



MUIRE GAN SMÁL NEWS

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January 2024

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**Muire Gan Smál
Primary School**



A Proud Moment!

We are very proud of our 5th Class girls, Ms Prendergast and Bob our Robot, on winning two awards at the regional VEX IQ Robotic Competition.

VEX IQ is a robotics platform designed for students to learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts through hands-on robotics projects. They are winners of The Robot Skills Champion Award (driving and coding combined) and winners of the Teamwork Champion Award. The class have worked diligently and enthusiastically over the past few months, it's great to see their effort rewarded.



The theme for the month of January in Muire gan Smál was **Doing Our Best!**

The children from Ms Mellett's Junior Infants and Ms McGreal's Junior and Infants classes displayed wonderful examples of doing their best. Well done, beautiful work!

Scoil Mhuire gan Smál will hold an Open Evening on Wednesday 7th February from 5:30pm to 7:00 pm.

Parents/Guardians and children welcome!

Enrolments for Junior Infants 2024-25 will open from 1st February to 1st March.



What's been happening...

Peer to Peer Workshops

We would like to thank Transition Year students from St. Coleman's and Mt. St. Michael's who are facilitating Peer to Peer workshops for our 6th Class students. The workshop will help the girls prepare for their Confirmation and their transition to Secondary School.

Their first visit to the school was Tuesday 30th January. They will return next week for a follow on visit.



Catholic Schools Week

21/01/24– 27/01/24

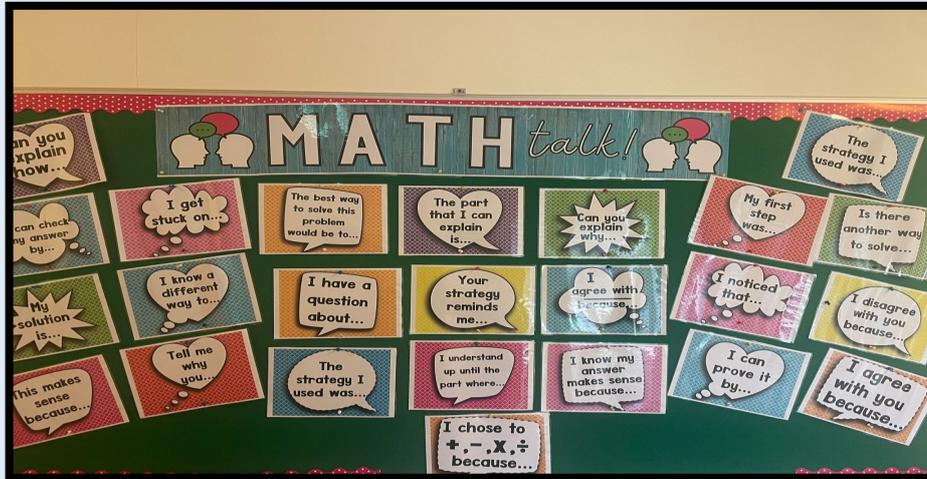
Each class celebrated Catholic Schools Week . This year's theme was : **Communities of Service.**



What's been happening...

New Maths Curriculum

We are currently promoting Math Talk. Math Talk is a collaborative process where children's thinking, strategies and ideas are discussed, shared and/or exchanged. Using Maths Talk in classrooms will help reveal children's understanding and misunderstandings. It can support their maths learning by boosting memory, developing maths language, promoting deeper reasoning as well as developing social skills across all subjects.

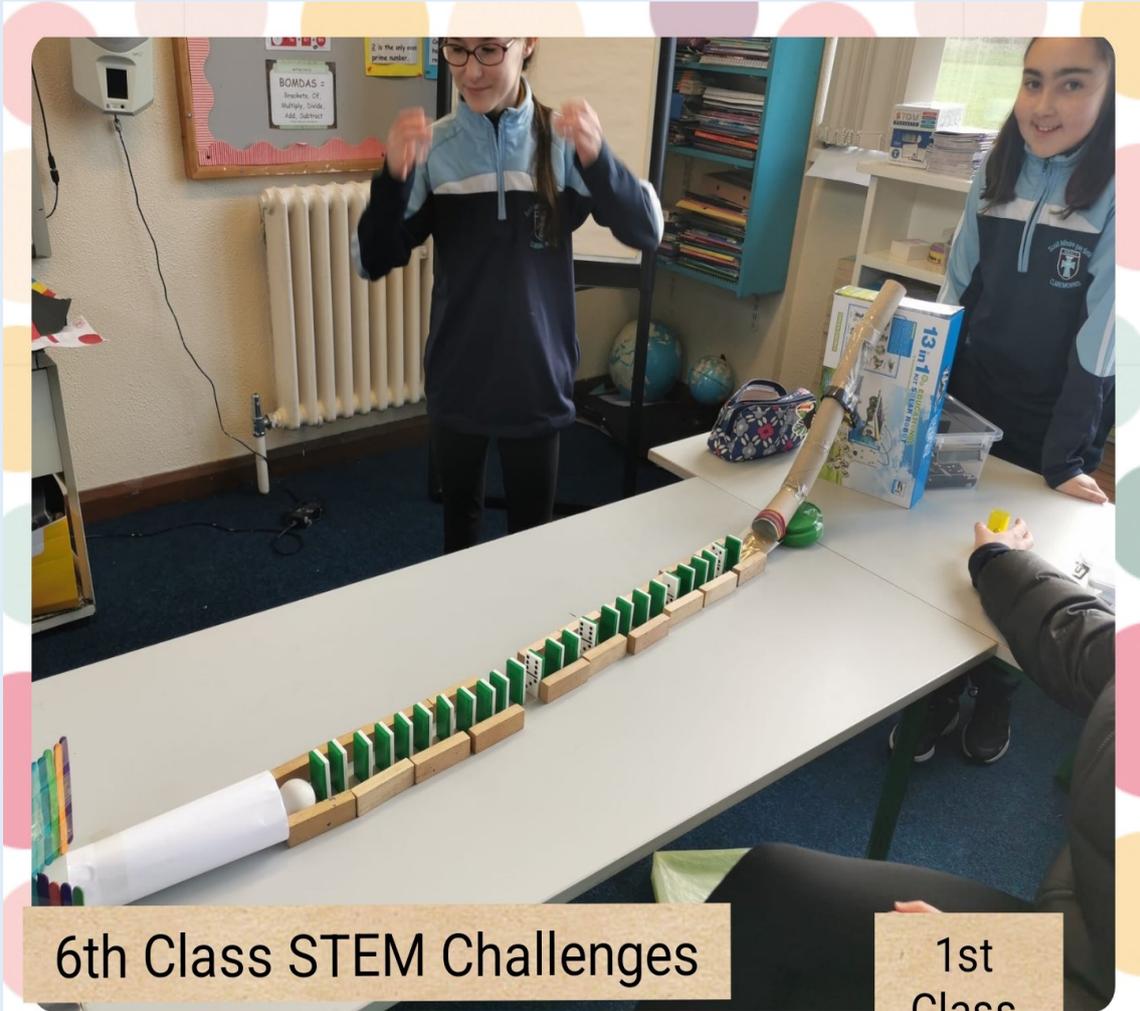


Our Math Talk Display

1st and 2nd Class

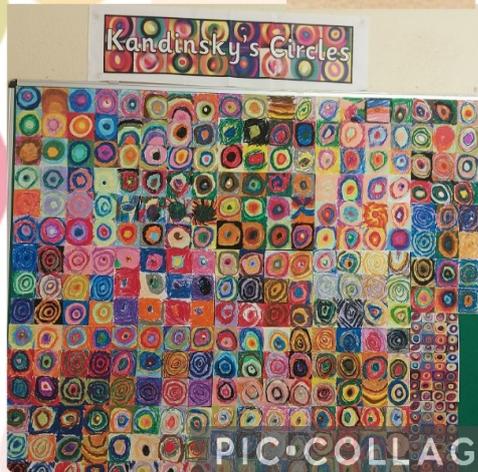


What's been happening...



6th Class STEM Challenges

1st
Class
Art



What's been happening...

Whole School Assembly

A whole school assembly was held in the hall today, Wednesday 31st January. Topics discussed included:

School Motto

School Rules

Daily Routines

iPad rules

Internet Safety and Cyberbullying

Student Council

Healthy Eating

Green Schools

Attendance

Amalgamation

Classes also sang two songs: Dr Knickerbocker and Count on Me.



What's been happening...

Excellent Project on Ancient Egypt by 3rd Class



Amazing History Projects on the theme: Native Americans by 4th Class



What's been happening...

Defibrillator



We are delighted to announce that a defibrillator has kindly been donated to the school by an anonymous benefactor. This unit was supplied by Darren Forde of Eco Powered Cabinets, who kindly donated a wall-mounted bracket so that the defibrillator can be safely stored. It will be located on the wall outside of the principal's office.

This unit gives instructions through audio and images displayed on a screen. It can be used on both adults and children and has a battery life of up to five years.

We have a number of staff trained as first responders in the event of an emergency.

Sincere thanks to all involved in bringing this to fruition. We are extremely grateful.

New Teachers

We want to welcome Ms Geraghty (1st/2nd Class), Ms Hetherington (4th Class) and Ms Mc Loughlin (Language Support Teacher) to the staff here at Muire gan Smál. We hope they will be very happy in their new roles.



New Deputy Principal

We want to wish Ms. Siobhán Walsh the very best as she commences her new role as Deputy Principal this term. Siobhán takes over from Mrs. Varley.

Ms. Walsh is currently working as a Special Education teacher in our school and has worked in a number of schools over the last 18 years. She will be the Special Educational Needs Organiser for the school as part of her Deputy Principal Post. She brings a lot of experience to the role.

What's been happening...

School Attendance

We wish to remind parents that schools are required to submit Student Absence Reports to Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) on students with serious attendance issues that have been identified during the current academic year i.e. students that have been absent from school for a cumulative total of twenty days or more.

Should your child miss more than twenty school days, the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) may come to the school to meet with you.

In extreme cases, families may be brought to court on this issue which could result in parental fines and/or imprisonment.

Extensive holidays are not acceptable to the EWO.

Poor school attendance needs to be responded to early; otherwise, as research has shown, it can lead to poorer exam results, early school leaving, unsuccessful transfer from primary and poorer life chances for children.

We are launching a school attendance campaign this term to promote good and consistent school attendance amongst pupils.

For the month of February, we will be giving a raffle ticket to every child for every day they attend school. At the end of the month, each class will pull a raffle ticket and the winner will get a €20 voucher for Smyths, Penneys, Mayo Movie World or Pots of Fun.



School Calendar 2023/24

Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál

2023 - 2024 School Calendar

August '23							September '23							October '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

November '23							December '23							January '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

February '24							March '24							April '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

May '24							June '24							July '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

- School Closed/ Holidays
- Teacher In-Service Day (no school for students)
Date(s) to be confirmed.
- Half Day
- First and Last Day of School

Reminders

The school will be closed on the following dates:

Monday 5th February: February Bank Holiday

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February: Midterm Break

Monday 18th March: St Patrick's Day Closure

Monday 25th March-Friday 5th April: Easter Holidays