

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

Belgooly Central School,  
Belgooly, Co. Cork.  
Roll No:19672H  
Reg. Charity No. 20114312



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10/04/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **MINISTER FOR EDUCATION NORMA FOLEY SCHOOL VISIT**

Scoil Mhuire na nGrást was delighted to welcome the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, to the school last month. Minister Foley enjoyed visiting the classrooms and having an opportunity to meet and talk with the pupils, staff, parents, Board of Management and other visitors. Pupils shared details pertaining to the history of the school; their current efforts in the area of biodiversity; the school's sporting achievements and interests; the child-centred and collaborative learning approaches (e.g. maths/Aistear equipment) and entertained our special guest with a display of their creative musical endeavours. Following the official opening of our new rooms (i.e. three classrooms and three resource rooms) by Minister Foley, Fr Michael Regan blessed the school's new accommodation. The visit coincided with World Book Day 2024 and, as many of the pupils and staff, were dressed as characters from their favourite books, this, of course, helped add a great deal of colour and excitement to proceedings!

The Board of Management wishes to express their appreciation to the pupils, staff, In-School Leadership Team and Parents' Association for all their support and assistance with the related preparation for such a visit. A special thank you Pat O'Regan of Kinsale Coffee for providing refreshments to our visitors on the day.

### **STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 30 APRIL at 1.50pm)**

To facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 30 April at 1.50pm**. 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. The usual school bus provision will operate at this earlier time.

### **SCIATH NA SCOL (HURLING & CAMOGIE BLITZES, SCIATH NA SCOL CHORCAÍ)**

Well done to the boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun indoor camogie and hurling blitzes in Riverstick Community Centre. All teams played really well.

The boys and girls in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> got their Sciath na Scol campaign off to a great start just before the Easter break. The boys secured a win against Ballinora and the girls were just narrowly defeated. They were less fortunate yesterday when they met with GS Uí Ríordáin, in Ballincollig, but they played really well. Their three remaining games will be played over the coming weeks and, if you are available, please come along to support:

- **Friday, 12 April** – Playing GS Mhainistir na Corann. Owing to pitch availability, venue & times are to be confirmed
- **Thursday, 18 April** – Playing Whitechurch NS in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls game at 11.00am & Boys at 12noon
- **Tuesday, 23 April** - Playing Riverstown NS in Glanmire. Girls game at 11.00am & Boys game at 12noon

Just to note, the school is now in Roinn 1 which is the highest division. Best of luck to both teams in their remaining games.

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**SCHOOL HURLING/CAMOGIE COACHING**

Pupils from First to Third Classes will commence hurling/camogie training with Jack Deasy (Sliabh Rua Coach) on **Friday, 12 April**. Further to Requisite Lists (2023/2024), pupils will need a hurley and helmet. Junior & Senior Infants will begin their hurling/camogie training at the end of May. They, too, will also require a hurley and helmet. The school would like to acknowledge the generous support of our local Sliabh Rua Clubs for this additional coaching provision.

**CORK PRIMARY GAME TEAM**

Congratulations to Dónal Sheehan, who, after qualifying for the Cork Primary Game team, will represent the school and don the Cork jersey on Sunday, 21 April at the half-time Munster Championship Senior Hurling game between Cork and Waterford in Walsh Park, Waterford. Well done to all the other pupils in 6th class who represented the school so well during the selection process in the camogie and football trials.

**FAI 5-A-SIDE SOCCER BLITZ**

FAI 5-a-side Soccer Blitz were held last month. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást was represented by four teams (2 x girls and 2 x boys). All players were superb and all four teams played very well in their rounds - semi-finals were reached on both days (see photos attached)! They supported each other very well and showed some good skill. Thank you to Mr Hayes-Curtin, Ms O'Driscoll, Ms O'Leary & Ms O'Callaghan for training all the boys and girls.

**RUGBY SESSIONS**

Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> classes enjoyed their rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez, before the Easter break. Pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will now have an opportunity to avail of these sessions, commencing tomorrow, Thursday, 11 April. The skills learnt will stand to them when they take part in the Kinsale Rugby Shark Fest tag rugby blitzes later next month. Thank you to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

**CORK PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS 2024**

Well done to all the boys and girls who raced in the Cork Primary School Sports trials last month. Congratulations to all those who qualified and will represent the school in MTU on Thursday, 30 May – girls (morning) & boys (afternoon) . For those participating, further details to follow in due course. We would like to thank our Cork City Sports Committee for organising our school's participation at this annual event.

**SPRINGTIME – BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS, NEW WILDFLOWER MEADOW....!**

Pupils in the school have been busy composing slogans for Biodiversity Awareness. *Truth to be told, biodiversity is worth more than gold!* Composed by Weronika Przybecka (4th class), the slogan will be used by the whole school community to promote the importance of Biodiversity, as part of our Green Schools Biodiversity Flag initiative.

In addition to the 'Managed for Wildlife' section prepared with the very generous support of Kinsale College's Sustainability and Permaculture course team, as part of a Kinsale Transition Town Education & Community initiative, in 2022 and 2023, the pupils, parents and staff have prepared an additional wildflower meadow section in a separate area for everyone to enjoy. We are most grateful to the hard-working *Garden Angels* (pupils, parents and staff), who prepared the soil, gave much consideration to the creative design and layout, sourced and laid patio slabs as stepping stones, endured heavy rains and planted the wildflower seeds - tremendous work! Adjoining the sensory garden, everyone looks forward to enjoying this new 'Managed for Wildlife' area in the school over the coming months (see photo attached).

In addition, as part of a broader community-wide initiative, the *Patchwork Meadow Project*, and following a school visit by Raffaella Valenti in November, wildflower seed packets were distributed to pupils from third to sixth classes just before the Easter break. Clontead parish will be very colourful over the coming months! In association with Belgooly Tidy Villages, and as part of *An Taisce's 'Spring Clean Week 2024'*, our pupils in sixth class will gather litter on a section of the approach road to the school during the last week in April.

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**LITERACY DEVELOPMENT**

Bhí spóirt agus spraoi ag páistí na scoile ag ceiliúradh cultúr na hÉireann le linn *Seachtain na Gaeilge* le chluichí clóis, seisiúin léitheoireachta agus ceolchoirm ar an Aoine 15ú lá de Mhí na Márta. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí gach páiste gléasta in éadaí glasa le haghaidh Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Equally impressive were the costumes worn by so many pupils and staff on World Book Day! Also, as part of World Book Day/Week, the children took part in the school's first ever *School Book Tour*. Classes travelled to different classrooms to take part in various book-related activities such as campfire reading, book quizzes, book title emoji activity and more.

The senior classes recently received further additions to their school libraries and we wish to acknowledge the Parents' Association fund-raising efforts last year which helped to secure same. Books were purchased from the local Kinsale Bookstór, who gave us a generous discount in order to buy even more beautiful books! The pupils are also benefiting from the Department of Education book grant. In this regard, we await delivery of new class novels. It is hoped that our community of readers in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást will enjoy these resources for many years to come.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of our local authority library service. Ms M Murphy's fifth class avail of the mobile library service every fortnight and, to expand reading opportunities, Ms M Murphy's fifth class and Ms O'Neill's sixth class avail of the County Library service to rent class novels.

The younger classes continue to receive avail of Literacy Stations and Senior classes will benefit from same this term.

**THE ARTS**

Well done to all the pupils for participating in the recent St. Patrick's Day Kinsale Art Competition. Congratulations to our winners – Cian Evillard, Zindzi Ryan, Leon Spiewok, Charleigh Johnson & Corey Murphy.

A number of pupils in the 5th and 6th classes recently competed in the Carrigdhoun Final of *Scór na bPáistí 2024*. They represented the school in various competitions including dancing, solo singing, group singing, solo instrument and quiz. On the day, Samantha Jones won the solo music competition and represented the school excellently in the County Semi-Final. Well done to all our participants.

**HOT SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME SCHEME**

Having just commenced on Monday, the school is pleased to have secured this initiative for the pupils. Just a reminder, and further to previous Home/School communication (emails 28/02/2024, 19/03/2024 & 04/04/2024), in terms of (1) family registration and (2) making a food choice for your child(ren), please find related details attached once again for your attention. Ashdale Catering has advised that there is a lead time of two full days (excl. Bank Holidays, Saturdays & Sundays) for any new food orders/food changes. Of course, this is an optional service and pupils may wish, as heretofore, to bring their own packed lunch to school. In any case, pupils may also wish to bring a smaller healthy food and/or fruit snack for the earlier break-time.

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – EASTER RAFFLE**

The Easter Raffle, organised by the Parents' Association, created some great excitement about the school just before Easter. A great success with an impressive amount raised - €5,695.47. Thank you to the PA, the pupils, school families, staff and local business/individual sponsors for your wonderful support. The monies raised will cover the recent purchase of four garden benches for the school garden and additional sensory equipment which will benefit all the pupils.

To support the P.A. in their planned activities and work for the final term of 2023/2024, new members are always welcome. Should you be available to help in any way, please feel free to complete the '[Friend of the PA](#)' link. Details of committee members are also on the school website: [www.belgoolyns.ie/parents-association](http://www.belgoolyns.ie/parents-association)

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**'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2024/2025'**

Applications for next year's enrolment is now being finalised. In this regard, we would be grateful if you could advise any neighbours and relatives who live in the parish, and who may intend sending their pre-school children to *Scoil Mhuire na nGráist* in August 2024, to visit the school's website. All related details and application requirements available at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) ('Admissions' tab).

***As we are presently reviewing our pupil enrolment numbers for the 2024/2025 school year, please advise the school if there are any pupils currently enrolled who will not be returning in August 2024.***

**ROAD SAFETY**

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their co-operation and support in relation to the new *Safe Routes to School* infrastructure and for refraining from parking at the school gate and within the School Zone area. Just a reminder, the *rain gardens* adjoining the footpath outside the school are planted with wildflowers seeds.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Just a reminder, in addition to the main school uniform or the school tracksuit, pupils may also wear the following during the months of May, June & September:

- White polo t-shirt (as currently exists)
- An up-cycled short version of the existing school tracksuit (as some pupils currently wear in warm weather) or wine-coloured shorts (which are available to purchase from the school's uniform supplier, Cahill's Carrigaline)

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS**

- *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol* – The school will play GS Mhainistir na Corann. Owing to pitch availability, venue & time to be confirmed
- *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol* – The school will play Whitechurch NS in Riverstick GAA Grounds on Thursday, 18 April (girls game at 11.00am & boys game at 12 noon). If available, please come along and support
- *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol* – The school will play Riverstown NS in Glanmire on Tuesday, 23 April (girls game at 11.00am & boys game at 12 noon). If available, please come along and support
- *Munster FAI Primary 5s (Ms Cronin's Class)* – Tuesday, 23 April in Cahir Park
- *School Transport Applications for New School Entrants To Primary & Post-Primary (School Year 2024/2025)* – Closing date – Friday, 26 April (*see school email 20/02/2024 & related Home School Note*)
- *Clontead Parish First Holy Communion Ceremony 2024* – Saturday, 27 April, Sacred Heart Church Belgooly (Ms. O'Driscoll's class at 10.15am & Mr. Cotter's class at 12 noon)
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on Tuesday, 30 April (see page 1 for details)
- *School Tours 2024* – Further to yesterday's email (09/04/2024), please note, to finalise transport requirements and venue confirmations, the designated date for payment of *School Tours 2024* is Tuesday, 07 May
- In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, *National Spring Clean 2024 (An Taisce)* takes place from 01 to 30 April
- *National Bike Week* – Saturday, 11 to Sunday, 19 May (further details to follow)
- *Second Class School Tour* – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Senior Infant School Tour* – Mardyke Arena on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Junior Infant School Tour* – Mardyke Arena on Thursday, 23 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Third Class School Tour* – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Monday, 27 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Fourth Class School Tour* – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 (further details to follow)

- *First Class* – Mardyke Arena on Wednesday, 29 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Cork Primary School Sports* – Thursday, 30 May 2024 in *MTU* (further details to follow)
- *Annual Belgooly Show 2024* – Saturday, 01 June 2024
- *Sixth Class School Tour* – Tralee Wetlands (MTU Kerry) & McDonalds (Killarney) on Thursday, 06 June 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Fifth Class School Tour* – Spike Island on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 (further details to follow)

Yours faithfully,  
*Diarmuid Hennessy*  
*School Principal*