

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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18/02/2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

Just a reminder, 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.

Just to note, there is no hot lunch service on this day, pupils will need to bring their own lunch for the first breaktime.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION (NCSE) & SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVISION

Just to note, as part of recent new measures to support the forward planning for Special Education Provision, parents seeking a special class or special school placement for their child in upcoming academic years (i.e. 2025/26, 2026/2027, 2027/2028..), should make direct contact with the *National Council for Special Education (NCSE)*. In order to assist with making this contact, the NCSE has set up a dedicated NCSE email address to facilitate initial contact. In this regard, further details are available at <https://ncse.ie/notify-ncse-special-class-special-school> Families may also contact Maria Murphy, Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO), South Cork on (01) 5391342 or at maria.murphy@ncse.ie

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025/2026 (v.17/02/2025)

A copy of the calendar for the 2025/2026 school year is attached. Please note that the school will be re-opening after the summer break on **Thursday, 28 August 2025**.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION 2024/2025

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. Term 1 (€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.

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SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS TO PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY (SCHOOL YEAR 2025/2026)

Bus Éireann is offering an online application system for School Transport for new entrants to primary school and post-primary school for the 2025/2026 School Year. Online applications can be made on [Bus Éireann School Transport Section](#) later this month. The closing date for applications for 2025/2026 school year is [Friday, 25 April 2025](#).

If you have another child starting in Junior Infants or transferring from primary to post primary school in August/September 2025, 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) 2025/2026'

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 2025, to visit the school's website. All related details and application requirements available at www.belgoolyins.ie ('Admissions' tab).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025, FIRST PENANCE & EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION 2025

Catholic Schools Week 2025 was celebrated from *Sunday, 19 January to Saturday, 25 January 2025*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2025 (CSW2025) was ***'Alive in Christ!'***. Over the course of the week, classes explored Life to the Full in our Community of Friends/our Faith Community/our Families/with Others/for the Common Good of All. As part of CSW 2025 celebrations, a number of classes learned how to make St Brigid's Crosses using rushes.

Second class pupils will celebrate the Sacrament of First Penance in The Sacred Heart Church Belgooly on Tuesday, 25 February at 6.00pm and the Sacrament of The Eucharist on Saturday, 12 April at 11.00am in St. Joseph's Church, Riverstick.

Many of our pupils in sixth class will celebrate the Clontead Parish Confirmation on Friday, 07 March 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 Friday evening, 28 February from 7.30-8.30pm in the Parish Church Kinsale.

CREATIVE FEBRUARY

First Class partook in some events to begin Creative February. They enjoyed the webinar, Brigid's Day Reading Event, and were particularly taken with the making of Brídeogs. With the support of pupils in 5th Class, 1st classes created their very own Brídeogs in a collaborative learning setting. We hope these Brídeogs bring luck to many a family in the coming year.

FIRST SOUTH CREDIT UNION QUIZ TEAMS

The annual First South Credit Union Schools Quiz took place last week. With over forty teams taking part, both the U13 and U11 teams did very well on the day. Thank you to Ms O'Neill for coordinating this activity and well done to all involved!

STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

All classes continue to engage with the Stay Safe Programme and thank you for your support in this regard. A related link to this programme - Stay Safe - <http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe>

SCIATH NA SCOL, RUGBY & SOCCER

Well done to the 4th class boys and girls who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Hurling & Camogie blitzes in Riverstick. Last week, 4th classes played other schools in the S.E. division in Páirc Uí Chaoimh and also availed of a guided tour on the day. They showed great team work and skill and represented the school very well. Maith sibh!

Congratulations to the girls and boys in 6th class who represented the school in Sciath na Scol Sports quiz in the Rochestown Park Hotel last month.

Pupils from 1st and 2nd classes have commenced their hurling sessions with schools coach, Ryan Deasy. The school is grateful to Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating these sessions. Pupils in Junior and Senior Infants will avail of coaching in March and a hurley and helmet will be required for these sessions.

Fourth classes are enjoying their rugby sessions with Santiago from Munster Rugby. The pupils in fifth classes will begin their sessions next month.

Training for interested fifth and sixth class girls and boys has been running for the past few weeks in preparation for the FAI 5-a-side competitions. The girls played last Thursday in Carrigaline AFC Grounds and the boys will play in the competition next week.

Thank you to all staff who are involved with coordinating these activities and coaching the various teams.

SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION (SESE) UPDATES

Feeding the birds is an important thing to do anytime of the year, but in particular during the winter months. Ms. Hurley's Junior Infant class were learning all about birds recently and, with the support of the Green Team, made bird food by mixing lard and bird seed together to make nutritious fat balls for the many visitors to the school garden.

The *Green Flag Committee* and *Friends of the Committee* from 5th & 6th classes, attended a workshop in The Glucksman, UCC, earlier in the month and really enjoyed the excursion. The group participated in a programme, Nature Guides, and, inspired by the flora and fauna in the grounds of the college and artist, Emma O'Hara, the children created paper cut out collage pieces which will form part of an exhibition in March, along with other school participating.

Ms O'Sullivan's First Class were also monitoring Air Quality in various locations around the school over the past number of months. Encouragingly, the PM (particulate matter) count, is quite healthy. Their recordings extended to rainfall which noted a 44mm rainfall over a 5 day period (Thursday 12pm to Monday 12pm) during Storm Eowyn!

Having secured first place in the regional Vex Robotics competition in Kinsale Community School in December, our young engineers in Fifth Class travelled to MTU Cork on Wednesday, 15 January for the Vex Robotics County Finals 2025. After weeks of planning, assembling and perfecting their robot, the pupils performed valiantly against some extremely high quality opposition from schools from all around the county. While our team fell just short on the day in their efforts to qualify for the next round, their display of teamwork, ingenuity, determination and skill saw them awarded the prestigious "*Judge's Prize*" award. We congratulate and applaud our young engineers who represented the school with such distinction throughout the Vex Robotics season. Thank you to Mrs. Sugrue, Mr. Hayes-Curtin & Ms. O'Callaghan for leading and supporting this initiative.

As part of a STEAM Education initiative to inspire STEM and Arts subjects, pupils in Fourth Classes will have an opportunity to avail of Engineering-in-a-Box workshops over the coming months, commencing next week. Facilitated by four engineers from J&J Innovative Medicine, Ringaskiddy, the school is very grateful for parental advocacy in securing such a programme. The pupils will be introduced to diverse fields of engineering, from infrastructure to biomedical, energy to electronics, using design type challenges that foster creative thinking, collaborative problem-solving and effective communication skills.

HOT FOOD LUNCHESES - To avoid any unnecessary food wastage, parents/guardians are being encouraged to remind their child(ren) to eat their hot lunches each day. In the event of lunches not being eaten, pupils are requested to place same in a suitable container (e.g. zip lock bag or plastic lunch box, provided by the pupil/family) and taken home. If required, parents/guardians may change menu selection, as required, by making contact with [Ashdale Catering](#)

INTERNET SAFETY DAY/MONTH 2025

The theme for this year's *Safer Internet Day*, held on Tuesday, 11 February, was *Prepare / Protect / Thrive: Navigating algorithms and influencers*. Throughout the month of February, pupils continue to cover a variety of age appropriate topics which include how algorithms and influencers shape young people's lives and, in a world of endless online information, pupils are also exploring ways to equip themselves with the skills to navigate both the opportunities and challenges of these powerful online influences.

As a support for Parents/Guardians, *Webwise* offer support to parents in their engagement with their children's lives online. In addition to a series of related webinars for parents (see details and links on pages 4& 5), they also 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/>. Other helpful information for parents on various issues regarding internet use is accessible on [Get Advice Archives - Webwise.ie](https://www.webwise.ie). 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.

To coincide with the above-mentioned safer internet activities, school families may also wish to avail of the opportunity to sign up to the ['Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free' in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást \(Voluntary Code\)](#)

SCHOOL WEBSITE (www.belgoolyns.ie)

Our school website features many of our exciting activities such as Bees on the Move1, Lá nag Crann, Book Fair 2024/2025, Active Travel Day, Maths Week, Engineering Projects, 6th Class visit to Joseph Walsh Studio, Foraging Walk , Golf Lesson.... (check school events under 'Gallery' tab). In addition, (under 'Parents' tab), our website includes school information and related links which you may find useful such as previous home-school notes 2024/2025, School Calendar 2024/2025, 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.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Please note that the school will close for the Easter break on **Friday, 11 April 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, 28 April 2025**.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *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**
- *Scór 2025 Preparation* – **February & March 2025**
- *Rugby Skills Training* – Fourth Classes (January/February) & Fifth Classes (March)
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Thursday & Friday, 20 & 21 February (incl.)**
- [**Navigating Leadership & Resilience - An Evening with Marie Gleeson & Prof Keelin O'Donoghue**](#) – Kinsale Community School on **Thursday, 20 February at 7.45pm**
- Leona Forde, author of the Milly McCarthy series of books, will visit Kinsale library on **Saturday, 22 February at 11.00am**
- *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. **Just to note, there is no hot lunch service on Tues 25th Feb, pupils will need to bring their own lunch for the first breaktime**
- *Clontead Parish First Penance* – **Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 6.00pm in Belgooly Church**

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- **Parent/Guardian Webwise Webinar ‘Guide to creating a family agreement for online safety’** - This short and webinar aims to empower parents and children to build healthy digital habits together. **Speaker: Catherine Cross, Deputy CEO, National Parents Council. Tuesday, 25 February at 7.00pm. To register, go to <https://www.webwise.ie/news/parent-webinars/>**
- 4th Class & STEAM-in-a-Box Programme (Engineering) each Wednesday, commencing **Wednesday, 26 February**
- **Parent/Guardian Webwise Webinar ‘From misinformation to manipulation’**: From misinformation to manipulation – what we’ve learned about trust and truth on the internet. **Speaker: Mark Little – CEO of Kinzen and former RTÉ journalist. Wednesday, 26 February at 7.00pm. To register, go to <https://www.webwise.ie/news/parent-webinars/>**
- *FAI Soccer Blitz (Boys)* – **Thursday, 27 February (10.00am to 1.00pm)** in Carrigaline United AFC Grounds
- *Confirmation 2025 (6th Class)* - For the purposes of familiarisation, a gathering of parents and candidates for confirmation 2025 on **Friday, 28 February (7.30-8.30pm)** in the Parish Church, Kinsale
- *City Sports 2025 Trials* - **March 2025**
- *Senior Class Camogie & Hurling Sciath na Scol Training & Fixtures* – **March & April 2025**
- As part of **[Engineers Week 2025](#)**, the *Cork Kinsale Greenway Engineers Team* will visit our 4th Classes on **Monday, 03 March**. Theme of Visit: ‘Engineering – Transport & Sustainable Travel Options’
- As part of **[Engineers Week 2025](#)**, *DBFL Consulting Engineers* will visit both 5th Classes and Ms. Cronin’s Class on **Wednesday, 05 March**
- *6th Class & KCS ‘Sustainability Awareness Event’* on **Wednesday, 05 March 2025**
- **Parent/Guardian Webwise Webinar ‘Addressing online bullying and developing healthy digital habits’** - This webinar will offer practical tips to help children build positive and healthy online habits, ensuring safe and enjoyable digital experiences. **Speaker: Dr Colman Noctor. Wednesday, 05 March at 7.00pm. To register, go to <https://www.webwise.ie/news/parent-webinars/>**
- *Clontead Parish Confirmation Day* – **Friday, 07 March 2025 at 10.30am. St John the Baptist Church, Kinsale**
- *Dressing up as a character for your favourite book* (in celebration of *World Book Day 2025*) – **Friday, 07 March 2025**
- *Scór na bPáistí Carrigdhoun Finals* will take place on **Saturday, 08 March 2025** in **Riverstick Community Centre**
- *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025* – Beidh Teacht le Chéile san halla **Dé hAoine 14ú 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, 14 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!**’
- *School Closure* – **Monday, 17 March** (Public Holiday)
- *New Entrant 2025/2026 Evening* – **Thursday, 20 March 2025** at 7.30pm in *Halla na Scoile*
- *Scór na bPáistí County Semi-Finals 2025* will take place on **Friday, 28 March at 7.30pm** in *Éire Óg GAA Pavillion, Ovens*
- *Parents' Association Family Bingo Fun Evening* on **Saturday, 29 March** at Riverstick Community Centre - doors open at 6.30pm & eyes down at 7.00pm - please support!
- *Scór na bPáistí County Finals 2025* will take place on **Saturday, 05 April at 2.00pm** in *Éire Óg GAA Pavillion, Ovens*
- 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

School Principal