

Scoil Mhuire na nGrást,
Béal Guala,
Co. Chorcaí.



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
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08/12/2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with forwarding monies requested in respect of recent collections.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association for the amount of time and effort spent organising *School Calendar 2022*. The PA plan on distributing the calendars to families week ending Friday, 17 December.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2021/2022

Thank you to everyone for your co-operation and support with related arrangements over the past few weeks.

GAA FOOTBALL TRAINING & GUM SHIELD REMINDER

1st, 2nd & 3rd & 6th classes have been enjoying football training with Gavin over the past few weeks and will continue until the Christmas break. Junior & Senior infants and 5th classes will commence football training after the Christmas break on Fridays. When availing of this training, all pupils need to remember to bring in their gum shields on each of the relevant days. The school would like to thank our local GAA Clubs for facilitating these sessions for the pupils.

RUGBY SESSIONS

Pupils in 3rd and 4th classes are enjoying rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez. The children are learning the skills of rugby through play and experience and are having lots of fun. Thanks to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

'CHRISTMAS MEDLEY 2021'

All pupils and their teachers are currently preparing a 'Christmas Medley' of seasonal favourites. In the absence of our usual Christmas gathering at the school, and realising the importance of sharing our skills and talents with others, the pupils are once again keen to help add to everyone's Christmas celebrations. Classes are busy preparing a short compilation which they hope to share with their families, via *Seesaw*, at some stage nearer the Christmas break.

SANTA 'S VISIT 2021, SANTA GROTTO & 'SENSORY GARDEN – CHRITSMAS WONDERLAND!'

Similar to last year, the PA will create a magical Christmas grotto area for pupils to greet Santa when he pays a surprise visit to the school on Thursday, 16 December. If they wish, pupils may wear Christmas jumpers and other appropriate seasonal attire on the day.

The pupils are also currently enjoying the sensory garden that has been festooned with Christmas wreaths, baubles and other seasonal trappings. Thank you to the PA, the Friends of the PA and our Garden Angels for adding some festive cheer to our school environment at this time of year. It is very much appreciated by the pupils and staff.

/Over.....

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The final day of this half-term is **Wednesday, 22 December** and pupils will finish and leave school on that day in the following order:

- 'Junior Infants' – 11.30 – 11.35
- 'Senior Infants' – 11.35 – 11.40
- 'Walkers' (1st & 2nd Classes) – 11.40 – 11.50
- 'Walkers' (3rd to 6th Classes) – 11.50 – 12.00
- School Buses – 12.00 – 12.10

Should you have a child in Junior or Senior Infants who is to depart school in the company of an older sibling as a 'Walker' or 'Bus', arrangements will be made by the relevant staff for these pupils to join their older siblings at the relevant times in respect of school departure, as outlined above.

The school will re-open after the Christmas break on **Thursday, 06 January 2022**.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM STAFF IN-SERVICE & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 18 January 2022)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate staff training, pupils will finish and leave on **Tuesday, 18 January 2022** in the following order:

- 'Junior Infants' – 11.30 – 11.35
- 'Senior Infants' – 11.35 – 11.40
- 'Walkers' (1st & 2nd Classes) – 11.40 – 11.50
- 'Walkers' (3rd to 6th Classes) – 11.50 – 12.00
- School Buses – 12.00 – 12.10

Should you have a child in Junior or Senior Infants who is to depart school in the company of an older sibling as a 'Walker' or 'Bus', arrangements will be made by the relevant staff for these pupils to join their older siblings at the relevant times in respect of school departure, as outlined above.

PAINTING & MEMORY COMEPTITION – FOURTH CLASS

Well done to the 4th Class pupils in Mrs. Ryan/Miyazaki's class who are currently working on their art entries for the *Jack B. Yeats: Painting and Memory competition*, which is being run by the National Gallery of Ireland to celebrate their current exhibition of the same title. Pupils have been afforded the opportunity to engage more deeply with the themes of place and memory in Yeats' work, in this unique competition celebrating the diverse communities of Ireland. The pupils have taken part in a webinar exploring paintings from the exhibition and become more familiar with Yeats' work. The local history element of the competition has prompted much excitement and interest with pupils interviewing their grandparents about their memories of the locality, reading articles and poems from local history books and examining old photos of people and places in the locality. This has helped realise an improved awareness and appreciation of our local landmarks, monuments, scenic areas like woods and walkways, local traditions and events in Belgooly and Riverstick and their historical significance. We look forward to seeing their finished art pieces and sharing them on 'Our Gallery' on the website in due course!

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY COMPETITION

To assist families with supporting their child's literacy development, our local libraries have an ample and varied supply of reading materials. The attached poster may be of interest.

STAFF RETIREMENT – MS SIOBHÁN MOYNIHAN

Having given 39 years' teaching service at Scoil Mhuire na nGrást, Ms. Siobhán Moynihan (who joined the teaching staff in September 1983) will retire at the end of the Christmas break. Having taught the full range and breadth of all class groups and, in more recent years, the area of Special Educational Teaching, it is a career that has been characterised by an interest, competence, dedication and commitment that this community has been most fortunate to experience.

As an Assistant Principal, Ms Moynihan, with the support of many working groups, committees and teams, has led the school's on-going development in various endeavours. Support from every possible and willing source - Coistí Glasa, Garden Angels, the local Belgooly Tidy Villages Association, local garden centres – have all been strategically mobilised over the years to help enhance our natural environment here at Scoil Mhuire na nGrást. And in doing so, a greater awareness, an appreciation and a sense of responsibility has been nurtured, thus safeguarding the stewardship of our environment for future generations in Clontead.

Chomh maith le sin, spreag Siobhán spéis and grá inár dteanga dúchais, Gaeilge, go h-áirithe i rith Sheachtain na Gaeilge nuair a bhíonn ceol, rince, dráma agus spraoi ar súil timpeall na scoile.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas ollmhór a ghabháil le Siobhán as an atmaisféar taitneamhach, comhoibritheach a chruthaigh sí. Chuir sí go mór le Scoil Mhuire na nGrást agus molaimid go léir go h-ard í!

We wish Ms Moynihan a long, happy and healthy retirement that is filled with many opportunities for her to enjoy these varied interests and talents in the years ahead.

APPRECIATION

The school would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the generous donation, from a benefactor of Scoil Mhuire na nGrást, of air purifiers to every room in the school. Having been in use since our return after the mid-term break, the air purifiers, together with various other COVID-19 mitigation measures, and everyone's co-operation and support has kept our school quite safe. It is appreciated that these measures have required some readjustment by everyone. Their effectiveness is evident and it is our intention and wish that this will be maintained on our return to school in the new year.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh!

Le gach dea-ghuí

Diarmuid Hennessy
Príomhoide