



SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter December 2023

Advent



Our 6th Class pupils have been reading an Advent message on the school intercom every day this month.

Fr Brian, our school chaplain, celebrated our **Advent Penitential Service** with us this month. Ranganna 3-6 were in attendance at the service. Fr Brian was assisted by Fr Gerry, Fr Pat and Fr Sijo.

Do This In Memory

The Do This In Memory programme, our parish preparation for 2nd class children, continued this month, with a Mass celebrated on 17th December, the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

Well done to the boys and girls and their families.

Staff Changes

Mr James Murphy will take over as 4th Class teacher in January when Ms O'Hanrahan commences maternity leave. Ms Megan Conroy will join our staff as SET teacher.

Thank you to Mrs Cumiskey who has been working as Acting Deputy Principal since Ms Fahy started maternity leave at the end of November. Mrs Donnelly returns from leave in January and will then take over the Acting Deputy Principal role.



Message from Mrs Kirby



The "sleep counting" to Christmas is well under way and not many left to go now. What a wonderful time of year to be a child!

After an incredible performance at last week's Christmas concert, our pupils have had a busy week finishing assignments and enjoying Christmas activities.

I'd like to thank all of the staff of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál for the time, patience and dedication they put into all of our childrens' lives.

Christmas affords us the opportunity to remember and reflect on FAITH, making all things possible, HOPE, making all things work and LOVE, making all things beautiful. May you have Faith, Hope and Love in your hearts and homes this Christmas.

Le dea-ghuí,

Donna Kirby

Christmas Show

Thank you all for joining us for our Christmas show, which was held in the Community Centre on 14th December. 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'.

Thank you to **John McCarthy** for recording and editing the show, to **Fidelma Bellew** who co-ordinated the music and played on the night, **Mrs Halpin and Ms O'Hanrahan** for their work on the play, to **Ms Ryan** and **Ms Tansey** for their assistance on sound, and to all of our staff and pupils for bringing together such a lovely evening.

Thank you all for your donations at the door, and for your support of our raffle. Thanks also to our sponsors for the raffle, **Shane McKeown from Nortech IT**, **The Hanlon family of Muchgrange Farm**, **Shane Lennon at Playr-Fit & Kilkerley PA**. Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners:

Man Utd Tickets: Brian Crilly, Tablet: Orlagh McArdle

Playr-Fit Kits: Neil Larkin & Rachel O'Connor, Hampers: Sarah Faulkner & Richard Wallace, Muchgrange Farm Voucher: Ryan Aspin-Dermody

Wellbeing Corner

Rang a 4, along with their class teacher Ms O'Hanrahan, Susan Mulholland, and Mrs Kirby, visited St. Francis' Nursing Home in Mount Oliver this week. Our pupils entertained the residents with music, song and poems. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Kilkerley Parents' Association News

Kilkerley PA held a Christmas Jumper fundraiser day on Friday 22nd December. Thank you all for your support.

The children were so excited to see Santa himself visit our school this week! They sang him some lovely songs and were able to answer all of his questions! Santa left a small treat for each child. Thank you to the Christmas elves (Jennie and Jodie) from our PA who helped Santa to organise the treats!

Greener Christmas Winner!

Tom Coleman from Rang a 5 won Louth County Council's Greener Christmas Poetry Competition, with his poem "Less Waste". Tom attended the awards ceremony in the Town Hall with his parents and his teacher Mr Ward.

Congratulations Tom on your very well deserved prize!



Active Schools

1st and 2nd class are currently enjoying hurling coaching with Paddy Lynch from Louth GAA.

Our soccer players from 5th and 6th class attended the FAI schools' competition in Oriel Park on 7th December.



Primary Maths Curriculum

Our teachers attended Oide training this month in the new Primary Maths Curriculum. Two further training days will be provided in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Infants Theatre Trip

Junior and Senior Infants recently enjoyed a trip to An Táin Theatre in Dundalk for 'Old Mother Hubbard's Crazy Christmas Show'. They were accompanied by their teachers Mrs Kelly and Mrs Cumiskey, and by Ms Maria.

The children had a great time at their first theatre trip together!



Congratulations



Congratulations to our Deputy Principal Ms Aisling Fahy on the birth of her second child, Ivy this month!

Attendance

We continue to encourage good attendance at school. Attendance for December was 95%.

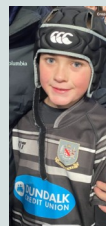
Fionnuala in Croke Park!

A big well done to Fionnuala Thornton from Rang a 5 who had the honour of playing with her club St Brides at half time at the Camogie Club Finals in Croke Park on 17th December.



Ronan at the Aviva!

Congratulations to Ronan Burgess who played with Dundalk Rugby Minis at the Leinster v Munster match in the Aviva stadium!



Dates for your Diary

School closes for the Christmas Holidays on **Fri 22nd December** and will reopen on **Monday 8th**



**Beannachtaí
na Nollag
oraibh**