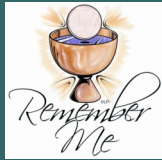


# SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter November 2023

## Do This In Memory

The Do This In Memory programme for 2nd class children continued this month, with a Mass celebrated on 25th November, the Feast of Christ the King. Well done to the boys and girls and their families.



## NET Team

Members of the NET Team, a group of young evangelists who are working in our pastoral area this year, are assisting 6th class in their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. They are:

Anna from Hungary  
Charles from Uganda  
Ciara from Belfast  
Jeremy from Canada  
Joe from Kentucky  
Joseph from Sligo  
Sofia from Texas

Our 6th class children are really enjoying their weekly visits!

## Family Christmas

### Movie Night

There will be a Family Christmas Movie Night in the Community Centre this Saturday 2nd December. Doors open at 6:45pm. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" will be shown.

This event is being facilitated by the NET team.

All families are welcome. Bring your own blanket!



## Message from Mrs Kirby

The sound of Christmas carols is echoing through our corridors as our staff and pupils are very busy preparing for our Christmas nativity play. It is a time of great joy for the children of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, but we don't forget those children much less fortunate than ours. That's why it is so heartening to see the large collection of shoeboxes which were so lovingly filled by our families and brought in by our pupils.

In this coming season of Advent, let us all remember the message it brings, of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Le dea-ghuí,

Donna Kirby

## Christmas Show

Our **Christmas Show**, "Straw and Order" will take place in the Community Centre at 6.30pm on **Thursday 14th December**.

All classes will take part in the show and are hard at work rehearsing. Costumes are:

Junior Infants: Cows

Senior Infants: Donkeys

1st Class: Sheep

2nd Class: Stars

3rd Class: Play Characters

4th Class: Townspeople

5th Class: Kings

6th Class: Angels

Donations will be requested at the door to cover the cost of the sound system.

A raffle will be held on the night to raise funds for our school.



## Wellbeing Corner

### Team Hope

Our school once again took part in the 'Team Hope' Christmas shoebox appeal, an annual campaign where shoeboxes filled with gifts for children affected by poverty are sent overseas. We donated 50 shoeboxes this year!



## Water Safety Ireland

David from Water Safety Ireland visited our school this month to deliver Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) workshops to all of the classes, from infants right up to 6th class. The workshops gave the children essential life-saving guidelines that every child needs to know. Each child also received a workbook.



## Kilkerley Parents Association News

Our Parents Association organised a talk on children's mental health recently, free to all parents and guardians from our school. The talk was delivered by Bonsai Therapy and was very well received.

Thank you for your support of the Toy Show/Christmas jumper themed non-uniform day on 24th November. **€365** was raised.

Rumour has it that Santa will be visiting all of the children next month, with a small gift for each child funded by the PA!

### Active Schools

3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes attended a 4 week block of swimming lessons in Aura Leisure Centre this month.

1st and 2nd class are currently enjoying hurling coaching with Paddy Lynch from Louth GAA.

Tennis lessons for 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th classes have now finished. Infants and 3rd and 4th class will have tennis lessons in May/June. Thank you to coach Gary from Dundalk Tennis Club for his work with the children.



### Rock Salt Competition Winner

Congratulations to Molly in 4th Class who won the Rock Salt competition to design their Christmas coffee cups.

Here she is pictured with her winning design!



### Science Week

This month, the children enjoyed taking part in lots of great science themed activities for Science Week.

Junior Infants explored Irish animal habitats and focused on the hedgehog. They investigated why animals hibernate, and along with the help of 6th class they designed and made their own 'hedgehog hotel' for their clay hedgehogs to hibernate in. They placed a class 'hedgehog hotel' under our school hedge to encourage a little hedgehog to hibernate over the winter.

Senior Infants explored forces that push and pull, and investigated how the shape of objects can be changed by squashing, pushing and pulling them. They also enjoyed investigating lots of mini beasts they found on our school grounds using magnifying glasses.

1st Class learned all about space and the planets.

Rang a 2 completed a leaf and bug hunt.

Rang a 3 were also busy, learning about famous inventors and their inventions.

Rang a 4 participated in 3 zoom calls recently; one with a marine biologist, one on animal superpowers, and one on maths problem solving skills.

Rang a 5 conducted a project on life in the Burren - wildlife, flowers, rocks, plants, insects and the climate.

6th class had their inquisitive minds in full swing as they investigated refraction, researched famous scientists and a range of scientific questions, and completed a STEM challenge by creating the tallest free standing structure using only 80cm of tinfoil.



## Enrolments 2024

Our Annual Admissions Notice has been published on our website, and we are now accepting applications for admission to Junior Infants 24-25.

### PTMs

**Parent-Teacher meetings** were held this month. Thank you for your attendance and for your support.

### Tráth na gCeist

Well done to our quiz teams who represented our school in the Cumann na mBunscol Tráth na gCeist in St. Mary's NS Knockbridge this month. Our Foireann A came 2nd overall in the heat and went through to the finals.



Our teams were:

Foireann A: Bébhinn Harris, Liam Kelleher, Cian Larkin, Seán Looney, Emma Madden  
Foireann B: Ellie Clifford, Willow Connolly, Grace Griffin, Sorcha McKenna, Charlotte Trimble

### Dates for your Diary

School will be **CLOSED on Friday 8th December**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.



School will be **CLOSED on Wednesday 13th December** due to Primary Maths Curriculum training for our teachers.

Our **Christmas Show** will take place on the evening of **Thursday 14th December**.

School closes for the Christmas Holidays on **Fri 22nd December**.