

# SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter November 2020

## Date for your Diary

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 8th December**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.



## Gardening Club



Ms Catherine's Gardening Club have been busy planting wildflower seed bombs around the school. We hope to see lots of bees on them next year!

## Staff CPD

This term our teachers are engaging in continuous professional development in the Primary Language Curriculum (Literacy) and in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths).

## UNICEF Raffle

**Nancy, Sadhbh, Alanna** and **Anna** from Rang 6 recently organised a raffle in aid of the UNICEF Coronavirus Fund. They raised over €500 for this very worthy cause. Well done girls!



## Condolences

We would like to express our deepest sympathies to our retired Deputy Principal, Irene Brennan, and her family on the recent death of her son Darren. Please continue to remember Darren and his family in your prayers. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



November is the month when we especially remember all our loved ones who are no longer with us.

## Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had another busy month, as evidenced here in our newsletter. We are looking forward to Christmas and preparations are well under way. While we unfortunately won't be able to celebrate it with you in our usual way, we do hope that you will be able to share, albeit remotely, the sense of excitement, wonder and awe that Christmas festivities bring to our school.

Le dea-ghuí,

Mrs Kirby



## Science Week Nov 8th-15th

Science Week 2020 took place from November 8th-15th. As a proud holder of a *Badge of Excellence* from the Science Foundation of Ireland, our school was a hive of activity.

The core theme this year was 'Choosing our Future', focussing on how science can improve our lives in the future. Classes learned from and enjoyed the following activities;

- Zoom call with zoologist from Dublin Zoo to learn about invertebrates
- Video science lesson with Nick Arnold, author of the 'Horrible Science' books
- Online workshop on Forensic Science
- Scientific experiments including bubble-making, tin-foil drawings, skittle rainbows
- 5th Class concluded the week with a science morning they shared via video call with Junior and Senior Infants and 1st Class.



## 6th Class Debate Team

Our 6th class Debate Team, won their first round of the Concern Primary School Debates Competition. Expertly coached by **Ms Condron**, they were: **Alanna Conway, Lana Cunningham, Oisín Donnelly, Naoise Harris, Eoin Larkin and Lucy Rosbotham**. Best of luck in the next round!



## Interactive Drama Workshop



5th and 6th class recently enjoyed a live interactive Drama Workshop, 'The University of Wonder and Imagination' facilitated by An Táin Arts Centre in Dundalk. The children joined the fully immersive experience run by Cahoots NI via Zoom.

## Tennis and GAA

Our last tennis lesson with Gary Rodriguez finished on Tuesday November 17th. Classes 1st-4th really enjoyed and benefitted from their lessons with Gary. 5th and 6th classes can look forward to tennis lessons next term. GAA skills are continuing in Kilkerley Emmets GFC pitch on Thursdays and will continue until December 10th. Thank you to the GAA and to Craig Lynch for facilitating this. Also to Leah Hoey, Tara Litchfield, Kieran Murtagh and Ewan McEnteggart who have helped out at these training sessions.

## Lunchtime Soccer League

A big thank you to Luke Savage from DKIT who facilitated our lunchtime soccer league, open to children from Rang 4-6. The grand final was held on 13th November, with France beating Spain in a great match enjoyed by all the spectators. A medal presentation ceremony was held at our outdoor school assembly.

The winning team are pictured here with Luke. They were: **Mark Clarke, Milo McEntegart, Séan Connolly, Ryan Murtagh, Tom O'Connor, Kitty Coleman, Megan Eaton, Seán Clarke, Ruby Morton, Sarah Gorman, Michael Monahan, and Ellie Mai Finnegan.** *Comhghairdeas le na buaiteoirí!*



## Green Schools

We have resumed work on the theme for our seventh green flag - Global Citizenship: Energy.

In 2019 and early 2020, we focused on reducing our school's heating and electricity usage. We undertook a comprehensive energy audit of the whole school building and drew up a list of recommendations for reducing energy usage.

Classes explored the energy theme on a global level, completing projects on topics such as global warming, our carbon footprint, trees, composting and renewable and non-renewable energy. These were presented during a special assembly and displayed throughout the school.

We continued supporting charities - local, national and further afield. Our efforts came to a sudden halt in March, but we are happy to say that we are back on track, and are looking forward to receiving our flag in the springtime. Remember our Green Code, composed by Charlie Mulligan in 5th class:

**Switch OFF the light,  
Our generation's fight,  
Climate Justice is our right!!!**

Our Green Schools Committee are: **Nancy Coleman, Adrian Conlon, Shane Deery, Siún Kirby, Lily Clarke, Mark Holland, Keeley McConville, Jack Oakes, Bébhinn Harris, Cian Larkin, Ferdia Maguire, Ariana Murphy, Molly Larkin and Danny Laverty**



## Christmas Raffle

As you will have seen on text-a-parent and on facebook, our PA are running a fantastic Christmas Raffle this year. We will have some fantastic prizes, including an Amazon Fire Tablet, a HP colour printer, Christmas Hampers, an Art & Crafts Hamper, a Movie Night Hamper, a Chocolate Hamper and more!

Tickets will be on sale from the school office from Monday 7th December and will cost €5. The raffle will be held on Friday 18th December.



## Christmas Show



In place of our annual performance in the Community Centre, this year we intend to move online for our Christmas Show.

3rd class will be performing a very special Nativity play. All other classes will perform some Christmas themed songs. And of course we will have some beautiful music from our school Choir and Ensemble, led by Mrs Kelly and Ms Fahy.

Keep an eye on our school website for further details!

## Trick or Treat

We had a fantastic response to this year's Trick or Treat for Temple St, with a total of **€492** raised for this very worthy cause. Thank you to all who donated.



## Care Programme

**EMPATHY** Theme: Empathy

Our care programme theme for this month is 'Empathy'. The children have been learning about how we can better understand and share the feelings of others.

## Lunchtime Basketball

Following the hugely successful lunchtime soccer league enjoyed by pupils from 4th-6th class, Aoife and Luke from DKIT are busy organising a basketball lunchtime league that will run until early December. The boys and girls are eager to show off their improving skills and we await the final outcome of the league with great anticipation.

## Team Hope Shoeboxes

This year, the Team Hope Shoebox appeal has moved online. Each class plans to buy a shoebox online by donating €2 each. You can also choose to donate from home via [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie)



## Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th 2021. The school will close at 12:30pm on that date to facilitate this. We are in the process of drawing up a timetable and will be in touch shortly. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's Parent Teacher Meetings will be conducted **by telephone**.

## KiVa

We will host a relaunch of KiVa in January. KiVa is a bullying prevention, intervention and monitoring programme developed in Finland.