

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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08/01/2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break and to wish you all a Happy New Year!

December was a busy month. Well done to our *Parents' Association* and the *Friends of the Parents Association* for creating a magical Christmas grotto, to facilitate Santa's visit. The P.A.'s *School Calendar 2025*, is, once again, a great success. The pupils and staff are also to be complimented for their Christmas 2024 presentations last month.

### ***SCHOOL CLOSURE – Wednesday & Thursday, 08 & 09 January 2025***

Where feasible, thank you for your engagement with Seesaw earlier today. Owing to the continuation of the Orange weather alert warning the school will remain closed again tomorrow, Thursday. Sherpa and all after-school activities remain cancelled. The school will continue to monitor the weather situation and a further update will be sent tomorrow, Thursday, in respect of opening arrangements for Friday. We thank you for your understanding and support and, hopefully, the situation will improve soon.

### ***STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2025 at 1.50pm)***

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school **on Tuesday, 28 January 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.

### ***NEW 'BÍ CINÉALTA' PROCEDURES & STAFF IN-SERVICE - EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2025 at 12 noon)***

To facilitate engagement of all staff with the Department of Education's recently published *Bí Cinéalta* procedures, please note that pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 25 February at 12 noon**. 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.

### ***DAILY SCHOOL TIMETABLE & ASSEMBLY/DISMISSAL***

The Board of Management wishes to remind families of the school's daily school assembly and dismissal arrangements:

- 9.00 - 9.10am - Outside assembly
- 9.10 - 9.20 – Classroom Assembly (all pupils are expected to be in school by no later than 9.20am)
- 1.50pm – Junior & Senior Infant departure (from the main school gate)
- 2.50pm – All other pupils depart (from the main school gate)

The school premises will open to receive pupils at 9.00 am. For their own health and safety, the children are not permitted to enter the school grounds any earlier than 9.00am and parents/carers and pupils are advised not to gather outside the school before 9.00am. Upon arrival at school, from 9.00am onwards, pupils should go straight to their designated class lines for outside assembly.

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The school will open at 9.10am and pupils will proceed to assemble in their respective classrooms. All pupils are expected to be at school by no later than 9.20am as formal instruction commences at this time.

In the afternoon, all pupils, including infant pupils, may be collected from the main school gate. Classes will end each day for all pupils at 2.50pm (with the exception of Junior & Senior Infants who finish classes and leave school each day at 1.50pm). Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate. The person to escort them should be at the school by no later than 2.50pm (or 1.50pm in the case of Junior & Senior Infants) as the school is not in a position to accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

### **SCHOOL ACCESS**

The Board of Management wishes to remind all parents and guardians that no adults, other than staff members, should enter the school building or grounds, unless by prior arrangement and/or on the express permission of the Principal or Deputy Principal, or on an established basis/arrangement with the teacher. Please note that this is in keeping with Health and Safety guidelines and also with child protection legislation. It should also be noted that if a parent/guardian wishes to meet an individual teacher, he/she should first contact the School Office to make the appropriate arrangements. Messages for teachers can be sent by (1) writing a note to the class teacher **or** (2) emailing the school at [belgoolyns@gmail.com](mailto:belgoolyns@gmail.com) **or** (3) by phoning the school office (021 4770712). The Board of Management would like to remind all parents and guardians to be aware that it is obliged to take the safety and well-being of all the pupils and staff in the school very seriously.

### **COLLECTION OF CHILDREN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

Should a parent/carer need to collect a child during the school day, he/she is asked to advise the relevant class teacher in advance by (1) Noting the early collection on Aladdin 'Connect' **or** (2) writing a note to the class teacher **or** (3) emailing the school at [belgoolyns@gmail.com](mailto:belgoolyns@gmail.com) **or** (4) by phoning the school office (021 4770712). The child will be brought from his/her class to the main school office area to meet with his/her parent/carer.

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2024/2025)**

Parents are requested to inform the Board, through the Principal, of any allergies or any *Specific Requirements* of their child. The Board will then inform all parents of a food allergy within the school. Without identifying any individual pupils, the teachers will make their pupils aware of food allergies. This, the Board hopes will provide a safe environment and invites parents, staff, pupils and school visitors for their co-operation.

Because the consequences of a child having an allergic reaction can be serious, the Board assumes that the whole school community will assist in making the school as safe as is reasonably possible for each child.

**Regarding School Year 2024/2025, please note we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Second, Fourth & Fifth Classes – hazel nut, peanut and cashew nut allergies) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same.** We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025**

*Catholic Schools Week 2025* will be celebrated from *Sunday, 19 January to Saturday, 25 January 2025*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2025 (CSW2025) is **'Alive in Christ!'**. Over the course of the week, classes will explore Life to the Full in our Community of Friends/our Faith Community/our Families/with Others/for the Common Good of All.

### **GREEN COMMITTEE & DCs 'BUFFET FOR BEES'**

Through parental advocacy, and as part of the [Host in Ireland - DCs for Bees Project 'Buffet for Bees'](#), the school was fortunate to receive over one thousand spring bulbs (grape hyacinths and crocuses) in November. These Spring Bulbs were planted around the school grounds by the pupils in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> classes with the support of the Parents' Association, Garden Angels and Green Flag committee members.

We look forward to the colourful floral displays in Spring!

**LITERACY DEVELOPMENT**

Following on from the very successful *Scholastic Book Fair* in October, the school has also recently purchased multiple sets of class novels from the Department of Education School Library Fund. Each class from second to sixth now has at least four class novels to choose from each year. These include classics and some modern titles. It is hoped that the pupils will benefit from the wealth of stories with their literacy skills and to further develop our community of readers.

The following update (vDec2024) from 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils, Hanna & Laura, conveys the pupils' enjoyment of reading and other activities during the first term:

*This term was really fun. We did lots of new and interesting things. We went to local artist Joseph Walsh's Studio which was really cool and interesting. We loved reading our class novel Warhorse (purchased from the Dept. of Ed Library Fund) and learnt all about World War One. We went on local foraging and nature walk where we studied our native hedgerows and looked at the biodiversity in our local area. We just completed our last ever primary school Christmas Concert- "A Clontead Christmas Carol". We also made Christmas cards which were then blessed in Fr. Michael's Advent Mass and then given to Riverstick Nursing Home for the residents. We had so much fun this term and are really looking forward to the rest of the year. Thank you to Ms. O Neill & Ms. C Murphy for all your help.*

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Sciath na Scol** - Well done to the pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol indoor football blitzes. The pupils displayed some great teamwork and skills while having lots of fun.

The pupils in 4<sup>th</sup> class will take part in the upcoming Sciath na Scol Chorcaí indoor hurling blitzes this month. In this regard, please note some details below:

- **4<sup>th</sup> Class Camogie** on Wednesday, 15 January from 10.30am to 1.30pm in Riverstick Community Centre
- **4<sup>th</sup> Class Hurling** on Wednesday, 22 January from 10.30am to 1.30pm in Riverstick Community Centre

Pupils in these classes will need their hurleys and helmets. Sciath na Scol Hurling training for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and hurling/camogie skills training for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will commence later in the month. Pupils in these classes will also require hurleys and helmets. Thank you to Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating these sessions.

Best of luck to sixth class pupils who will take part in the **Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz on Wednesday, 15 January at 4.00pm in the Rochestown Park Hotel.**

**City Sports** – Just to note, this year's **City Sports** will take place on **Thursday, 29 May** in MTU. Further details in due course

**Rugby** - Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> classes enjoyed their rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez, before the Christmas break. The children are learning the skills of rugby through play and experience and are having lots of fun. It is planned that pupils in 4<sup>th</sup> classes will commence their sessions next Thursday (16<sup>th</sup>). Thank you to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

**GAEILGE & BUA NA CAINTE (Parent App)**

To complement the teaching of *Bua na Cainte* in the school, *Edco* has developed a free app for parents. It is accessible on all devices - laptop, mobile-phone and tablet. Conversations, songs, poems, rhymes and stories on the familiar themes - Mé Féin, An Scoil, Bia, Caitheamh Aimsire, An Aimsir, Éadaí, Sa Bhaile, An Teilifís, Ag Siopadóireacht & Ócáidí Speisialta can be viewed. You may access the *Bua na Cainte* themes on <https://buaathome.ie/> Go n-eirí libh!

**SHERPA - BEFORE & AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDCARE PROVISION**

Should you wish to avail of this service, Sherpa has requested that, in the first instance, contact be made via email at [bns@sherpakids.ie](mailto:bns@sherpakids.ie)

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that this activity, facilitated by an independent contractor, is independent of the primary function of the school. Therefore, all queries, related arrangements (including, where necessary, individual pupil needs/requirements) and other contact in respect of this facility is to be made directly and separately with Sherpa and not through the school office. /Over

### ***SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & ‘BUG BUSTING NIGHT (WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY, 08/09 JANUARY)***

As part of the school’s *SPHE Programme*, respiratory etiquette will be explored with classes over the coming weeks. If your child is unwell, it is recommended to remain at home until better.

While the prevalence of head lice is a community dilemma, the school, for its part, requests that all parents/guardians engage with a ‘Bug Busting’ night at home tonight or tomorrow night, ***Wednesday/Thursday, 08/09 January***. It is hoped that such a whole school approach – at the start of a new school term - will assist detection and, should the need arise, provide families with the opportunity to engage with head louse treatment measures over the coming weekend. Please find attached a HSE information sheet on the matter and your local pharmacist will also be in a position to advise. It is important that all families co-operate and support this initiative and engage with frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard.

### ***WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS***

- *Parent/Teacher Meeting*: We would like to thank parents/guardians for your co-operation and support with related arrangements in November
- During Science Week in November, the pupils had an opportunity to experience some related events. Junior Classes participated in a colouring competition, 3rd and 6th class took part in a *House of Circuits* Workshop facilitated by Lifetime Labs, 6th class hosted a *Science Experiments Showcase* for the school and a number of 6th class pupils represented the school in *The Lifetime Labs Science Quiz* in UCC.
- To our young engineers who took first place in the *Vex Robotics* competition which was held in Kinsale Community School last month. Having qualified for *The National Vex Robotics Competition 2025*, to be held in MTU at a later stage, they are wished all the very best with their engineering endeavours. Thank you to Mrs Sugrue, Mr Hayes-Curtin & Ms O’Callaghan for leading and supporting this initiative
- To our First South Credit Union art competition winners – Donnacha Quinlan, Emer O’Connor & Malachy McCarthy
- To our Lusitania Museum & Old Head Signal Tower art competition winners – Ellie-Rose Corkery, Jack Power, Charleigh Johnson, Eva Reid, Ashly Lijo & Weronika Przybecka. The winning pieces feature on the museum’s 2025 calendar

### ***SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS***

- *Bug Busting Night – Wednesday/Thursday, 08/09 January*
- Various classes will practice *station teaching* in relation to *mathematics* over the next couple of weeks. This gives pupils an opportunity to fully engage in the new *Primary Maths Curriculum* which presents a fresh vision for children’s mathematical learning. It is characterised by playfulness, creativity, challenge, collaboration and opportunities for reasoning and solving real-life problems. This will help introduce the new way of learning in Maths
- *Stay Safe Programme* – further to previous correspondence during Term 1 (*most recent on 13/12/2024*), all classes will engage with the Stay Safe Programme from **January to March 2025**
- *Rugby Skills Training* – Fourth Classes (January/February) & Fifth Classes (February/March)
- *4<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol In-door Camogie* on today, **Wednesday, 15 January from 10.30am to 1.30pm** in Riverstick Community Centre
- *Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz* on **Wednesday, 15 January at 4.00pm** in the Rochestown Park Hotel
- ***Catholic Schools Week 2025*** will be celebrated from **Sunday, 19 January to Saturday, 25 January 2025**. The theme for Catholic Schools’ Week 2025 (CSW2025) is ***‘Alive in Christ!’***. Please refer to page 2 for further details

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- *4th Class Sciath na Scol In-door Hurling* on **Wednesday, 22 January from 10.30am to 1.30pm** in *Riverstick Community Centre*
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on **Tuesday, 28 January at 1.50pm**. Please refer to page 1 for further details. School bus provision will operate at this earlier time
- *Scór 2025 Preparation* – **February & March 2025**
- *School Closure (Public Holiday)* – **Monday, 03 February**
- *Glucksman 'Nature Project' UCC Visit* – **Friday, 07 February**
- *First South Credit Union Quiz* – **Monday, 10 February** in the Cork International Hotel (begins at 11.00am)
- *Safer Internet Day 2025* – **Tuesday, 11 February 2025**. Information pertaining to [Safer Internet Day 2025 for Parents](#) is available in the afore-mentioned link. Please be mindful that parental monitoring of your child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis is necessary and essential
- *FAI Soccer Blitz (Girls)* – **Thursday, 13 February (10.00am to 1.00pm)** in Carrigaline United AFC Grounds
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Thursday & Friday, 20 & 21 February (incl.)**
- *Staff In-Service (Bí Cinéalta)* – Early closure on **Tuesday, 25 February at 12 noon**. Please refer to page 1 for further details. School bus provision will operate at this earlier time.
- *Clontead Parish First Penance* – **Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 6.00pm in Belgooly Church**
- *FAI Soccer Blitz (Boys)* – **Thursday, 27 February (10.00am to 1.00pm)** in Carrigaline United AFC Grounds
- *City Sports 2025 Trials* - **March 2025**
- *Senior Class Camogie & Hurling Sciath na Scol Training & Fixtures* – **March & April 2025**
- *Clontead Parish Confirmation Day* – **Friday, 07 March 2025 at 10.30am. Church (tbc)**
- *Scór na bPáistí Carrigdhoun* rounds will take place the weekend of the **08/09 March 2025 (exact date tbc)**
- *School Closure* – **Monday, 17 March** (Public Holiday)
- *New Entrant 2025/2026 Evening* – **Thursday, 20 March 2025** at 7.30pm in *Halla na Scoile*
- The school will close for the *Easter break* on **Friday, 11 April at 12 noon**
- *Clontead Parish First Holy Communion* – **Saturday, 12 April 2025 at 11.00am in Riverstick Church**
- School will re-open after the Easter break on **Monday, 28 April 2025**

Yours faithfully,  
*Diarmuid Hennessy*