

# SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter January 2024

## Ceremony of Commitment & Light



6th class celebrated the Ceremony of Commitment and Light with Fr Brian on 25th January. This is a pre-Confirmation ceremony. During the ceremony, parents and guardians were invited to pass the lighted Baptism candle to their child, showing that they promise to keep the light of faith burning in all of their lives. The children are now looking forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on **19th April 2024**.

## Do This In Memory

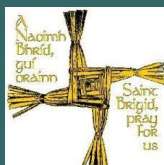
The Do This In Memory programme for 2nd class children continued this month, with a Mass on 14th January, with Fr Brian as celebrant.



The children renewed their Baptismal promises at this Mass. Well done to the boys and girls and their families.

## St Brigid's Crosses

Thank you to Geraldine Kirk, Margaret Watters, Kathleen Sharkey and Mary Corrigan who facilitated a St Brigid's cross workshop on 30th January.



The crosses will be blessed by Fr Brian at Mass on St Brigid's Day, February 1st.

## Message from Mrs Kirby

We've done it! Goodbye January and winter, hello February and spring, you are most welcome!

Our pupils have all been learning the beautiful song "We Sing a Song to Brigid" in preparation for St. Brigid's Day tomorrow. It is a time when we celebrate and commemorate the life and legacy of St. Brigid, a Faughart native and one of our own.

With the arrival of Spring, we can look forward to a stretch in the evenings, better weather (hopefully) and a re-awakening of the beautiful countryside that surrounds us here in Kilkerry.

Le dea-ghuí,  
Donna Kirby



## Catholic Schools Week 2024

Sunday, 21 January–Saturday, 27 January

Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities

We celebrated Catholic Schools Week 2024 from 21st-27th January in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál. The theme this year was "Serving our Communities". All classes had special lessons and prayers on this theme each day this week.

Fr Brian celebrated Grandparents Day with grandparents of the boys and girls of 2nd class on Wednesday. We had a lovely afternoon, filled with prayer, music and stories. Thank you to all who attended.

Our altar servers, choir members, and readers attended a special "Seinn" celebration in the Holy Redeemer Church on Thursday 25th January with schools from all over Dundalk and surrounding areas. Molly Connolly represented our school with a solo piece during one of the hymns. Thank you to Susan Mulholland and Ciara who prepared the children for this celebration, and to Lorraine Quigley who accompanied us on the day.



## Wellbeing Corner

This month we welcomed the travelling theatre company, M&M Productions, to our school with their performance of 'Snow White'. The show was very enjoyable, and the audience participation was excellent!



**Thank you to our hardworking Parents Association for financing this event.**

## Kilkerley Parents Association News

Thank you for your support of the recent non-uniform day. €347.55 was raised.

### Upcoming Events

The next PA meeting will take place on Thursday 8th February at 8pm in the school staff room. All are welcome. Please come along and meet the new committee.

The PA will host a fundraising Table Quiz in Kennedy's Bar, Dundalk on Friday 8th March at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

The annual PA Flag Day will take place on 17th May 2024.

### Junior Entrepreneurs

Our school is once again participating in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme, with Mr Ward's 5th Class taking up the challenge this year. Under this programme, the children will 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 enjoying the profits at the end!

The children have already identified some big ideas and have had a visit from past pupil and Mo Chara proprietor Cillian Mulligan, and a zoom Q&A call with Bobby Healy, the brains behind the drone delivery service Manna. On January 18th, the class did a live Q&A zoom call with Tom Keogh of Keogh's crisps. We look forward to the next stage in the process!



### STEM

With Engineers Week coming up, we are starting to

plan activities already, in collaboration with the DKIT Engineering Department. Our pupils will be attending a STEM quiz organised by DKIT and Engineers Ireland Northeast, as well as a roadshow in DKIT in March.



### Brigid 1500—Cruinniú Bhríde

Local artists, including Claire Conway, mother of Clara in 5th class are running an exhibition of art work to celebrate the Brigid 1500 festival. The exhibition is in 4-5 Clanbrassil St, Dundalk (formerly Houstons) and runs from 10am-5pm up until 5th February. Rang a 5 worked with Claire on a project that can be seen at the exhibition.



### Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday this year will be on 13th February, with Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent on 14th February.

### January Attendance

Our attendance for the month of January 2024 was 95.62%.

## Active Schools



Junior Infants—2nd Class are currently attending weekly Fit Kids classes with Niall Teather.

## Clothing Collection

We are holding a clothing collection drive in aid of school funds in February. You can leave bags of clean dry clothing in the community centre foyer the week of 19th February. NO bed linen, duvets or pillows please.

The collection will take place on **Thursday 22nd February**. Thank you for your support.



## Enrolment 2024

We are in the process of finalising our enrolment for the coming school year. Offers of places will be sent out next week.

## Dates for your Diary

- The school will be closed on Bank Holiday **Monday 5th February** for the new Bank Holiday.
- The school will be closed on **Thursday 15th and on Friday 16th February** for midterm.
- As the school has been requisitioned as a polling station for the referendum on **Friday 8th March**, we will be **closed** on that date.

