

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter November 2021

Enrolment 2021

We are still accepting applications for admission to **Junior Infants 2022**. Please see the school website for details.

Temple Street

We had a fantastic response to our Trick or Treat for Temple Street collection, with **€384.15** raised for this very worthy cause.

Team Hope

Team Hope say a big thank you to Scoil Mhuire gan Smál for donating **65** boxes to their annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thank you for your support of our Parent Teacher meetings which were held earlier this month. Your support and cooperation is appreciated.

Message from Mrs Kirby

These are very difficult times for us all as we navigate our way through the challenges that Covid-19 presents to our school community and society as a whole. We appreciate your support in our endeavours to keep our school open for pupils and staff and to continue to provide a positive educational experience for all our pupils. With the onset of Advent, we set out on our journey towards Christmas. The children will be learning of the significance of the candles on the school Advent Wreath. We hope that these candles will dispel the darkness as we journey as a school community towards Christmas and the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Le dea ghuí,
Donna Kirby

Active Schools

1st-4th Class children have finished their 8 weeks of tennis lessons with coach Gary Rodriguez. Thank you to Gary. Hurling coaching has begun for children in 1st and 2nd class, and GAA coaching is ongoing. Best wishes to Kilkerry Emmets U15 girls (including many of our past pupils) who play the Mochtás in a final this weekend!



A reminder to please familiarise yourselves with the list of symptoms for Covid-19 in children, particularly the less typical symptoms such as diarrhoea and feeling sick (below).

Sincere thanks to the families who have had children tested and kept the school informed of results. We very much appreciate your efforts in helping to keep our school community safe for all.

Advice for parents during Covid-19:



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Below are the common and uncommon symptoms of Covid-19. If your child has any **new** onset symptoms **and** feels unwell or seems off form, do not send them to school and contact your GP for advice, if necessary:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- A new cough
- Loss or changed sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- Fatigue
- Aches or pains
- Sore throats
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea
- Runny or stuffed nose
- Feeling sick or vomiting



For more, see: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/child-returning-to-school-or-childcare/>



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Do This In Memory

The children in 2nd class have begun preparations for the sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion, which they will celebrate next year. The boys and girls and their families attended the Enrolment ceremony for the Do This In Memory programme on 21st November. The beautiful Mass was celebrated by Fr Brian, our school chaplain. We wish the children and their families well at this special time. The next Do This In Memory Mass will be held on Sunday 12th December.



Science Week

Science Week was celebrated in our school from 7-14th November. The theme this year was 'Creating our Future'. 3rd class watched the Science of Dragons and completed some of the experiments as a class. 1st class learned all about bats! 5th class studied marine environments, took part in a 'Marine Medicine Workshop', and also took part in an energy workshop with SEAI, learning about hydro, wind, and geothermal energy.



Festive Friday

On Friday 3rd December, we will be getting into the Christmas spirit by holding a Festive Friday event! The children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers or other Christmas themed clothing e.g. Christmas hairbands, a red jumper, etc. to school. They will be participating in Christmas-themed activities in the afternoon. A €2 donation to Kilkerry PA is requested on the day. Thank you for your support.



Concern Primary Debates

A big well done to our 6th Class Debating Team of **Sophie Lynch, Aoibhe McEaney** and **Conall Harmon**, who represented their class in the 2nd debate, opposing the motion that 'Billionaires should not go to space'. Thank you to **Mrs Murphy** for all of the hard work put in with 6th Class in this competition.

Carolan Family Fundraiser

RJ Carolan's family (RJ is in Ms Tansey's Junior Infants) are once again fundraising lighting up their house for Christmas. This year, the money raised will go to the **Rotunda** and **NICU in Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda** in appreciation of the compassion, empathy, and dedication of the staff in the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The lights will be on from 5pm each evening from **Friday 3rd December**, and their eircode is **A91 T671**. Why not bring the kids for a drive with some hot chocolate, and be sure to get some photos!

Please donate whatever you can to this very worthy cause via the *gofundme* link which is on our school text messaging system, school Twitter feed, and PA Facebook page.

KiVa

The KiVa antibullying program is being relaunched in our school this week. The KiVa program is a whole school approach to preventing bullying and to stopping ongoing bullying cases. During this week, 1st class to 6th class will be reviewing the KiVa messages through lessons, videos and other on line material. The program has received many awards in Finland and beyond. It not only reduces bullying but increases school well being and academic motivation. Check out the website www.kivaprogram.net for further information.



Christmas Concert

The children are busy rehearsing for the annual Christmas Concert. The budding stars in Ms Ryan's 3rd class are working especially hard on the play, 'Silent Night'. We can't wait to see them on stage!



Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the concert will once again be recorded and made available for family members to view online.

5th Class Penpals

Mrs Kelly's 5th Class have been busy making new penpals, with each child in the class being paired up with a child in Scoil Namoh Eirc in Kilmoyley, Co. Kerry.



Dates for your Diary

School Closed:

There will be no school on **Wednesday 8th December**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Christmas Holidays:

School will close for Christmas holidays at 12 midday on **Wednesday 22nd December** and will re-open on **Thursday 6th January 2022**.