

SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

Newsletter October 2021

Enrolment 2021

We are now accepting applications for admission to **Junior Infants 2022**.

Please see the school website for details.



Halloween Concert

Junior and Senior Infants have been very busy getting ready for their annual Halloween Concert. Thank you to their teachers Ms Tansey and Mrs Cumiskey and well done children! We have recorded their performance for you to enjoy.



Temple St

As usual, our school is supporting Trick or Treat for Temple Street on Friday 22nd October. Donations of €2 per child are requested, with all funds going to Temple Street Children's Hospital.



COVID-19

We would like to thank our school community for your vigilance with regard to COVID-19. The Covid-19 page on our website has a link to the HPSC Isolation quick guide, should you need it over the coming months.



St. Joseph Triduum

6th class took part in a Triduum to St Joseph, held earlier this month in our parish.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will be conducted by telephone once again this year. They will be scheduled to take place on **November 16th** and **17th** 2021. School will close at the earlier time of **2.45pm** on these days.

Message from Mrs Kirby

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Halloween is a very exciting time of year for all our pupils. Our 5th and 6th classes enjoyed a visit from Garda Frank and Garda Louise who advised the children on safety matters during this festive season.

Thank you to all our families who contributed to our recent sponsored walk. We have ordered air purifiers for each of our classrooms and SEN rooms along with additional CO₂ monitors. We hope that these will enhance our indoor air quality over the winter months.

Le dea-ghuí,

Donna Kirby

Sponsored Walk School Fundraiser

A huge thank you to all who supported our Annual Sponsored Walk. We are delighted to let you know that just over €8,000 was raised this year. The money raised benefits all of the pupils in our school, and contributes to our book rental scheme, photocopying, art expenses and general running costs of the school.

We held our raffle on Friday 8th October, and the following were the lucky winners:

- Hamper: **Charlie Mulligan**
- €50 Voucher for Smyths: **Cain Murtagh**
- €25 Voucher for Smyths: **Enda Sharkey**
- Set of Books: **Emma & James Madden**



The two top collectors were **April Wallace** who received a baby doll and **Sophie Murphy** who received a book voucher. And finally congratulations to the lucky sponsor, **Clodagh Lennon**, who sponsored **Oscar McGowan**.

STEM Award!

We were very proud to once again receive our STEM Award for the academic year 2020-21. This award is in recognition of all of the brilliant work in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths carried out by the children and staff of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál. Well done to everyone!



Roche Castle Trip

5th class recently enjoyed a visit to Roche Castle, accompanied by their class teacher **Mrs Kelly**, **Ms Sarah** and **Mrs Kirby**. Mrs Kelly helped the children to explore all of the different parts of the castle and they learned lots about our local history. They carried out some map work in small groups, and had a role play with the O'Neills and the Normans going head to head defending their lands! They were delighted to receive a lovely cup of hot chocolate and marshmallows to warm them up!



Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds



GAA coaching continued in October with **Craig Lynch**. Our pupils are also enjoying tennis coaching with **Gary Rodriguez**, and rugby with **Tiernan Gonnelly** from **Dundalk RFC**.

Thank you to **Kilkerley Emmets** for the use of their facilities for our recent sponsored walk.

Green Schools Flag

Scoil Mhuire gan Smál had a special visitor to our school last week. We welcomed **Ollan Herr** and his unique Rotovelo. He led a group of pupils, along with Mr Coleman, on a school cycle. He finished his visit by raising our 7th Green Flag, the theme of which was Global Citizenship. We look forward to sharing more environmental ideas with Ollan in the future.



Space Week Oct 4th-10th

To mark Space Week, all classes took part in space-based activities. The children learned about the solar system, light and shadows, space flight, the ISS and much more!

1st class had a zoom call with **Eoin Tuohy** from the ESA. **6th Class** studied the moon in detail, while 5th class focused on the ISS, and had a video call with **Juan Miro**, the former Head of Ground Systems Engineering at the ESA. Juan also visited 5th and 6th class in person this week and delivered a presentation on the 2014 Rosetta mission to a comet.



Maths Week Oct 16th-24th



Lots of fun maths activities were happening all over the school to mark Maths Week. The children, from Junior Infants to 6th Class, worked on patterns and puzzles, maths trails, maths collages and problem-solving.

The Crocus Project

5th and 6th Class are taking part in the Crocus Project, run by the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland. They have planted yellow crocus bulbs in memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust and thousands of other children who were victims of Nazi atrocities. The yellow flowers recall the yellow Stars of David that Jews were forced to wear under Nazi rule. The crocus blooms around the end of January, about the time of international Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January).



Concern Primary Debates

We wish our 6th Class debating team of **Bozhana Georgieva**, **Charlie Mulligan** and **Ellie Mai Finnegan** well as they prepare for the first round of the Concern Primary Debates. They are proposing the motion that 'TikTok has done more harm than good for young people's confidence'. Thank you **Mrs Murphy** for your work with the team!



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.



Musical Ensemble



Mrs Kelly's musical ensemble is back in action, and will be working hard

learning new pieces over the coming weeks. We are lucky to have the use of the Community Centre Hall to enable us to practice with appropriate social distancing. Note: *If you have a music stand that is no longer in use, and you would like to find a new home for it, we would gladly accept it!*

Cash 4 Clothes

Míle buíochas to all who donated clothing to our Cash 4 Clothes collection. €148 in total was raised which will go towards school funds.

Happy Halloween!

The school will be closed from **Monday 25th—Friday 29th October** for mid-term break.

Wishing you all a Happy Halloween!

Oíche Shamhna shona daoibh go léir!

