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál and wish them a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.



4th Class

The children in 4th Class recently sent letters and hand made gifts to residents of St Mary's residential home.

Here they are pictured with Mrs Halpin, Ms Sarah, and Vicky McGauley of St Mary's residential home. Thank you to Vicky for organising this lovely initiative.



GAA/Rugby

GAA training finished up on December 10th.

We thank Craig Lynch and his team of helpers (Tara Litchfield, Kieran Murtagh, and Leah Hoey) for their services, and Kilkenny Emmetts for the use of their facilities.

Tiernan Donnelly from Dundalk Rugby will be running training sessions with children from 4th, 5th and 6th classes next term. Rugby training will commence on 8th January and run for 6 weeks, bringing us up to the February mid-term break.



Christmas Clothing Days



Pupils are invited to wear Christmas themed clothing to school on Friday 18th December for our Festive Friday and also on Tuesday 22nd December for the final day of term. Santa hats and Christmas hair accessories also welcome. We will close at **12 noon on Tuesday 22nd December**.

Concern Primary Debates

We are delighted to announce that our 6th Class Debating Team have now reached the **regional final** of the Concern Primary Debates competition. Congratulations to: **Alanna Conway, Lana Cunningham, Oisín Donnelly, Naoise Harris, Eoin Larkin and Lucy Rosbotham** and of course **Ms Condon!**



Christmas Holidays

We wish our school community of pupils, parents, and friends a safe, happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

School re-opens on **Wednesday 6th January 2021**. Bainigí taitneamh as an sos!



Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells...

Rumour has it that **Santa** will be visiting all the good boys and girls in Kilkenny next week...!



Senior Infants Vision/Hearing

The HSE vision and hearing screening was carried out with our Senior Infants on Wednesday 16th December.

Care Programme Theme: Belonging

Our care programme theme for this month is '**Belonging**'. The children have been working on building a sense of belonging, while celebrating their individuality.

BELONGING

Board of Management Meeting

The next Board of Management meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 12th 2021 at 8pm**.

KiVa Relaunch

We will host a relaunch of our KiVa anti-bullying programme in January.



January Contingency Plans

While we fully expect to re-open as planned on 6th January, we have decided to send home work packs with each child as a contingency plan. It is our hope that these will simply be returned to school on 6th January. Needless to say, we do not expect any school work to be carried out during the Christmas Holidays!