

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

Mrs Brennan's Retirement:

On behalf of the whole school community we wish Mrs Irene Brennan a healthy, happy retirement from Scoil Mhuire gan Smál. A teacher of deep integrity she has touched the lives of so many of you as she taught and cared for your children throughout her teaching career.

Go maire an spreagadh agus an ionspioráid a thug Bean Uí Bhraonáin dúinn sna blianta ata romhainn.

Grow Awards:

We have been promoted to a 5 star school! Here is some of the feedback we received from Louth Council Council:

Congratulations Kilkerry on your well deserved promotion to a 5 star school! Your steady rise over the last few years has not gone un-noticed. Your imaginative use of plastic bottles to construct a greenhouse, is an outstanding feat by any standards. The re-use of pallets to make outdoor furniture, the extensive use of tyres as planters, the re-use of tiles for flooring, not to mention the wellington boots planted with French marigolds was all very impressive.

"Bughingham Palace" was certainly fit for a king and was resplendent with hanging baskets. The hands-on nature of the pupils at this school was evident and wonderful to see. Impressive planting of fruit trees throughout the school grounds was noted, while the well laid out vegetable garden was a delight to see.

This is the highest award and we are delighted to have received it during Mrs Brennan's time as co-ordinator.

Our New Arrival!:

Congratulations to Mrs Curran-Butler on the birth of a beautiful baby boy, 'Conan'.



Family Picnic:

You are all invited to bring a Picnic on Friday, 30th at 11am. Weather permitting we will celebrate the ending of a great school year, say a final goodbye to our wonderful Deputy Principal Mrs Irene Brennan and mark the beginning of preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, August 2018.



Parents Association:

A big 'Thank You' to our hard working, enthusiastic, Parents Association. We are very grateful for your support of our school. We received €2,000 towards our IT equipment, and €1870 to cover resources for our learning support.

The provision of Learning Support and Resource teaching has been revised and new guidelines have been issued effective from September 2017. As part of these changes, we are planning to move more of the Learning Support and Resource teaching into the classroom. It is felt that this will benefit all the children in all the classes.

Down Syndrome Ireland:

Our HB Mammies raised € 404.00 for Down Syndrome Ireland through their Ice Cream sales. Thanks to Ciara Tennyson for co-ordinating this. Well done to all !!!

CPR Course:

On Wednesday 19th July in Knockbridge Community Centre as part of World Meeting of Families 2018, a CPR course will be run free of charge for families.

Charity Work:

Well done to 6th Class who have donated €500.00 to the Dundalk Dog Rescue, €143.35 to Amnesty International and €600.00 to Dundalk Homeless Support Group, from the Jumble Sale.

They each contributed €20 from their Confirmation gifts and have sent €400.00 to North Louth Hospice.

Our New Pupils:

We look forward to welcoming the following children to our school in September 2017:

Cormac Browne, Helen Burgess, Cooper Byrne, Harley Byrne, Ema Clarke, Tom Coleman, Willow Connolly, Clara Conway, Caitlin Cumiskey, Fionn Donnelly, Grace Griffin, Ferdia Maguire Tom Coleman, Eve McEneaney, Anthony McGee, Sorcha McKenna, Moya McMahan, Elizabeth Mohan, Rebecca Mulligan, Ariana Murphy, Annie Rose O'Connor, Casey Ryder, Luca Sheridan, Ava Shevlin-Boothman, Éinín Stacey, Fionnuala Thornton, Patrick Ward, Aimee Woods.

Calvin Heffernan—Senior Infants
Eleanor Byrne—First Class

Sports Evening:

Sports evening was held on Wednesday 31st May. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents in attendance to support their children.

A big thank you to Adrian and Jennifer Conlon of the Brew Crew who donated €271.70, this covered the cost of the medals.

Lego Workshop:

The Brickx Club visited our school on Wednesday 21st June. Our Junior Classes created some fantastic structures!



Slán to:

We wish our Sixth Class every joy and blessing as they head into Secondary school:

Katie Clarke, Ava Connolly, Lucy Connolly, Gráinne Cumiskey, Ronan Deery, Zara Dempsey, Niall Donnelly, Jason Donnelly, Rowan Harmon, Emily Hoey, Amy Houston, Nathan Lambe, Lauren Martin, Dean Murtagh, Oran McElroy, Ryan McEneaney, Callie McEvoy, Ben McGorrian, Tiernan McKenna, Aisling Quigley, Dearbhaile Quinn, William Smith, Sophia Stitt.

A special thank you to the ten families that are now leaving the school, they are the Cumiskeys, Dempseys, Houstons, Martins, McEneaneys, McGorrians, McKennas, Quinns, Smiths, Stitts.

You have been a great support to us over the years.

We wish your family health and happiness into the future.

Attendance:

Congratulations to the children who will receive medals for attendance on Friday 30th. Gold medals for 0 days missed, Silver for 1-2 days missed.

Swimming

All children from third to sixth class enjoyed their swimming lessons during the last school term.

Friends For Life Programme:

Our 'Friends For Life' Programme was a great success again this year. The lessons promote self-esteem, problem-solving skills, psychological resilience, self expression and building positive relationships with peers and adults. It is the only such programme acknowledged by the World Health Organisation to fulfil these aims based on extensive research. The fifth class children who participated found it to be a positive, fun learning experience. Each pupil was presented with a certificate and enjoyed strawberries and ice cream at their party in the Outdoor Classroom.

Family Fun

Thanks to Sarah Nestor who has drawn up a great list of activities that you could try with your children over the holidays.

See Twitter and Website for details.

Something Fishy:

On Monday, 19th June, 4th class went on a field trip to the Fane river at Ballingarry Bridge near Culloville as part of the "Something Fishy" Programme. First, they all got to do the Kick Test, which involves kicking the gravel on the river bed to reveal any minibeasts there. These were then caught in a mesh and put into trays to be identified.

The types of minibeasts found tell you how clean or dirty the water is. Some minibeasts we found were Leeches, Mayfly, Stonefly and Freshwater Shrimp. This showed that the water was not too clean or too dirty. Later, our leaders used an Electro-fisher machine to send a small electrical current into the water to temporarily stun the fish so we could catch them. These were put into an aquarium to be identified. We caught Brown Trout, Roach, Eels and Gudgeons. The fish were then released back into the river. 4th class had a great time and some of the photos can be seen on our website blog.

Care Programme:

The theme for May was 'My Decisions. This month's theme is 'What have I learned? Over the past ten months we have worked on the following modules; Caring, Kindness, Empathy, Belonging, Friendship, Happiness, My Wellbeing, My Health, My Decisions. We will restart the programme in September.

G.A.A. Festival:

On Wednesday 21st of June, 3rd to 6th classes were invited to take part in a G.A.A. Festival in the Kilkenny Emmets' pitch. Each class had the chance to sharpen their football skills through drills and fun activities and there were many past pupils on hand to facilitate. Thank you very much to Ray Quinn, Shane Lennon and their assistants for organising the event.

Monday Funday:

Our 5th Class have come up with a very philanthropic way of spending the profits from their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. This Monday, 26th June, Ms Conlon's class organised a fun day. They ordered an inflatable 45ft Fairground Obstacle Course and Footdarts (this is a big inflated dart board with Velcro football that you kick at it). They worked out a timetable giving each class a 25 minute slot. Different groups of 5th class children also helped each class during their time slot.

Well done 5th class, a wonderful gesture that benefits the whole school community.

Dundalk Library:

Louth County Libraries will run the ***Summer Stars Reading Adventure*** for children from 24th June to the end of August. ***Summer Stars*** is an exciting reading-based programme which is available free of charge to children across the country. Each child is invited to register for the adventure at their local library and enjoy reading many books as part of the adventure during the summer holidays. Further information is available from Louth County library 042 93 53190 or on www.librariesireland.ie



Local Historian:

Many thanks to Philip Mc Guinness, a past parent of the school and a wealth of knowledge on the history of Kilkenny! He kindly volunteered to speak to 5th and 6th classes about the geographical history of the land, local historical sites, the Irish language in the area, local place names, poets and songwriters and the influence of the Norman invasions on our village and surrounding area.

Have a wonderful summer!

We look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 29th August.

