

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter January 2026

Ceremony of Commitment & Light



6th class celebrated the Ceremony of Commitment and Light with Fr Brian on 29th 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. Ms Fahy and 6th Class now continue their work in preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **24th April 2026**.

Do This In Memory



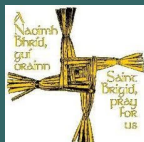
The Do This In Memory programme for 2nd class children continued this month, with a Mass celebrated with Fr Brian on 25th January.

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, Ann Sheehy, Bernadette Mullen, Jacinta Kelly and Kathleen Sharkey who facilitated a St Brigid's cross workshop in the Community Centre on 28th January.

The crosses have been blessed by Fr Gerry and sent home with the children.



Message from Mrs Kirby

"The harshness of January reveals the strength of our character" (Edgar "Rip" Miller), and this January has certainly tested us all! After the excitement and festivities of Christmas, January can be a long month. It is with great anticipation that we await the coming of Spring on St. Brigid's Day, the promise of new life and the re-awakening of nature all around us.

Le dea-ghuí,
Donna Kirby



Catholic Schools Week 2026
Catholic Schools: Normal Lives, Called to Holiness

18-24 January 2026

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2026 took place from 18th-24th. The theme this year was "Normal Lives: Called to Holiness". 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 Ms Hoey's 2nd class on 21st January. Thank you to all who attended. We had a lovely afternoon, filled with prayer, dance, music and stories.

Ms Fahy and Susan Mulholland, together with our altar servers, choir members, and readers attended a special "Seinn" celebration in the Holy Redeemer Church on Thursday 22nd January with schools from all over Dundalk and beyond. Our school was well represented by Molly in 6th Class who sang a solo part, and Eimear in 4th Class who read the closing prayer. Thank you to Ms Fahy and Susan Mulholland who prepared the children for this celebration and well done to all of the children for their participation. Thank you to Mrs Halpin who accompanied our pupils for the Seinn practise session.

Hot School Meals

Earlier this month we began the Hot School Meals programme. Parents can use the free app to customise orders through our supplier, "The Lunch Bag". You can also use the app to cancel orders if you know that your child will be absent on a specific date.

Please note: Even if you do not order a specific meal through the app, a default meal will be delivered for your child.



Kilkerley Parents Association News

Thank you for your ongoing support of our PA.

The Parents Association will hold a non-uniform day on January 30th to raise funds for the school.

PAWS Water Safety

Junior and Senior Infants and 1st and 2nd Class had an in-school workshop from Water Safety Ireland earlier this month. They learned some key water safety tips.



Credit Union Quiz

Well done to our quiz teams who participated in the Dundalk Credit Union Quiz held in the Fairways Hotel this week. Thank you to Mrs Cumiskey for her work in preparing our quiz teams.

They were:

5th class -Ella-Rose, Ellen, Harry, and Jack

6th class -Molly L, Layla, Cooper and Ruairi

Our school will also participate in the Connect Credit Union Quiz and the DKIT STEM Quiz in February.

Clothing Collection

We are holding another clothing collection in aid of school funds. If you have bags of clean dry unwanted clothing you can leave them in the community centre for collection on Thursday 12th February. Please do not leave bags in the centre before this date as it is a fire hazard.



Mrs Murphy's 5th Class are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme.

Under this programme, the children choose, invest in and produce their own product or service, and then market and sell it at a school-hosted JEP Showcase Day.

Local business entrepreneur Martin McCreesh visited 5th Class this month, giving pupils the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about setting up and operating a business.

Next month, the pupils will present their business ideas to a Dragon's Den panel. Exciting times ahead!

Active

Schools/Wellbeing

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

Pantomime

The whole school attended a performance of "Aladdin" by M&M Theatre Company in the Community Centre this month.

January Attendance

Our attendance for the month of January 2026 was 94%.

Enrolment 2026

We are in the process of finalising our enrolment for the coming school year. There are a small number of places still available.

Dates for your Diary

A reminder of upcoming school closures:

- **Monday 2nd February** (Bank Holiday)
- **Thursday 19th and Friday 20th February** (midterm)
- **Monday 2nd March** (Teacher Training)
- **Tuesday 17th March** (St. Patrick's Day)
- The last Day of the Spring Term will be the **27th March**. School re-opens following the Easter break on **13th April**.

