

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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20/02/2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

SCHOOL CLOSURE (REFERENDUM - FRIDAY, 08 MARCH 2024)

Just a reminder, **Friday, 08 March** has been confirmed as the date for the forthcoming *referendum*. The school building will be required as a polling centre and the school will be closed on that day. Sherpa and the After-School Art Class will not operate on the day

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024/2025 (v.12/02/2024)

A copy of the calendar for the 2024/2025 school year is attached. Please note that the school will be re-opening after the summer break on **Wednesday, 28 August 2024**.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION 2023/2024

There have been many improvements to the school's physical, teaching and learning environments over the past number of years from which all children benefit. The voluntary *Annual Family Contribution* of €50 plays a significant role in supporting necessary improvements. The payment of this voluntary contribution is facilitated in a number of ways:

- a once off payment of €50
- at the start of each term e.g. Term1 (€20), Term 2 (€20) & Term 3 (€10)
- €10 every other month
- €5 per month (Sept – June)

We thank you for your annual voluntary contributions to date and wish to remind school families that contributions may be given to class teachers or made by e-payment. Larger contributions would be very much welcomed and will be gratefully acknowledged by the Board.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS TO PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY (SCHOOL YEAR 2024/2025)

Bus Éireann is offering an online application system for School Transport for new entrants to primary school and post-primary school for the 2024/2025 School Year. Online applications can be made on [Bus Éireann School Transport Section](#) later this month. The closing date for applications for 2024/2025 school year is Friday, 26 April 2024.

If you have another child starting in Junior Infants or transferring from primary to post primary school in August/September 2024, you will need to make an application for this new school entrant, quoting your Family ID No. which is located on your existing school-going child's bus ticket, School Roll No. (e.g. *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* - 19672H) and Class Year Definition (e.g. Junior Infants is Yr 1 etc). Should you have any further queries, please contact Cork School Transport Office, Bus Éireann, Capwell, Cork (Tel. 021 – 4557137/4557129 or at st.cork@buseireann.ie)

'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 nGrást* in August 2024, to visit the school's website. All related details and application requirements available at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab). /Over.....

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024

Catholic Schools Week 2024 was celebrated last month from *Sunday, 21 January to Saturday, 27 January 2024*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2024 (CSW2024) was '*Catholic Schools: Communities of Service*'. Some of the daily themes during the course of the week included – Service in Our Community of Friends/School Community/Family Community/Local Community/Faith Community. As part of CSW 2024 celebrations, a number of classes learned how to make St Brigid's Crosses using rushes.

Second class pupils celebrated the Sacrament of First Penance earlier in the month in The Sacred Heart Church Belgooly. Our sixth classes will celebrate the Clontead Parish Confirmation on Thursday, 29 February at 10.30am in St. John the Baptist Church, Kinsale. In preparation for the ceremony on the day, a gathering, for confirmation candidates & parents/guardians, will take place on Tuesday evening, 27 February from 7.30-8.30pm in the Parish Church Kinsale

FIRST SOUTH CREDIT UNION QUIZ TEAMS

The annual First South Credit Union Schools Quiz took place on Monday, 29 January. With over thirty-six teams taking part, both the U13 and U11 teams did very well on the day. The U11 team came second in their category and will now progress to the next round on Sunday, 03 March at 2.00pm in the Rochestown Park Hotel. Thank you to Ms O'Neill for coordinating this activity and well done to all involved!

RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE) PROGRAMME

All classes continue to engage with the *Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE)* programme and thank you for your support in this regard.

A related link to this programme – RSE - [PDST RSE Resources](#)

WELLBEING WEEK 2024

All classes focused on enhancing their wellbeing by participating in a variety of activities during *Wellbeing Week* last month. The infant classes enjoyed mindful colouring, nature walks, guided dancing and listening to classical music. First classes went on a *Wellbeing Walk* during *Wellbeing Week*. They enjoyed a walk to the bridge and the church where they learned about the history of buildings in their local environment. Of course, all were smiling and chatting along our new footpaths to and from the school. In addition, meditation, extra PE and meditative art by "taking a line for a walk" were also chosen by the first and second classes. Chess, jig-saws, and outdoor movement breaks were enjoyed by the third and fourth classes. Fifth and sixth classes engaged in dance breaks, breathwork and yoga. The wellbeing of all in our school is a focus for our school's *School Self-Evaluation (SSE)* presently and the *Amber Flag* is one initiative we are working towards achieving this school year. Thank you to Ms Walsh, Mrs Hickey and Mrs Finn for coordinating these activities.

SCIATH NA SCOL - HURLING & CAMOGIE BLITZES

Well done to the 4th class boys and girls who recently took part in the *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Hurling & Camogie* blitzes! We now look forward to the Carrigdhoun 4th class in-door camogie and hurling blitzes. The boys will play on Friday, 23 February in Riverstick Community Centre. The first game begins at 12.10pm and finishes at 2.00pm. The girls blitz (Ms. O'Callaghan's class) will take place on place on Friday, 01 March in Riverstick Community Centre. The first game is at 10.00am and finishes at 12 noon. Congratulations to the 6th class girls and boys who represented the school at the recent *Sciath na Scol* 'Sports Quiz' in the Rochestown Park Hotel. The girls team came second overall.

Pupils from 4th to 6th classes have commenced their hurling sessions with the school's coach Jack Deasy. Thank you to Sliabh Rua for facilitating these sessions. 1st to 3rd classes will avail of coaching sessions after the Easter break and each pupil will require their own hurley and helmet for these sessions. The pupils' sporting skills are quite impressive and we look forward to seeing the senior classes take part in the *Sciath na Scol* outdoor competitions in March and April!

Third classes are enjoying their final rugby sessions with Santiago and the pupils in second class will avail of same over the coming weeks.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

As part of *World Book Day* Celebrations, Monday, 04 to Thursday, 07 March (incl.), all pupils will have an opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character on Thursday, 07 March. The senior classes will take part in book quizzes and the junior classes will have Teddy Bears Book Reading picnic along with other activities in class to further develop the children's love of books and reading. Continuing on from last school year, as part of our whole school initiative to create a community of readers, each class will receive new books for class libraries during the spring and summer term. These will include classics and modern titles to encourage each child to find a book(s) of interest and, hopefully, inspire them to read more.

INTERNET SAFETY

The theme for this year's *Safer Internet Day*, held on Tuesday, 06 February, was *Tech in Our World*.

All classes covered a variety of age-appropriate topics which included opportunities to reflect on tech in our world; the challenges and opportunities; the influence of persuasive design features on our online experiences and acquiring tips to help reset our online experiences to promote a positive impact on our time online. *Webwise* and the *National Parents Council (NPC)* offer support to parents in their engagement with their children's lives online. They advocate the importance of having regular, open conversations as being one of the most effective ways of supporting your child online. In this regard, further parental support is available at <https://www.webwise.ie/talklistenlearn/>. Trend Micro also provided an online internet safety presentation on *Let's Talk Kids, Teens, and Screen Time Challenges* (email 01/02/2024). Other helpful information for parents on various issues regarding internet use is accessible on [Get Advice Archives - Webwise.ie](#). It is necessary that parents monitor their child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis. This will help ensure that:

- Children are accessing only age-appropriate games
- Children are complying with minimum age requirements in respect of social media sites
- Children's communication with others online is appropriate and respectful.

The school's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)* & appendices are all available to view on <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/school-policies>. Be 'SMART' on the internet (Appendix 1) and other internet etiquette requirements are outlined in related appendices.

SCHOOL WEBSITE (www.belgoolyns.ie)

Our school website features many of our exciting activities such as Halloween, Christmas celebrations and Wellbeing week (check school events under 'Gallery' tab). Various classes have used IZAK 9 blocks for Maths to enhance collaborative work and 'Maths Talk', others have learned about biodiversity and some have had a visit from our community garda to learn about road safety. In addition, (under 'Parents' tab), our website includes school information and related links which you may find useful such as previous home-school notes 2023/2024, School Calendar 2023/2024, SPHE information, parental complaints procedure (revised January 2024) etc. We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who attends to our school website during the year. Mrs Finn plays a pivotal role in facilitating this valuable communication medium.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The school's new Board of Management (2023-2027) is wished every success as it commences its four year term – James O'Mahony (Chairman), Elaine Sheehan, Pat O'Regan, Claire Horan, Pat Brady, Gertrude Ahern, Niamh Finn & Diarmuid Hennessy.

The school community wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of the out-going Board (2019-2023) and to express its appreciation for their invaluable input over the past four years – Seán Scully (Chairman), Janice McCarthy, Pat O'Regan, Macaire Adams/Raffaella Valenti, Peter Healy, Collette Harrington, Karen Whelan/Niamh Finn & Diarmuid Hennessy.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Please note that the school will close for the Easter break on **Friday, 22 March at 12 noon**. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time. 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 on the day. School will re-open on **Monday, 08 April 2024**.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Rugby Skills Training* – Second Class (February & March)
- *RSE Programme* – further to previous correspondence (09/01/2024), all classes are currently engaging with the RSE Programme (**January to April 2024**)
- *Sciath na Scol Indoor Hurling Blitz* (Fourth Class) – **Friday, 23 February** in Riverstick Community Centre. The first game begins at 12.10pm and finishes at 2.00pm.
- *On Ireland Reads Day (Saturday, 24 February)*, Kinsale Library will become a 'Book Bistro' and will host a 'book-tasting' for children, teenagers and adults. In each section of the library, there will be a table set up for everyone to 'taste' and sample a selection of books in various genres
- *Scór na bPáistí Carrighoun Final 2024* will take place on Saturday afternoon, **24 February** in Innishannon Community Centre The winners of each competition will proceed to the County Semi-Finals on **Saturday, 09 March**
- In preparation for Thursday's Confirmation (see below), a gathering, for confirmation candidates & parents/guardians, will take place on **Tuesday evening, 27 February from 7.30-8.30pm** in the **Parish Church Kinsale**
- *6th Class & KCS 'Sustainability Awareness Event'* on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024**
- *Clontead Parish Confirmation Day* – **Thursday, 29 February 2024 at 10.30am (St John the Baptist Church, Kinsale)**
- *Sciath na Scol Indoor Camogie Blitz* (Fourth Class) – **Friday, 01 March** in Riverstick Community Centre. The first game is at 10.00am and finishes at 12 noon.
- *First South Credit Union Quiz* - The U11 team will compete again on **Sunday, 03 March at 2.00pm** in the Rochestown Park Hotel
- *Munster Primary FAI 5s (Ms. Cronin's Class)* on **Wednesday, 06 March** in Cahir Park AFC
- *Dressing up as a character for your favourite book* (in celebration of *World Book Day 2024*) – **Thursday, 07 March 2024**
- *Primary FAI 5s (6th Class Boys)* on **Thursday, 07 March** in Carrigaline United AFC
- *Communion 2024 & Blazer Collection* – **Thursday, 07 March** at 6.30pm in Riverstick Community Centre (Kitchen)
- *School Closure* - **Friday, 08 March** (Referendum Day – school required as a voting centre)
- *Scór na bPáistí County Semi-Finals 2024* will take place on **Saturday, 09 March** in Ovens
- *New School Entrant 2024/2025 'Information Evening'* for parents/guardians will take place in 'Halla na Scoile' on **Wednesday, 13 March at 7.30pm**
- *Primary FAI 5s (6th Class Girls)* on **Friday, 15 March** in Lakewood AFC, Ballincollig
- *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024* – Beidh Teacht le Chéile san halla **Dé hAoine 15ú Márta**, chun *Lá 'le Pádraig* a chéiliúradh. Is féidir leis na daltaí éadaí glasa a chaitheamh, más mian leo.
In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, pupils will gather in the halla on **Friday, 15 March** to share and enjoy many aspects of Irish culture – song, dance & story-telling. If they wish, pupils may wear green items of clothing on the day - '**Lá Glas!**'
- *City Sports 2024 Trials* - **March 2024**
- *Senior Class Camogie & Hurling Sciath na Scol Training & Fixtures* – **March & April 2024**
- *School Closure* – **Monday, 18 March** (Public Holiday)
- The school will close for the *Easter break* on **Friday, 22 March at 12 noon**
- School will re-open after the Easter break on **Monday, 08 April 2024**

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal