

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

Belgooly Central School,
Belgooly, Co. Cork.
Roll No:19672H
Reg. Charity No. 20114312



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

Telephone: 021 4770712

Email: belgoolyns@gmail.com

Website: www.belgoolyns.ie

11/01/2023

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 (photo attached), to facilitate Santa's visit. The P.A.'s *School Calendar 2023* (a limited number of copies available for purchase from the school office), is, once again, a great success. The pupils and staff are also to be complimented for their Christmas 2022 presentations last month.

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023)

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school **on Tuesday, 31 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.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM STAFF IN-SERVICE & SCHOOL CLOSURE (THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023)

In order to facilitate staff training, please note that the school will remain closed on **Thursday, 16 March**.

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.

TEACHER ARTIST PARTNERSHIP (TAPS)' PROGRAMME

Artist, Julie O 'Hea, has been working with Mrs. Clancy's 5th class on various artistic techniques where Art is taught through nature. Pupils have enjoyed making inks by squeezing berries, boiling onion skins etc. Having mixed the inks with natural preservatives, the pupils have painted extraordinary watercolours (photo attached) to incorporate their theme of "Wild Flowers". Recently, the pupils learned about the process of pyrolysis, where oxygen is removed so willow can be turned into charcoal. The charcoal was then used to draw and shade. Also, many pupils enjoyed learning to weave using willow and we now have beautiful bird feeders. In January, these weaving techniques will be further developed. The artist residency will conclude early next month with an exhibition and classes will be invited to attend.

GREEN COMMITTEE

As part of the school's Biodiversity focus, our Green Flag committee are busy working on habitat mapping of the school grounds. This is in addition to many other activities - Spring bulb project, winter bird watch, 'Evidence of Animals' walks & maintaining existing flags (i.e. Wrapper Zappers, Composting Fruit Leftovers, Energy Saving, Active Travel).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sciath na Scol - Well done to the pupils in 3rd class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol indoor football blitz. The pupils displayed some great teamwork and skills while having lots of fun. Thank you to Ms. O'Hea, Ms. Healy, Ms. O'Donovan, Mrs. Murphy and Ms. Murphy for training the pupils and accompanying them to the blitz in Riverstick.

The pupils in 3rd and 4th class will take part in the upcoming Sciath na Scol Chorcaí indoor hurling blitzes this month. In this regard, please note some details below:

- **4th Class Camogie** on Thursday, 12 January at 11.30am in Riverstick Community Centre
- **4th Class Hurling** on Friday, 20 January at 11.30am in Bishopstown GAA
- **3rd Class Camogie** on Wednesday, 25 January at 11.30am in Riverstick Community Centre
- **3rd Class Hurling** on Wednesday, 01 February at 11.30am in Riverstick Community Centre

Pupils in these classes will need their hurleys and helmets in January. Sciath na Scol Hurling training for 5th & 6th class pupils will commence next month and these pupils will also require hurleys and helmets.

Best of luck to Kayleigh Murphy, Thomas Hickey, Darragh O'Sullivan and Zach Ridgway who will take part in the **Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz on Tuesday, 17 January in the Rochestown Park Hotel.**

City Sports – Just to note, this year's **City Sports** will take place on **Thursday, 01 June** in MTU. Further details in due course

Rugby - Pupils in 6th classes are currently enjoying rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez. The children are learning the skills of rugby through play and experience and are having lots of fun. It is planned that pupils in 4th classes will have an opportunity to avail of these sessions later next month. 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, Teilifís, Siopadóireacht & Ócáidí Speisialta can be viewed. You may access the *Bua na Cainte* themes on <https://buaathome.ie/> Go n-eirí libh!

SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & 'BUG BUSTING NIGHT (THURSDAY, 12 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 tomorrow evening, **Thursday 12 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. To assist, there will be no homework assigned tomorrow evening 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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023

Catholic Schools Week 2023 will be celebrated from *Sunday, 29 January to Sunday, 05 February*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2023 (CSW2023) is '**Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love**'. Some of the daily themes during the course of the week – Walking Together in Faith/Love/Hope/To Celebrate/To Transform Our World.

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

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *Parent/Teacher Meeting*: We would like to thank parents/guardians for your co-operation and support with related arrangements in November
- *Lifetime Labs Science Quiz in Devere Hall UCC* - On the 18th November last, six 6th class students represented the school in *The Lifetime Labs Science Quiz*. Over sixty teams took part on the night and our students battled it out over eight rounds covering topics such as biodiversity, physics and chemistry among others. They did extremely well on the evening
- Well done to all the pupils who participated in the recent *Kinsale/Clontead Community Games Junior Chess Tournament* which was held in the Riverstick Community Centre last month. The pupils in the middle and senior classes continue to hone their skills in this area.
- *Recent Cork County Council Fire Safety Colouring & Drawing Competition Winner* – Congratulations to Weronika Przybecka
- *Wellbeing Promotion* - Thank you for completing the recent parent questionnaire (28/11/2022) in relation to the promotion of wellbeing within the school. Such parental input, together with pupil and staff input, will be invaluable in providing future direction in this important area. Wellbeing forms the key focus of the school's current endeavours in the School Self-Evaluation process.
- Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Riverstick Festival Committee's *Christmas Market 2022* colouring/Art competition last month.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS

- *Maths Stations* – Given the success of literacy station teaching over the past number of years, the school continues to expand this same practice in relation to the teaching of mathematics. For the next number of weeks, pupils in various classes will continue to engage with station teaching in this curricular area
- *Sciath an Scol 3rd & 4th Class Indoor Hurling/Camogie Blitzes* – January & February 2023. Please refer to page 3 for further details.
- *Bug Busting Night* – **Thursday, 12 January**
- *Rugby Skills Training* – Sixth Classes (January/February) & Fourth Classes (February/March)
- *Teacher Artist Partnership (TAPS) Programme* – January & February 2023
- *Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz* on **Tuesday, 17 January** in the Rochestown Park Hotel.
- *Stay Safe Programme* – further to previous correspondence during Term 1 (*most recent on 29/11/2022*), all classes will engage with the Stay Safe Programme from **January to March 2023**
- *Catholic Schools Week 2023* will be celebrated from **Sunday, 29 January to Sunday, 05 February**. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2023 (CSW2023) is '*Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love*'
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on **Tuesday, 31 January at 1.50pm**. Please refer to page 1 for further details. School bus provision will operate at this earlier time.
- *Safer Internet Day 2023* – **Tuesday, 07 February 2023**. Further to recent related school correspondence (15/12/2022), details pertaining to *Safer Internet Day 2023* is available for parents on <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>. Please be mindful that parental monitoring of your child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis is necessary and essential.
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Thursday & Friday, 16 & 17 February (incl.)**
- *Clontead Parish First Penance* – **Monday, 20 February 2023 (Belgooly Church, 6.00pm & 7.30pm)**
- *Clontead Parish Confirmation Day* – **Friday, 24 February 2023**
- *Primary Language Curriculum Staff In-Service* – School Closure on **Thursday, 16 March 2023**

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal