

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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30/08/2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the summer break with a special greeting to all our new pupils and families. We also welcome staff who are joining us this School Year (2022/2023) – Ms. Róisín O’Donovan (Junior Infants), Ms. Éadaoin O’Leary (First Class), Ms Laura O’Callaghan (Fifth Class), Ms. Gina Patterson (SET), Ms Marie Walsh (SET) & Mrs Mary Barry (SNA). Ms. Molly Kearney will provide substitute cover for Ms Lyndsey Collins (Senior Infants) until January 2023 and Ms. Shanna Kay Healy will provide substitute cover for Ms Joanne O’Sullivan (Third Class) until February 2023.

BOOK RENTAL SCHEME 2022/2023

Book Rental Scheme 2022/2023 books will be distributed to pupils during the course of the week, once payment for same has been received. In this regard, please note the following:

- Payment requests for BRS 2022/2023 will issue by e-payment to all school families on **Thursday, 01 September 2022**
Note: - Annual Rental Charge (i.e. €10 – Junior Infant to Second Classes & €20 - 3rd to 6th Classes) & Book Rental Deposit (i.e. €10 - only applicable if a child is joining the scheme for the first 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. 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.

/Over.....

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 **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 **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 (2022/2023)

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 2022/2023, please note we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Infants, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth 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.

'BUG BUSTING' NIGHT (THURSDAY 01 SEPTEMBER)

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 on *Thursday, 01 September*. It is hoped that such a whole school approach – at the start of a new school year - will assist detection and, should the need arise, provide families with the opportunity to engage with head louse treatment measures over the coming weekend. To assist, there will be no homework assigned for Thursday night and please find attached a HSE information sheet on the matter. 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.

ROAD SAFETY

The school's Board of Management is constantly mindful of the issue of Traffic Safety outside the school. In the interest of safety, and in order to accommodate bus parking, staff parking and pupil set-down/collection by parents, it is important that traffic congestion is avoided, thus ensuring available space for everyone. The school wishes to remind parents of the need for continuing vigilance by everyone at the school entrance area. In the interest of safety it makes the following recommendations:

- ***Please park on the Belgooly side of the school entrance in the morning and afternoon, leaving the Riverstick side available for school buses.***
- ***To avoid parking in the yellow-boxed areas***
- ***Parking facilities around the school are limited so it is preferable to avoid double parking and a build-up of a large volume of traffic. Parents/guardians might, therefore, endeavour to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off and collected***
- ***To park perpendicular to hedge***
- ***The pedestrian pathway marking on the approach road to the school is an essential safety measure for all walking to and from school on a daily basis. Please keep the pathway clear for all walkers. All families have previously received a Garda Síochána & Cork County Council 'Park Safely at School' leaflet, Be Visible Look & Listen (and requested to retain same) which outlined safety measures for all road users in respect of road safety within the school environs***

The initial few weeks of a new school year can be particularly busy and so commands a greater sense of road safety vigilance by everyone outside the school at all times. ***Please bring these recommendations to the attention of child-minders/others.*** We look forward to your continued support and co-operation.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Further to previous communication in June, we wish to remind families of the following requirements regarding the school uniform. The uniform consists of wine jumper/cardigan with school crest, grey trousers/pinafore/skirt, wine tie, blue shirt and regular school shoes. Pupils wear tracksuits for sporting and PE related activities, class teachers will inform you of these days in September. A white polo shirt is to be worn under tracksuit and pupils may wear runners with tracksuit.

During the months of May, June & September, in addition to the main school uniform or the school tracksuit on designated days (as above), pupils may also wear a white polo t-shirt, an up-cycled short version of the existing school tracksuit or wine-coloured shorts (the latter being available from the school's uniform supplier – *Cahill's Clothing Carrigaline*). **To assist with returning lost uniform items, please label all clothing (i.e. track-suit tops, jumpers, cardigans).**

SHERPA KIDS (Before & After-School Childcare Programme 2022/2023)

Further to a previous communication in June, families may avail of the above-mentioned service at the school. Should you wish to avail of this service, Sherpa has requested that, in the first instance, contact be made via email.

Email: bns@sherpakids.ie

Telephone: 083-0103968

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.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 2022/2023 – Irish dancing, Music, Drama & Art

Further to a previous communication in June, relevant details are outlined on the school's website at <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/after-school-activities>

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that these activities, facilitated by independent contractors, are 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 these activities is to be made directly and separately with the respective tutor/group and not through the school office.

CENTRE FOR TALENTED YOUTH IRELAND (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY)

The *Centre for Talented Youth Ireland* at *Dublin City University* provides specialised courses for young people with exceptional academic ability in verbal, numerical or abstract reasoning. You may be interested in visiting the website at www.dcu.ie/ctyi for information on whether these courses would be of benefit to your child. Should you have any queries, please make an appointment, through the school office, to speak with a member of the *Special Education Teaching* team.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

During the course of the school year, you will receive various Home/School notes by email/Aladdin noticeboard informing you of different aspects of general school information and events. In addition, our school website hosts school information and educational links you may find useful e.g. School Calendar 2022/2023, Parents' section, previous Home/School notes, Parental Complaints Procedure, Booklists 2022/2023, Child Safeguarding Statement, RSE Policy....

School families will be notified of any date or time changes of events or other important information via Aladdin 'Connect'.

SIXTH CLASS 2021/2022 'BRING & BUY'

Congratulations to sixth class (2021/2022), Mr Hayes-Curtin & Mr Lane (coordinators) and all involved for raising €2,105. The proceeds went towards the *UCC Surgeon Noonan Society* (Tanzanian medical support programme 2022) and *The Community Foundation of Ireland (Ireland for Ukraine Fund)*. Many thanks to everyone for your very willing and generous support, assistance and contributions.

SCHOOL SPORTS DAY/MOUTH GUARD REMINDER (Third to Sixth Classes)

The school's *Sports for All Day* took place in late June and the pupils and staff enjoyed a great day of activity and fun. Thanks to all staff for facilitating this enjoyable event and to Ms. C Murphy for coordinating same. Over the course of the term, third to sixth class pupils will have an opportunity to avail of Gaelic Football training. All pupils are required to wear gum shields.

We look forward to another successful school year ahead!

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal