

# SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL

Green Lane, Carlow



Principal: Bernie Murphy

Deputy Principal: Ann Marie Gurhy

Assistant Principal: Máirín Lambe

Roll 18363m Tax no. 3289700U

Tel 059 9+142705

Fax 05991 32376

e mail [smgscarlow@gmail.com](mailto:smgscarlow@gmail.com)

18 Feb 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The following is an update on school activities since Christmas and some information on up-coming events:

**Mathletes:** Students from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class are busy taking part in the Mathletes Challenge, an Irish Maths tournament where students compete on-line against their peers nationwide. Thus far, our students are faring very well at county and national levels. For further information go to [www.mathletes.ie](http://www.mathletes.ie).

**Maths Eyes Competition:** We are delighted to report that we have three national winners in the "Have you Got Maths. Eyes" competition. Warmest congratulations to Caoimhe Fanning (Sen. Inf), Máire O'Driscoll (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Alicia Premkumar (6<sup>th</sup>) who will be attending the prizegiving ceremony in Dublin in March. Grateful thanks also to Ms. Gurhy who organises the school's participation in this competition and in *Mathletes*.

**The Maths. Of Dogs!** Continuing the Maths. theme, we are looking forward to welcoming *Dogs Trust* back to our school during the week of Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have a new dog visiting this year and he and his trainer will work on the theme of *The Maths. of Dogs*. All will be revealed in time!

### **Music Generation Workshops:**

Last week we welcomed the professional musicians, The Gregory Walkers, to our school. They held a recorder workshop with the pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes, while the pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes enjoyed their performance. The event was organized by *Music Generation*. Meanwhile, violin and recorder tuition continue each week for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Classes and the infant classes enjoy the *Early Years* programme. Many thanks to Tim, Marita, Orla and Gavin for their expert tuition.

**St. Patrick's Day:** The Presentation School Band will take part in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. The girls are practising hard at the moment. Please support them on the day.

### **Sport:**

**Gymnastics:** All pupils have completed a 6-week block of gymnastics with Ramona. We are so fortunate to have a gym instructor of Ramona's calibre in our school. ***We wish Ramona every success for her Mona Gymnastic Club which will have its official opening on Sun 1<sup>st</sup>. March 4-6pm in Fairgreen Shopping Centre.***

**Soccer Skills:** Students from Carlow I.T. are currently working with pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class on soccer skills. They will shortly proceed to working with pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class.

**Tag Rugby:** Welcome back to Wes Whitten who is starting back with 5<sup>th</sup> Class. We completed a very successful tag rugby course with 6<sup>th</sup> Class in Term 1.

**GAA Skills:** Members of O'Hanrahans's are currently working with the pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class and will coach 6<sup>th</sup> Class later in the year.

### **Grandparents' Day:**

Our school celebrated Grandparents' Day as part of Catholic Schools Week. It was a wonderful occasion, allowing us to welcome a large number of our grandparents to Scoil Mhuire gan Smál and to have them share their granddaughters' school life. The celebrations began with the 2nd Classes leading a most beautiful and moving prayer service in honour of grandparents. The girls sang their hearts out and charmed and impressed their grandparents with their happiness, sense of joy and excellent behaviour. After a welcome cup of tea/coffee, it was time to visit the classrooms, having a chance to admire the displays of their granddaughters' artwork and writings en route. Some grandparents joined in games and activities with the children. Many read the projects on grandparents recently completed by the some classes. Some grandparents watched while Ramona Iovan took gymnastics class in the hall or while Gavin Barr took a music class. All-in-all, it was such a memorable day! Grateful thanks to the members of the Parents' Council who provided refreshments throughout the morning, to Clare Dunne for providing the musical accompaniment, to Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Rogers who prepared the prayer service, to Ms. Hendricken who co-ordinated the week's activities, to all the staff who worked to make the event such a success and to the wonderful grandparents who enriched our school on the day!

**Scoil Mhuire Chicks!** I'm sure you've heard that these are "egg-citing" days at school! We are eagerly awaiting the hatching of our chicks. Classes are able to check up on the progress of the eggs in the incubator via a webcam. We're "egg-specting" our chicks to hatch out early next week. Thanks to Michèle who will take care of the incubator over the mid-term to make sure they stay safe. The incubator and eggs have been provided by Gareth in Nore Valley Park, Kilkenny.

**Bicycle Training:** Cycle training will resume again this year on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> Classes. Thanks to

Ms. Hourihane for organising this opportunity for our pupils. An Taisce part-funds the initiative and for that we are truly grateful. Bicycles and helmets are provided for all pupils. .

**Credit Union Quiz 2015:** Our senior quiz team of Alicia Premkumar, Beth Evesson, Rachel Whelan, Doireann Broderick and Sarah Onefuye were so unlucky not to feature among the prize-winners. It was a close call! Well done to the junior team of Eleanor Feeney, Eve Molloy, Isobel Fortune ,Haniel Faith and Abbey Kennedy who represented us so well. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Fitzgerald for her work with the team.

**Art & Craft Classes:** Art and Craft lessons for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> have resumed with Donough O'Brien on Tuesday afternoons. Donough's group raised €185 for the Breakfast Club through their Christmas Craft Fair. We are truly grateful for such a lovely gesture.

**Cuan Mhuire Visitors:** 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils recently had a very interesting talk from recovered addicts, who shared their life stories with the girls.

**Lost and found:** Two bracelets found on school grounds are available to owners from the office.

**Car parking:** The Principal of St. Joseph's N.S. has requested parents **not** to use St Joseph's N.S. car park. Spaces are limited and are required by staff of St. Joseph's at all times.

**Dates to Remember:**

**Please remember:** A calendar of school closures is in school journals (1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Classes).

Infant classes were given a copy of school closures in September.

- Mid-term Break- School is closed Thursday and Friday this week (Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>).
- Confirmation - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June in the Cathedral.
- School closed – March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day.
- First Holy Communion - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 am in the Cathedral.
- School closed Mon Jun 1<sup>st</sup> – Bank Holiday
- School closing for Summer Holidays on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon.

**Gentle reminder re. the Following:**

- Remember to notify the office with changes of address and telephone number. It is important we have correct contact details in case of illness or emergency.
- Please remember to bring and collect children promptly. *Please remind your daughter to come back into school if she is not collected.*
- ***In the interest of Health & Safety please use the footpaths provided at all times and do not walk under the barrier.***
- Please continue to support our Healthy Lunches Policy. A small treat may be given on Friday .
- Some POD (Personal On-line Database) forms are still outstanding. Please complete and return as soon as possible. If you have mislaid your form please ask in the office for a replacement.
- ***After mid-term, full school uniform is to be worn (except on PE days). Black/navy shoes are part of the uniform.***

**Security-**Pupils are not allowed to open school doors at any time. If calling to the school, please do not ask children to open the front door for access to our school. Also, if visiting the school, please do not allow access to other visitors. This is for the safety of all pupils and staff and their property.

**Parents' Council-** The next Parents' Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm.

**Blog:** Remember to log on to our school blog on [smgscarlow.scoilnet.ie/blog/](http://smgscarlow.scoilnet.ie/blog/) for up-to-date information on various activities in the school. *Grateful thanks to Ms. Gurhy for her work on the blog!*

Enjoy the mid-term!

Kind regards,

***Bernie Murphy***

Bernie Murphy

Principal