

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter May 2021

COVID Protocols

A reminder to parents and guardians that we would ask you NOT to congregate at the school gate when bringing children to/from school.

Do This in Memory

A special 'Do This In Memory' mass, celebrated by Fr Brian, was held on Saturday 8th May 2021 at 6pm. The children of 2nd class watched online. Our thanks to **Fr Brian**, the celebrant., **Fiona Coleman** who read the First and Second Readings, and to **Tom Coleman** who read the Prayers of the Faithful.



First Penance



We look forward to celebrating the Sacrament of First Penance with 2nd Class on **Tuesday 8th**

June at 7.30pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilkerry.

STEM Award

All of the boys and girls in the school have been working hard with their teachers completing lots of Science, Engineering, Maths and Technology activities and lessons throughout the school year. We are now preparing our application for the annual STEM Award presented by the Science Foundation of Ireland. Wish us luck!



Principal's Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our teachers and pupils have been busy this month preparing for their tests. Now that they are over, we have lots of nice activities planned to enjoy and to look forward to between now and the end of June; tours, Sports Day, and 6th Class Graduation among others.

Here's hoping for a nice dry spell of weather so that we can make the most of our lovely outdoor facilities!

Le dea-ghuí,

Mrs Kirby

School Tours

As you will be aware, we are running school tours for all classes in June this year, and will be observing covid-19 protocols. The annual school tour generates so much excitement for the children and we are delighted to be able to offer tours this year within Covid-19 protocols.



Aside from 6th Class who will go to Carlingford Adventure Centre, all other classes are going to outdoor nature park venues with playground facilities. Buses will run at 50% capacity and children will be seated in their pods. All adults will wear face coverings.

We will schedule the tours once reliable weather forecasts are available, so please note that you may have only a day or two's notice. Children should wear their school tracksuits and bring a packed lunch. A small treat will be provided.

New Tracksuit

It is our intention to introduce a new school tracksuit in **September 2022** on a phased in basis. We have been liaising with suppliers and McEvoy's and Michael Lynch's regarding this. We hope to have a sample of the new design on display in the foyer of the community centre over the summer holidays.

Our pupils always enjoy wearing their PE tracksuit on the designated days and we feel the new design will be popular with parents and pupils alike.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation with regard to our uniform policy here at Scoil Mhuire gan Smál.



Active Schools

Tennis coaching with our Dundalk Tennis Club coach **Gary Rodriguez** is ongoing for Junior and Senior Infants and 5th and 6th Class.

Craig Lynch from Louth **GAA** has been providing coaching for Junior Infants to 4th Class. Thank you to **Kilkerley Emmets** for the use of their pitch this year.

4th, 5th and 6th classes have been enjoying rugby coaching provided by **Tiernan Gonnely** from **Dundalk Rugby Club**.



Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Programme

5th Class have had a busy month with their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. This month they presented their ideas to two dragons, they all did a terrific job and the idea that was chosen was 'Bangle Jangles' – a woven woollen wrist band.

The children then had a visit from a local entrepreneur, Vincent Mulligan, who is the owner of The Spotted Dog restaurant in Dundalk. Vincent chatted to the children all about entrepreneurship and about the importance of market research. With this in mind the children are now carrying out their own market research in school and will work on gathering their data to inform their sales.

They hope to hold their sales day in the middle of June and are very excited about this!



RSA Talk with 5th Class

5th class had a great conversation with Ciara from the Road Safety Authority this month about staying safe on the road while out cycling. They learned about the importance of helmets, wearing visible clothing, using hand signals and how to take care of their bicycles. .



Busy Bees

In Ms Hanrahan's/Mr Coleman's 1st Class, the children interviewed a beekeeper on a Zoom video meeting. There was a real 'buzz' in the classroom all week after the children learned all about the life cycle of the bee, how they make honey, and why they are so important for pollination.

Beekeeper Eithne was amazed by the questions that the children had prepared and showed the class her special suit and equipment needed to help bees make honey.



Irish Heritage Council Work with 5th Class

5th Class have been investigating Irish wildlife in our community. They photographed tracks, homes, bones and even some sightings of wild animals. They then discussed their findings with Goska from the Irish Heritage Council who helped them identify what they found and taught them lots about the wildlife of Ireland.

Care Programme : My Decisions

The Care Programme theme this month is "My Decisions".



The children have been exploring decision-making—how we can go about making decisions and how the decisions we make affect ourselves and others.

Work Experience



We said goodbye to **Hannah** and **Megan** from DKIT who have worked with us for the past 3 months. Our staff and pupils have really

enjoyed working with them. We will miss them and we wish them well as they continue their studies.

We welcome **Elizabeth Babington** who has joined us on work experience.

Dates for your Diary

A reminder that school will be closed on the following dates:

- **Fri 4th June**
- **Mon 7th June**

School will close for the summer break on **Friday 25th June at 12 noon**.

The school calendar for 2021-22 will be published on our website following ratification at the next Board of



Management meeting on Tuesday 1st June. Until then, please note that school will return following the summer break on **Thursday 26th August**.