

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

NEWSLETTER OCT 2019

Annual Family Sponsored Walk

Sincere thanks to you all for supporting our Annual Family Sponsored Walk held on the 28th September. This is a vital fundraiser for our school.



There are 134 families in the school, and the grand total of **€7,435.25** was raised.

The raffle prize of a Tayto Park voucher was won by Tom and Harry McElroy.

The three families who raised the most sponsorship money were awarded prizes. They were:

- 1) Saoirse Connolly
- 2) Sophie and Seán Gordon
- 3) Caragh Kirk

The lucky sponsor was Ella Holland, Mark's little sister.

Halloween Concert

Ms Tansey, Mrs Curran-Butler and the Junior and Senior Infants have invited their parents and grandparents to their annual Halloween Concert on Friday 25th October at 1pm. The children are looking forward to showing off their hard work!



The members of our Student Council will be providing refreshments after the concert.

5th Class Visit to Roche Castle

5th class with Mrs Kelly and Ms Fahy enjoyed a trip to Roche Castle recently. Mrs Kelly helped the children to explore all the different parts of the castle and to learn lots about our local history.

The children have since completed projects on Norman castles, complete with models, which are on display in the school.



KiVa Launch Video

We would like to express our thanks to Conall Harmon's Dad, Paul for creating our KiVa Launch video which you can access on our website, under KiVa Programme. In it you can see the children express their hopes for how the KiVa programme will impact our school.



Green Schools

On Thursday 16th October we held a Climate Action Assembly. Each class from Junior Infants right through to 6th presented their projects raising awareness of Climate Change and ways to combat it.



Eoin Larkin in 5th class has been selected to be one of 157 delegates from primary and secondary schools across the country to participate in the RTÉ Youth Assembly on Climate in Dáil Eireann on November 15. Congratulations Eoin, we look forward to seeing you on TV!

Charlie Mulligan in 4th class was the winner of our Climate Action slogan competition "Switch off the light; our Generations' fight; Climate Action is our right". Congratulations to Charlie who received a voucher for Airbound.

Space Week

To mark Space Week, 5th and 6th class had a Skype call with Aisling Shannon, a Structures Engineer at the European Space Agency. Aisling is currently working on a mission called 'Earth Care' which aims to collect data about the Earth and it's ongoing Climate Change from space. This data will then be made available for free for anyone to analyse, particularly scientists who are studying changes in our climate.

Also during Space Week, 4th and 5th class had a planetarium-style observatory show delivered by an astronomer in Blackrock Observatory in Cork.



Date for the Diaries

Our biennial **Book Fair** will be held on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm in the GP Room.



St Vincent's Coding Workshop

As part of Code Week EU, Ms Conlon and 5th Class were delighted to be invited to attend St Vincent's Secondary School Codathon on Monday 14th October.



The children had the opportunity to use Scratch, code microbits, code circuits and sphero with iPads. Many thanks to St Vincent's for inviting us.

Basketball

Our basketball teams from 6th Class, led by Ms Tansey and Mrs Curran-Butler enjoyed an inter-schools blitz in Dundalk Sports Centre on the 11th October. Well done to all.



Maths Week



14th-18th October was Maths Week. All classes participated in maths stations and games to enhance their problem solving and mathematical skills.

Cumann na mBunscol

Both our girls and boys football teams recently competed in the Cumann na mBunscol and put in some wonderful performances on the pitch. The boys were narrowly beaten in a tough semi-final against Tallanstown.



Well done to all of our footballers and to Ms Fahy, Mr Loughran and Tommy Kirk our caretaker for all the work you put in with our teams.

Knitting Lessons



5th and 6th Class are enjoying knitting lessons on Fridays, with the help of Caragh's mother Geraldine Kirk, Alanna's mother Lorraine Quigley, and Naoise's grandmother Ann McCabe. Thank you to our volunteers.

Care Programme Theme:

Kindness

Our care programme theme for this month is 'Kindness'. All of the children have been learning about the impact that simple acts of kindness can have in our school, at home, and in our community. This theme tied in with our KiVa chain of kindness.

Green Schools Committee

Green Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and award programme, working with primary and secondary schools across the country. Scoil Mhuire gan Smál is the proud holder of **6 Green Flags**. Our Green Schools Committee is as follows:

1st Class: *Ferdia Maguire, Ariana Murphy*

2nd Class: *Cian Larkin, Bébhinn Harris*

3rd Class: *Keeley McConville, Jack Oakes*

4th Class: *Ruairí Fee, Kitty Coleman*

5th Class: *Siún Kirby, Shane Deery*

6th Class: *Taylor Donnelly, Caragh Kirk*



Chutney Making



Thank you all of our very productive volunteers who gave up their time to help make Apple and Date Chutney. We used this year's crop of homegrown apples and onions. The children are now busy labelling and making covers for the jars.

The chutney will be for sale in November.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our parent teacher meetings are scheduled for the **13th and 14th of November**. You should have received your allocated time in September. Parent Teacher Meetings are an important part of our school year. They aim to:



- Let parents know how their children are progressing in school
- Inform teachers on how children are coping outside school
- Establish an on-going relationship and communication with parents
- Help teachers and parents get to know the children better as individuals
- Help children realise that home and school are working together

