

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



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hoped that you all had an enjoyable break over the summer.

Further to previous communication, you may recall that Scoil Mhuire na nGrást was one of only ten Cork County Schools selected for the first round of An Taisce's *Safe Routes to School (SRTS)* programme in 2021. Designed to provide infrastructure to enable students to safely walk to and from school, the school was delighted to have been invited to participate in this worthwhile initiative.

Late last month, Cork County Council commenced work on the approved measures and significant progress has been made over the past while. Just to note, the school has been advised that the section of footpath beyond the staff car-park entrance towards Belgooly will be completed over the next couple of weeks and that temporary pedestrian management measures will be in place in the interim. It is also planned that complementary elements of the scheme (i.e. planting of trees, rain garden planting..) will be completed during September/October. While the school appreciates that these outstanding works will entail some disruption, the children will benefit from the new School Zone infrastructure measures in the years ahead.

In this regard, it is planned that these new measures will help further promote and ensure:

- As a recognised *Active School*, improved access for the ever-increasing number of pupils walking and cycling to school
- As a *Green School*, improved access for the ever-increasing number of pupils who avail of Bus Eireann School Transport
- Safer travel to our local Belgooly GAA pitch for hurling, football and athletics training
- Continuation of the school's *An Taisce Green Travel Flag*, which was awarded to the school in 2022. It is planned that initiatives such as *Walk on Wednesday* and *Bike to School* will take place each school year
- The school's efforts to secure its sixth *An Taisce Green Flag*. In this regard, the school has so many natural and environmental learning opportunities on its doorstep to assist with availing of *The Outdoor Classroom*
- Development of citizenship, living in my community & environmental care, which all form part of the pupils' *Social Personal & Health Education programme (SPHE)*. In this regard, with the support of the local *Belgooly Tidy Villages*, the senior class pupils were active participants in the *An Taisce Spring Clean Week 2023* and gathered litter along the approach roads to the school.

The school community is very grateful to the many local, regional and national individuals, groups and organisations who continue to support the school's endeavours in the above-mentioned important areas for the pupils.

It is also appreciated that these new measures will necessitate some adjustment by all road users and, in this regard, the *SRTS – Our New Infrastructure & How to Use It* document accompanying this letter, outlines steps to support the implementation of same. It is requested that these details are brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school.

/Over.....

Finally, the school wishes to acknowledge the efforts and input from many within the school community (i.e. BoM, Parents' Association, wider community) over the years in progressing improved pedestrian/cyclist/general road access to the school (i.e. footpath, pedestrian walkway, road improvements). The *Safe Routes to School* programme has now provided an invaluable opportunity for this school community to build further on these developments.

Is sinne, le meas



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Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta



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Príomhoide