

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

Confirmation



Congratulations to all of the boys and girls in 6th Class who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, February 15th. They were confirmed by Archbishop Eamon Martin in a beautiful ceremony accompanied by Fr Gerry Campbell, Fr Chris, and Deacon Martin Cunningham.

Thank you to Ms Fahy and Kathleen Byrne for their hard work in preparing the children for the sacrament. Thanks also to Fidelma Bellew, Ms Conlon, Mrs Donnelly, and members of our school choir and ensemble for providing the beautiful music which added so much to the ceremony. And lastly, a big thank you to the PA and to all of the parents organised the refreshments in the Community Centre after the ceremony.

Internet Safety– Momo Challenge

You may have heard of the “Momo challenge” which has recently appeared on social media platforms as a form of cyber-chain letter. Chain letters provide a great deal of shock, or trigger anxiety, which prompts the reader to share the stories/ information or obey the tasks that the chain letters contain. Gardai have issued a warning regarding this “suicide game”. Within this game, there is a woman that tells individuals to communicate with her via WhatsApp and other platforms. When contact is made, the woman reportedly asks individuals to perform dangerous tasks, including self-harm.

HOW WE CAN KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE:

ChatBudi: Ensure that your students/ children have a ChatBudi. This is someone over 18 years of age that a child trusts and feels comfortable talking about suspicious online activities.

Reassurance: Speak to your students/ children about online dangers and create awareness of the importance to chat about any worries or unusual behaviour that may be happening online.

Online Stranger Danger: Ensure that your students/ children only contact people online that they know in the real world.

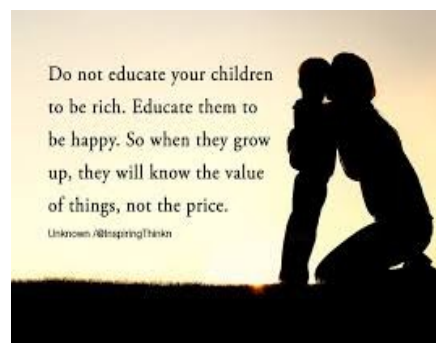
Age Appropriateness: Ensure all internet enabled devices are restricted to age suitable content.

Care Programme Theme: Happiness

Our care programme theme for this month is ‘Happiness’.

The children have been learning how happiness is influenced by our genes, upbringing and our external circumstances, and also how it can be heavily influenced by our choices - our inner attitudes, how we approach our relationships, our personal values and our sense of purpose.

Next month’s theme is ‘My Wellbeing’.



ZEEKO

1. COULD YOU WEAR YOUR POST ON A T-SHIRT

2. FIND YOUR CHATBUDI

3. FIVE TO ONE RULE

4. REAL FRIENDS = VIRTUAL FRIENDS

5. STOP, BLOCK, TELL

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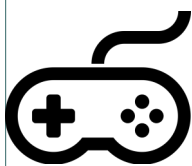
Crafts Group

We would like to say a big thank you to the volunteers who did such a wonderful job teaching our Crafts Group and making tablecloths and bunting for our school. They

were: **Bernadette Donnelly, Geraldine Kirk, Ann McCabe, Lorraine Quigley, Mary Tansey, Claire Conway and Gillian McEntegart.**

The bunting and tablecloths were used in the Community Centre after Confirmation on 15th February. Thank you to the Brownies and Guides who did a great job decorating!

Talk on Gaming



If you are worried about how much time your child spends on games such as Fortnite, then you will be interested in a presentation by Richard Hogan.

Richard is a teacher and psychotherapist. He has done a great deal of research into the effects of these games on young people and the dangers of addiction. He has been invited on the Maura and Daithí show and Virgin media to offer advice for parents on this issue. He will be giving a presentation in **Bush Post Primary School** at 7pm on Thursday 7th March. All are welcome. For more information on Richard check out therapyinstitute.ie

Basketball Blitz

Our basketball teams travelled to Dundalk Sports Centre with Ms Tansey on 11th Feb for an inter-schools blitz.



Visit from Diocesan Advisor



3rd, 4th and 5th Classes were recently visited by Fr Ryan McAleer, the Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education. Fr Ryan was delighted to meet with the children and their teachers, and was very impressed to hear the Angelus being prayed during his visit.

Entrance Exams

Well done to our 6th Class pupils who sat their Entrance Exams for secondary school on Saturday the 9th of February.



5th Class History

5th Class have been studying World War II in History and had two very special visitors who came in to talk about what it was like living in Ireland during World War II. They were: **Cecily Spillane**, Naoise and Bébhinn's Great-grandmother, and **Maisie McMahon**, Caragh's grandmother. A big thank you to Cecily and Maisie.

Come Outside

Our New Year's resolution on outdoors learning is going strong! All classes are benefitting from our beautiful outdoor learning spaces. Outdoor learning has been shown to **improve children's health, engage them with learning and lead to a greater connection with nature.**



St Brigid's Crosses



Many thanks to **Michael and Jacinta Kelly**, and to **Kate Holland** who demonstrated making of St Brigid's Crosses with the children to celebrate St Brigid's Day on 1st of February.

The children enjoyed learning about this lovely tradition.

You may have seen some of the lovely photos in the Argus earlier this month!

BHK Table Quiz

The heats of the BHK Credit Union Table Quiz were held on Friday 1st February in St Oliver Plunkett NS, Blackrock.



BHK CREDIT UNION
Serving the communities of Blackrock, Haggardstown, Kilkenny and Knockbridge

Congratulations to both teams from Scoil Mhuire gan Smál who took part.

Our Under 13 Team took 1st place and will progress to the chapter finals in Castleblayney on Sunday 3rd March.

Congratulations to our U13 Team who took 1st Place;

Odhrán Fee
Cathal Maguire
Oran McMahon and
Andrew Rosbotham



And very well done to our U11 Team Runners Up:
Nancy Coleman, Oisín Donnelly, Eoin Larkin and
Lucy Rosbotham