

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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12/09/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

SUMMER WORKS 2023

Over the years, through various grants from the Department of Education & Skills, voluntary family contributions and Parents' Association fundraising and the generous efforts of the local community, the school has been able to add to its physical infrastructure to meet growing needs. The school community has a strong historical commitment to maintaining the integrity of the fabric of the physical learning and working environment and it is encouraging that such a commitment is on-going.

The building extension project is now complete and everyone is delighted with the three new classrooms, the three new SET rooms and lobby areas. The new courtyard playground, adjoining the new extension, is an added amenity. As access for the extension was via the school pitch, the BoM availed of the opportunity to install new perimeter fencing around the pitch, undertook maintenance of ball stop netting and added topsoil. As part of the Department of Education's Summer Works Scheme 2023, electrical upgrade works were undertaken in various sections of the school, as required. In addition, an extensive deep clean was undertaken throughout the school and our school grounds received their usual late summer tidy ahead of re-opening.

ANNUAL VOLUNTARY FAMILY CONTRIBUTION 2023/2024

While the Board of Management continues to exhaust every possible avenue in terms of available funding, the **Annual Voluntary Family Contribution of €50** plays a very significant role in bringing about such improvements, as outlined above. In the interest of safety, ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is facilitating e-payment in respect of this voluntary collection - families will receive a text tomorrow, Wednesday, with related payment advice details. Please refer to *page 4* of this letter for further details on this payment type. 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 – Term 1/Term 2 €20 & Term 3 €10; €10 every other month. Your on-going generosity and support is much appreciated.

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 03 October at 1.50pm)

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 03 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.

PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2023/2024 (Allianz)

The Allianz Pupil Personal Accident 24 hour cover is operational for all pupils again this year and the fee is €8 for 24 hour cover. **Friday, 06 October** is designated date for final collection of money. For ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is facilitating e-payment in respect of this collection - families will receive a text tomorrow, Wednesday, with related payment advice details. Related details attached which provide further information on this scheme. **(Please note that VHI Swiftcare in Mahon is dedicated only to VHI customers)**

Over....

WEAVING WELL-BEING PROGRAMME (SECOND TO SIXTH CLASSES)

Pupils from **Second to Sixth Class** will be availing of the **Weaving Well-Being Programme** in school again this year. *Weaving Well-Being* is an Irish-designed *Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme which teaches children evidence-based skills and strategies to develop positive mental health and well-being. It is based on Positive Psychology, which is the science of well-being. The aim of the programme is to empower children to become active participants in creating, maintaining and boosting positive mental health throughout their lives.

Additional information on the programme can be found on the publisher's website *Outside the Box Learning Resources* www.otb.ie/WWB

'MANNERS MATTER' MONTH

As part of the school's *Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, pupils learn to care for and respect others including how people interact, communicate, live, play and work together. 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. During the month of September, pupils will explore the role that manners play in relating with others through role-play, drama, stories, poems, quotations and print in our environment (e.g. receipts). The importance of whole body listening, what good manners look like at home/school, social media manners, good sportsmanship, giving and receiving compliments, respecting differences, greetings and common courtesies will form part of the basis of class exploration on this topic.

"Good manners open the closed doors; bad manners close the open doors!" From a Turkish playwright

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The school's Code of Behaviour (available to view at <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/school-policies>) aims to promote a sense of mutual respect among all members of the school community. In this regard, class teachers will be reminding pupils, over the course of the month, of those simple, everyday efforts which help to support the school with such an endeavour. To assist, parents/guardians are also requested to remind pupils on this important matter. The pupils are to be commended for their excellent behaviour, which is often remarked upon during school excursions (i.e. tour venues, on buses, at matches....). The school is very grateful to school families for their continued support and co-operation in relation to the promotion of positive, respectful behaviour, which, of course, is also essential with facilitating effective teaching and learning.

LITERACY - NEW CLASS LIBRARY STOCK & 'WORDS BY WATER FESTIVAL' KINSALE

Our school year has gotten off to a wonderful start with pupils from various classes enjoying our newly stocked libraries which were funded jointly by the Parents' Association and the Board of Management. The pupils enjoyed the Scoil Mhuire na Grást first "Book Cafe", where they sampled the books and decided which they would like to read for starters, main course and desert! Please see our school website for some photos – <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/copy-of-1st-2nd-classes-8>. As part of our schools vision to create a community of lifelong readers, it is hoped to hold other book events throughout the year to give children the opportunity to have positive experiences with books and reading and to strengthen our relationship with the new library in Kinsale. In this regard, some dates to note, Kinsale Library will host upcoming events, as part of the *Words by Water Festival*, including a children's storytelling hour with Ms. Jenny O Neill on Saturday, 07 October. The festival has activities of interest for everyone. More details on <https://www.wordsbywater.ie/>

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2023/2024

Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 23 & Tuesday, 28 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 23rd* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 28th*. The usual school bus provision will operate at these times. Usual 1.50pm finishing time for Junior & Senior Infants on both these dates.

Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to book an appointment time(s) next month, via Aladdin 'Connect'. Further details to be advised in due course.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM – THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 (Teas/coffees at 7.30pm & AGM will commence at 8.00pm)

The school's Parents' Association will hold their AGM on **Thursday evening, 21 September (School Halla)**, and all parents are invited to attend.

The Parents' Association & Friends of the Parents' Association are to be commended for their committed and resourceful efforts that have enhanced school life for pupils, staff and parents at various times throughout the past year. Halloween decorations, Santa's Grotto & visit 2022, School Calendar 2023, subsidies towards Literacy Resources, liaising with local groups (e.g. KYSS), the very successful 'Bingo Evening' in March, preparation for *Free Schoolbook Scheme 2023/2024*, a drum set for the Sensory Garden, subsidising hoodies for our departing sixth class pupils, as well as a take-away treat for their farewell celebration and the very welcome ice-cream treat on *Sports for All* day have all featured as part of their busy schedule of work and activities.

The P.A. is most generous with its time and talents. However, its successful voluntary efforts are dependent on the continued support, co-operation and practical and positive help of all parents/guardians. They therefore welcome as many people as possible to the AGM meeting on Thursday evening, 21 September, to hear about the many activities that have been undertaken over the past year, the work of the PA and what is entailed. There is always a welcome for new PA committee members to assist and share the tasks involved in organising and planning for the various events for your children for the year ahead. **In terms of sustaining such invaluable parental contribution, it is essential that there is a parent representative from each class on the Parents' Association committee 2023/2024.** We have 228 school families and your support in helping the Parents' Association going forward in 2023/2024 in any way would be most welcome and appreciated.

SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)

Class teachers will be providing pupils with their Seesaw *Home Learning Codes* over the coming weeks. To maintain everyone's familiarity with this online learning platform, some elements of homework will be assigned via Seesaw.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION & ALADDIN 'CONNECT'

During the course of the school year, your child will receive various notice board updates (*via Aladdin 'Connect'*) informing you of different aspects of general school information and events. In addition, our school website (www.belgoolyns.ie) hosts school information and educational links you may find useful e.g. School Calendar 2023/2024, Parents' section, previous Home/School notes, Parental Complaints Procedure, Requisites List 2023/2024, Child Safeguarding Statement, RSE Policy....

Aladdin 'Connect', an online school communication/organisation/administration facility, assists parents in relation to advising the school in respect of pupil absences, allows parents to update family contact details, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, regular school news via notice-board message updates and furnishes families with the annual school report card.

Thank you to families who have **1) registered 2) downloaded the related app and 3) validated mobile phone number (please complete all 3 steps, the attached information sheets 'Parent Sign-up for Connect' & 'Set Up App Parents' will assist).**

Given the significant pupil numbers in the school, digital communication will be key in the facilitation of school organisation and arrangements for 2023/2024. The school now requests that one or both parents from each family to sign-up for *Aladdin 'Connect'* as this will be used increasingly as the school's main communication means.

For parents who wish to sign-up for 'Connect', another unique access code will be forwarded by text on Monday next.

Please remember to refresh your *Aladdin 'Connect'* app page on a regular basis.

Yours faithfully,

Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal

ePayment Facility Details

The school uses the Aladdin software service for administrative purposes and the ePayment system will give you access from an internet browser on your computer, phone or tablet to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent Central Bank directives.

Aladdin uses state of the art security to safeguard information entered by you and the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish data protection laws. Normal debit and credit card usage costs will apply.

On receiving a text containing your **payment access link**, you will be brought to a parent payment page which will contain payment details requested for your child's/family's money collection. You will require a phone with internet access or, alternatively, you can type the related link in an internet browser on a computer to make an ePayment. Once you have completed your payment, you will be issued with a reference number. Please quote this reference number in any queries you may have regarding this payment with the school.
