

First time spikeball and volleyball action for pupils of Scoil Mhuire, Newbridge

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Sport is an important thread of the social and educational fabric of Scoil Mhuire Senior School in Newbridge. Prior to school closures, due to Covid-19, the pupils were abounding with energy as they participated in all the extra curricular sporting activities.

There is a wide range of sports organised in the school including football, hurling, camogie, basketball, athletics, tag rugby, soccer and the most recent sport spikeball and volleyball.

The Active Schools initiative, resulting in the Active Schools' Flag Award two years ago, fuels the whole enthusiasm for healthy and active pursuits with class-based circuits and novel activities to encourage all the pupils to engage in exercise.

It was decided this year to hold regional 'Fun Blitzes' to encourage schools to enter Fourth and Fifth Class pupils to experience a Spikeball tournament and practise the various skills they had developed.

The pupils of Scoil Mhuire are very fortunate as they have a sizeable PE Hall to cater for indoor sports. This Fifth class group of boys and girls were introduced to Spikeball in September and they were very keen and enthusiastic to learn and develop their skills.

At the end of January 2020, a group of Fifth Class boys and girls travelled to Portlaoise College to represent the school in their Regional 'Fun Blitz'.

There were three squads donning the Scoil Mhuire

colours; a boys' squad, a girls' squad and a mixed squad.

While the Fifth Class boys and girls honed their Spikeball skills, it was announced for the first time that Sixth Class pupils had to play 4x4 full volleyball rules, instead of the customary Spikeball, in the forthcoming championships in March 2020. The pupils in the Sixth classes rose to the challenge and enthusiastically practised during their lunchtime and attended practice sessions after school.

Portlaoise College was also the venue for the 4x4 Volleyball Championship Regional qualifiers.

Scoil Mhuire entered three events; the boys', girls' and mixed competitions.

Schools from the Leinster, Munster area including St Patrick's Primary School, Newbridge, Kilkea Primary School in Kildare The Heath Primary School in Laois, Templemore Primary School from Tipperary, to name but a few.

The level of skills exhibited by all these young players was exceptional and really impressed the Volleyball Ireland representatives who were present on the day.

The matches were very competitive but played in true sporting spirit as players enjoyed the experience and many matches were won with the last point of play.

The Scoil Mhuire teams performed very well, just reward for all their hard work in training and preparation for the Regional Championships.

The Girls' squad and The Mixed squad won their group

stages and qualified for their respective semi-finals against The Heath Primary School and Rath Primary School. They all played exceptionally well but were just pipped at the post to qualify for the final.

The Boys' Squad also earned a semi-final slot and had an exciting match against St Mary's Primary School. There were many long, energy sapping rallies but the Scoil Mhuire boys displayed great focus and courage to reach the final where they met Templemore Primary School.

An All- Ireland qualifying slot was at stake and unfortunately only the winning team qualified unlike former years when both finalists qualified.

Each point was keenly contested and both teams should be commended or their sheer determination and skill but Templemore representing the Premier County just edged out Scoil Mhuire who did their school and Kildare proud.

This event was played in the first week of March and would be the final sporting event in the school during 2019/ 2020 before the schools' closure.

Teachers and pupils all look forward to the resumption of sports and all the fun activities enjoyed in our school when life returns to normal after these unprecedented times.

Fifth Class Boys' Squad: Ross Courtney, Patrick Martin, Fionn Kinsella, Jamie Brannigan, Conor Crudden, Jack Conway, Michael Roche, Richard Simovic, Leon



Pupils from Scoil Mhuire, Newbridge, 5th, 6th and Mixed Volleyball teams

Pimblett, Joseph Adebessin , Photchara Mangkhalikun and CJ Marpala .

Tracey, Chloe Efemina, Ella Cullen and Alexandra Prelucan.

Ryan Brew and Evan Daly.

Sixth Class Girls' Squad: Nicola Miemic, Clíodhna Elwood, Sophia Whitty, Ruby Hall, Sophie Carpenter, Deborah Adebessin, Liang Qui Wu, Amelia Wzorek, Lauren Lyons, Clara Carvalho, Fearné Hanniffy, Kasey O'Neill, Kirstan Cox , Saphia Owen Jones and Jessica Tipper Dillon.

Fifth Class Girls' Squad: Marcelina Robak, Aoife o' Toole, Faye Durney, Shona Naughton, Caoimhe Prendergast, Wisdom Michael, Nila Kildea, Ellen Moloney, Emma Nolan , Alessandra Diez, Ada Nowakowski- Kedzior , Ava

Sixth Class Boys' Squad: Adam Poole, Fionnán Galvin, Dean O'Connell, Oisín Coleman, Ross Sweeney, Charles Aldemita, Gerard Rowley, Joe Corry, Eoin Williamson, Jack Gunning, Jamie Loughlin, Liam Brett,



Spikeball squads from Scoil Mhuire, Ballymany NS, Newbridge

