

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

Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
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24/09/2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have been back at school now for a few weeks and everyone has settled in and is working well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their co-operation with the following:

- *Aladdin 'Connect'* - Registering, downloading the related app and validating your mobile phone number. Thank you for updating your family contact and other details via 'Connect'.
- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2024/2025* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 11/09/2024
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2024/2025* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 11/09/2024
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2024/2025* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 12/09/2024
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money* (only as relevant) – various e-payment dates in September

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025 & CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Just a reminder, to facilitate class group photographs for School Calendar 2025, pupils are requested to wear their main school uniform on **Thursday, 26 September**.

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 01 OCTOBER)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 01 October 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 PRIMARY MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM 'OIDE' STAFF IN-SERVICE & SCHOOL CLOSURE (MONDAY, 07 OCTOBER 2024)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate staff training, organised by *Oide*, please note that the school will remain closed on **Monday, 07 October**. For further information on the New Primary Mathematics Curriculum, please see related details attached. Sherpa, After-School Irish Dance and Music Classes will not operate on the day.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2024/2025

As previously advised, in-person Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 21 & Tuesday, 26 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 21st* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 26th*. The usual school bus provision will operate at these times. Usual 1.50pm finishing time for Junior & Senior Infants on both these dates.

During the course of next week, Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to book an appointment time(s), via Aladdin 'Connect', in the following order:

- From Tuesday, 01 October (available appointment times for families with three or more children attending the school)
- From Wednesday, 02 October (available appointment times for families with two or more children attending the school)

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- From Thursday, 03 October (available appointment times for all families)

It is advisable to book early. To assist, a related *Aladdin 'Connect' Parent/Teacher Meeting* information sheet is attached.

SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)

Class teachers are currently finalising details in relation to providing pupils with their Seesaw *Home Learning Codes* and related details will be sent to families over the next couple of weeks. In this regard, to maintain everyone's familiarity with this online learning platform, some elements of homework will be assigned via Seesaw.

SCIATH NA SCOL, GAA & RUGBY COACHING, RUGBY BLITZ, GOLF TASTER SESSION

Well done to the boys and girls from 5th /6th class who took part in the *Sciath na Scol Carraigdhoun* football blitzes recently in Crosshaven and Kinsale. Both teams played very well against schools in the South East division.

The pupils also recently commenced their *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí* football League with their first game against Whitechurch last week. Unfortunately, they were defeated on the day but they showed great team work and skill. They now look forward to more games over the coming weeks:

- Friday, 27 September. Playing Rochestown in Douglas GAA Grounds. Both games at 10.30am
- Wednesday, 02 October. Playing Cloghroe in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 11.30am & boys match at 12.30pm
- Friday, 04 October. Playing Innishannon in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 11.30am & boys match at 12.30pm

If you are available, please feel free to come along and support on the day.

Pupils from 3rd to 6th classes have commenced their football *coaching sessions* with Sliabh Rua coach, Jack Deasy. Thank you to the Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating this support.

Pupils in 5th & 6th classes enjoyed a tag rugby blitz, in the lovely sunshine, in *Kinsale Rugby Club* last Friday. Furthermore, *Munster Rugby* will again provide tag rugby sessions, with rugby coach, Santiago Gonzales, commencing with 2nd Classes on Thursday, 03 October.

4th & 5th Classes look forward to a *Golf Taster* session, hosted by *Golf Ireland*, on Friday, 27 September. These sessions aim to introduce the students to the game of golf in a fun, engaging and safe environment. This presents a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to explore a new sport, develop a new skill for life and enjoy the benefits that the sport of golf has to offer.

SOCIAL, PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE)

Relationships and Sexuality Education & Stay Safe are integral parts of the *Social, Personal, and Health Education (S.P.H.E)* curriculum as per Department of Education & Skills guidelines. Related links to these programmes/resources and the school's RSE policy are available for viewing on the school's website (Parents tab/SPHE section).

Stay Safe - <http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe> RSE - [PDST RSE Resources](#) & [Belgooly School SPHE Resources](#)

ROAD SAFETY MONTH

As part of our *Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, the school will cover the topic of *Road Safety* with all classes during the month of October. The main themes covered in school will be walking, cycling, travelling on the school bus and transport. At home, should your child walk, travel by bike, scooter, bus or car to school, it is important that they consider their safety and the safety of others in the context of their respective school travel arrangements. In this regard, the *Road Safety Authority* website (www.rsa.ie), also features many resources and an information leaflet entitled, *Going to School*, which may be of assistance to you in further exploring this topic with your child. A *Bus Éireann 'School Bus Safety'* flyer is also attached.

In addition, the Board of Management wishes to thank families for their support and co-operation with the *Safe Routes to School* measures. It is requested that this detail is also brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school.

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PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2024/2025

Thank you for attending the Parents' Association 'Welcome Evening 2024/2025' last Tuesday evening. Successive Parents' Associations have always been most supportive, resourceful and generous with their time and talents in adding to the social and educational aspects of school life. They have made significant contributions over the years to ensure that we enjoy the physical and educational infrastructure which school families and staff are so fortunate to enjoy learning and working in today.

Going forward, your input and assistance would be very welcome. Should you wish to volunteer, either as a PA committee member (the committee currently meet in the Halla on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm) or *Friend of the PA*, please feel free to express this interest at the link below. A special invitation is extended to our new school families who may wish to join the committee or support their work as a *'Friend of the PA'*.

'Friend of the PA' link – [Parents' Association Volunteer Form 2024/2025](#)

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2025/2026' & 'OPEN EVENING' (THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER from 7.00-8.00pm)

Further to previous communication (12/09/2024), please note that *'Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2025/2026'* in respect of Mainstream Classes and the school's Special Class for Pupils with Autism will open from **Tuesday, 01 October until Tuesday, 22 October 2024**. All further related details and application requirements will be available/accessible at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab) from next **Tuesday, 01 October**. 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 September 2025, to check these details on the website.

Furthermore, to facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit the school, *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* will host an **Open Evening this Thursday, 26 September, from 7.00-8.00pm**. Should you know of any family who may wish to send their child to the school over the coming years, it would be appreciated if you could also bring this event to their attention.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, the school must be informed of the reason for all school absences. Aladdin 'Connect' provides an easy facility for parents to advise the school of the duration and reason for a pupil's absence ('Attendance Note' details below). **If your child has been absent for 20 days or more, please be mindful that the school is obliged to notify the Educational Welfare Service (part of Tusla Education Support Services)**. In this regard, to assist families with monitoring attendance, all families will receive a generic text, via Aladdin, advising of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25.... day absence notifications, where relevant. Good attendance helps develop confidence and self-esteem. *'Every School Day Counts - Tips for Parents by Parents'*, a leaflet devised by TUSLA & CYPSC with the support of parents, may be of assistance. Good attendance also benefits your child's progress and establishes good work patterns for later life. School attendance is exceptionally strong in *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* and we hope to maintain this throughout the entire school year.

ALADDIN 'CONNECT' & 'ATTENDANCE NOTE'

Further to previous Home/School communication (10/09/2024), thank you to families for your active engagement with 'Connect'. Its use has proved beneficial for families and the busy office here at the school. Regarding 'School Attendance' above, 'Attendance note' is a feature of 'Connect' that is also available to families. **Parents/Guardians may send early leaving, late arrival or an absence note ahead of time with the tap of a button**. You will be able to access this feature by tapping on the 'Absence' section of the app home-screen (please remember to refresh your Aladdin 'Connect' app page on a regular basis). To support the use of this 'Connect' feature, a related information sheet is also attached.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *'Bug Busting' Night* – Many thanks to families for your engagement with 'Bug Busting' night earlier in the month. To curtail and reduce occurrence of head lice, please ensure frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard. Also, as part of our *Social Personal & Health Education* programme (SPHE), the school would ask parents to remind pupils about the importance of washing hands as school staff will convey the role clean hands play in helping to reduce the spread of infection
- The school and Parents' Association committee (2023/2024) are most appreciative of all the support from all school families for the many activities/events throughout the past year. Thank you to all who attended the school's *Parents' Association* AGM last Tuesday evening and we wish the new committee all the very best for 2024/2025
- Best of luck to our *Sciath na Scol Football Teams 2024* over the coming weeks
- Thank you to everyone for your engagement with *Manners Matter* month and taking the time to familiarise the pupils with the school's *Code of Behaviour*. The development of a range of communication and interpersonal skills will add to a child's experience of life at home with their families, in school and the wider community as well as serving them well in various settings later in adult life

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *School Calendar 2025 & Class Photographs* - to facilitate class group photographs for School Calendar 2025, pupils are requested to wear their main school uniform on **Thursday, 26 September**.
- *'Open Evening 2024'* for prospective school families on **Thursday, 26 September from 7.00-8.00pm**
- *Sliabh Rua football coaching sessions (pupils from 3rd to 6th classes)* every Friday, please remember to bring gum shields each week
- *5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing Rochestown)* on **Friday, 27 September** in Douglas GAA Grounds. Both games at 10.30am. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- *4th & 5th Classes* will attend a *Golf Taster* session, hosted by *Golf Ireland*, on **Friday, 27 September**
- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2025/2026* will open for a three week period from **Tuesday, 01 October 2024 until Tuesday, 22 October 2024**. All related details and application requirements available/accessible at www.belgoolyns.ie (Admissions tab) from **Tuesday, 01 October 2024**
- *Staff Meeting* – all pupils will finish and leave early on **Tuesday, 01 October**. Please refer to details on page 1 of this note. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time
- *5th/6th Class Sciath na Scoil Football match (playing Cloghroe)* on **Wednesday, 02 October** in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 11.30am & boys match at 12.30pm. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- *Lá na gCrann* – All classes on **Thursday, 03 October**
- Fundamental rugby skills with rugby coach, Santiago Gonzalez – Second Classes (October & November 2024), commencing on **03 October**
- *5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing Innishannon)* on **Friday, 04 October** in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 11.30am & boys match at 12.30pm. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- *New Primary Mathematics Curriculum 'Oide' Staff In-Service & School Closure (Monday, 07 October 2024)* - in order to facilitate staff training, organised by *Oide*, please note that the school will remain closed on **Monday, 07 October**. Sherpa, After-School Irish Dance and Music Classes will not operate on the day

- *World Mental Health Day (10th October)* – to mark the day, pupils in sixth class will have an opportunity to attend a *Mental Health Awareness Day* in Sáile Kinsale on **Tuesday, 08 October**. Further details in due course
- *School Celebration* - Further to a previous Home/School note (29/08/2024), to mark the retirement of Mr Risteárd Cotter and Mrs Maria Crean and Mrs Karen Whelan's departure to another school, the school will host a celebration on **Friday afternoon (1.45-2.50pm), 11 October**
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Monday, 28 October to Friday, 01 November (incl.)**
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings* – **Thursday, 21 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 26 November (Day 2)**. Please refer to page 1 & 2 of this note for additional information

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy