



**Scoil Mhuire** Roll No. 19973V  
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## NEWSLETTER



### Lenten Hope

As we enter Lent and the spectre of Covid retreats, we are filled with hope. Our Band is happily practicing for St. Patrick's day, our active school leaders in 6<sup>th</sup> class are helping our Junior classes and an air of busy normality envelops the school. I feel a profound sense of gratitude towards the staff of Scoil Mhuire for their courage and diligence over the past two years. Their resolution strengthened mine and our collective calm provided respite for the pupils during this shared tribulation. We pray for those who lost loved ones during the pandemic and we dare to hope that the worst is behind us.

Take care,

***Dara McAleer***

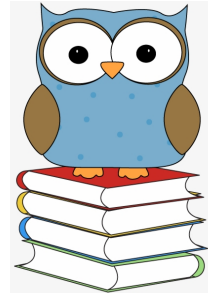
### St Vincent de Paul

Scoil Mhuire's Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Cake Raffle in aid of our local St. Vincent de Paul charity were both a huge success this year. A whopping €780 was raised which will be dropped into the local shop in the coming weeks.

A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved.

# Upcoming Dates to remember:

**March:** **Thursday 3rd:** World Book Day  
**Friday 4th:** No Uniform Day in aid of Dementia Ireland  
**Thursday and Friday 17th/18th and Monday 21st:**  
Closed for St Patricks Day, the new Bank Holiday and the Monday  
**Thursday March 31st:**  
First Confession for 2nd class.  
This will be held during school hours.



**April:** **Friday 8th:**  
Scoil Mhuire Band will be opening this years Trad Fest  
  
School closed from **Monday April 11th** for Easter Holidays and reopening on **Monday April 25th.**

**May:** **Monday 2nd:** School closed for May Bank Holiday  
**Saturday 7th:** First Communion (2nd class)

**June:** **Monday 6th:** School closed for June Bank Holiday

**Saturday 11th:** Confirmation Day (6th class)

**Wednesday 22nd:** School's closed for Summer

# Active Flag 2022

Here at school our students are putting their best feet forward and getting involved in our quest to attain our first Active Flag status.

The Active School Flag is a Department of Education and Skills initiative which is supported by Healthy Ireland and part of the National Physical Activity Plan. The initiative which provides schools with a framework to guide, support and incentivise them to work towards achieving a physically educated and physically active school community.

Together with local partnerships, the students are doing a range of activities each week which are bringing students together with their friends to take part in daily walks, morning 'Shake and Shapes', Rugby skills and training, GAA training, Swimming Lessons and PE classes which even the staff are finding hard to keep up with the kids!

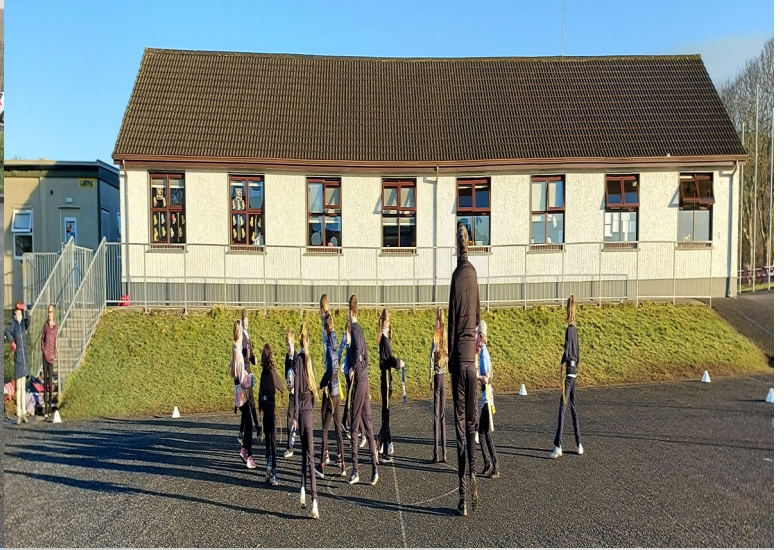
This month, Scoil Mhuire will be starting a 4 week activity break challenge. The challenge which includes indoor and outdoor movement breaks daily that aim not only to introduce fitness into the school day but to increase concentration and focus throughout the day for both students and staff. Some of the challenges will include running, walking, yoga and skilled sports and completing the Active Break Challenge will be a great step towards achieving the Active School Flag for our school community.

Be sure to keep an eye on our school website for more updates in the coming weeks of all our fun activities to come.

Check out some of the activities on the next page that we have been getting involved in since the start of this month.



# Active Days at School



- 1st class taking some time out from PE to give us a wave.
- 2nd class having a rugby team talk with Alan King
- 3rd class on our School Walk Way
- 5th class doing some yoga stretching
- 4th class getting warmed up for a game of Rounders against 3rd class
- 8th class enjoying some Horse Riding at Cleggan Farm
- 6th class being put through their paces during rugby training.



# Restorative Practice

Scoil Mhuire is a place where relationships matter. The better the relationships in a school, between teacher and students, and between the students themselves, the better teachers can teach, the better the students can learn and the fewer challenges and conflicts there will be.

Scoil Mhuire is in the process of becoming a restorative school. Restorative practice which prioritises conflict resolution over punishment, provides us with a framework to support these relationships in times of conflict and crisis.

Some of the basic questions used in restorative practice include:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at the time?
- What have you thought about it since?
- Who has been affected and in what way?
- How could things have been done differently?
- What do you think needs to happen next?

You can try them out at home!!!

# Important Information

## Attendance matters

Scoil Mhuire is deeply concerned by the poor attendance of some of our pupils. There are a significant number of pupils who have missed more than 30 days. To put this in context, this is 6 weeks of school. We will be sending letters to the parents of these pupils outlining the extent of their children's absenteeism. These letters will offer support to families who are experiencing difficulties getting their children to school.

Poor school attendance is strongly associated with impaired school outcomes and significant behavioural and emotional problems such as anxiety and depressive disorders.

## Enrolment 2022/2023

Enrolment Forms for the academic term 2022/2023 are now being accepted. Forms can be downloaded on our School Website or requested via email: [secretary@scoilmhuireclifden.ie](mailto:secretary@scoilmhuireclifden.ie)

Please note that the Closing Dates for Enrolment Forms this year is **Friday April 1st**. The school will then be in contact with all parents regarding their placement for next year.

# In other news...

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Rugby training commenced again this term with Alan King and team. Students in 2nd class are enjoying the training each Thursday morning before their music class with Marie. A great turn out was also had at the recent Connemara Rugby Open Day and we believe all who attended had lots of fun.

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Practice has begun for the St. Patricks Day Parade here in school so watch out for our wonderful flag bearers, drummers and musicians.

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There was lots of students celebrating St Brigid's Day this year with some fantastic crosses made throughout the school. Here's some of our 8th class creations from the day.



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## Don't Forget....

Just a reminder with the brighter Spring days coming we want to ensure that all children have water with them coming to school to keep hydrated during the day. This is very important for all students and particularly important for days where PE, yard walks and fun sports take place.

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Congratulations to our very own Mr O'Brien and his teammates at Connemara All Black who had a great win over Creggs last weekend in Castlebar. The team were crowned Bank of Ireland J1A Champions.

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A very Happy Birthday to the following staff members who had their birthdays recently:

Ms O Malley, Ms Lynagh, Mr O'Brien, Fiona, Dolores and Ms Keogh.



# Arts & Crafts Corner



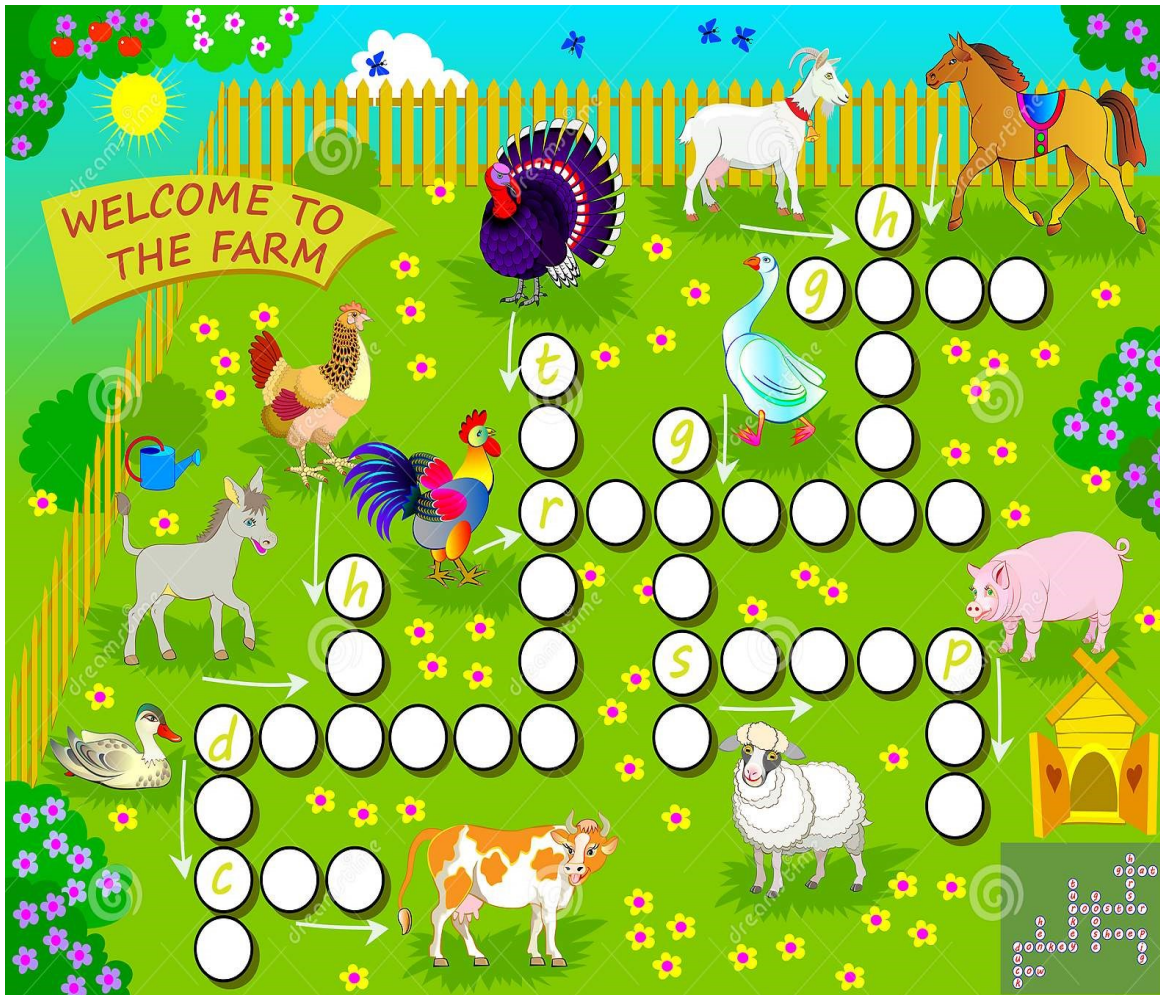
This term the students of Scoil Mhuire have been super busy with lots of colourful Art work. From Starry, Starry Nights to Chinese New Year celebrations (2nd class), Loveable Penguins (Junior Infants) to Bear Hunt creations (8th class). With Arctic Bears (Senior Infants) to high flying Kites (1st class).





# The Fun Stuff...

Can you help the farmer get to his cow before she eats all the hay?



Can you fill in all the missing animals?