

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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

Telephone: 021 4770712

Email: belgoolyns@gmail.com
Website: www.belgoolyns.ie

16/10/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing [Application for Admission/Enrolment 2026/2027](#), where relevant for new school entrants 2026/2027 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2025/2026* (€60 per family). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2025
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2025/2026* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2025
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2025/2026* (Senior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2025
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2025/2026* (Junior Infant classes only - €25 per/child). E-payment link sent on 16/09/2025
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money* (only as relevant) – various e-payment dates in September & October
- *6th Class Carrigdhoun & FAI Soccer Blitz Bus money* (only as relevant) – various e-payment dates in October
- *6th Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day* (06/10/2025) & *Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale* (6th Classes only - €10 per/child) - E-payment link sent on 29/09/2025

Also, in relation to *Aladdin 'Connect'*, thank you for **registering, downloading the related app and validating your mobile phone**. You may update your family contact details, advise the school in respect of pupil absences/early collection/late arrival, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2025, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates via 'Connect'.

SCHOOL CLOSURE (Presidential Election 2025 - Friday, 24 October 2025)

Just a reminder, the school building has been requisitioned as a polling station for the Presidential Election on Friday, 24 October. The school will be closed and Sherpa will also not operate on the day.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (THURSDAY, 20th & TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER 2025)

Further to a previous HSN (29/09/2025), Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 20 & Tuesday, 25 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 20th* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 25th*. 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 may book an appointment time(s), via *Aladdin 'Connect'*. It is advisable to book early and to assist, a related *Aladdin 'Connect' Parent/Teacher Meeting* information sheet is attached.

Our system of appointments will help ensure, with your co-operation, that you meet each teacher at the appointed time. We will have over 233 families visiting the school over the two days and, to assist with the smooth running of our meetings, we request your co-operation and support with the following:

- *Please arrange to be in the school before your first appointment*
- *If necessary, please knock on the teacher's door at the time of your appointment*

/Over.....

- *As teachers will have a number of appointments to facilitate, please note that a time allocation of ten minutes is being provided in respect of each pupil. Should there be a concern that may necessitate a longer meeting, a subsequent meeting time may be arranged*
- *If you have more than one child in the school, there will be ten minutes between appointments*
- *Should you be late for your appointment, it will be necessary to reschedule the meeting with the teacher*
- ***Please note, no electronic recording of any school meeting is permitted***
- *As per the aims of the school's Code of Behaviour, we are mindful that Parent/Teacher meetings serve to enhance the learning environment of the school by promoting a sense of mutual respect among all members of the school community, thus increasing co-operation between home and school*

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2025/2026 (HALLOWEEN & SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026)

In collaboration with the school's Parents' Association, please note some upcoming events/projects below:

- To create a ***Hallowe'en*** atmosphere, the Parents' Association will decorate the railings/canopy area (by clown) with Hallowe'en decorations/pumpkins for the final week of the half-term. To further add to the spirit, pupils may, if they wish, wear a costume on the final day of the half-term (i.e. Thursday, 23 October) and are also invited to bring one or two small treats for themselves to celebrate
- The ***'School Calendar'*** is always a favourite and a keepsake for many families. It has been supported, via sponsorship, by many small local businesses over the years. Some lovely photographs for the calendar were recently taken on the school grounds by our local photographer Pat O'Brien. Another local Belgooly man, Conor Coleman of *Island Memorial Cards*, will have the busy task of printing the many calendars over the coming weeks.

Always a favourite present for family members at Christmas, further details in relation to orders etc. will follow later next month

The Parents' Association always require assistance with these activities, should you be available to help in any way, please feel free to complete the ***'Friend of the PA'*** link – [Parents' Association Volunteer Link 2025/2026](#)

5th & 6th Classes availed of 'Pushed' & 'Hacked' workshops by Reuben [The Entertainer](#) last Friday.

Exploring the themes of bullying and the impact of social media, pupils enjoyed and benefitted from the meaningful and entertaining format. Thank you to the PA for making this visit possible.

Being ever mindful of internet safety, [Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free \(Voluntary Code\)](#) is available for parental consideration and participation. In addition, your family may be interested in engaging with [CyberBreak - 24 Hour Detox 2025](#) from 5.00pm on Friday, 18 October until 5.00pm on Saturday, 18 October.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH WEEK (06/10/2025)

To celebrate *World Mental Health Week*, Kinsale Youth Support Services (KYSS) hosted a *Mental Health Awareness Day* in Sáile Kinsale Community Centre for local 6th class pupils last week.

The purpose of this event was to make young people more aware of their own mental and physical wellbeing, while also creating an awareness of community support groups. Mental Health/wellbeing organisations were invited by KYSS to meet and share information with the pupils on activities and supports that are available in the locality. Some of the groups present were: *Community First Responders; Community Garda; KUK Sool Won; Art Therapy; Kinsale Fire Services; Kinsale Youth Support Services; Kinsale Youth Community Centre and Kinsale Transition Town 'Community Garden' group*

The pupils enjoyed a workshop with a local psychotherapist specialising in teen counselling. Speaking on anxiety, she shared strategies on how best to seek help and support. They also attended a workshop with a psychologist who discussed different personality traits, emphasising that it's okay to be different and to be content with the way we are.

This visit was timely as the school recently made a donation to the *Kinsale Youth Community Centre* from funds raised at our annual *'Bring & Buy'* earlier in June. Thank you to all the team at KYSS.

MATHS WEEK 2025

Maths Week 2025 takes place this week and all pupils are taking part in related activities and challenges. Sixth class pupils are sharing *Maths Riddles* every morning over the school intercom; many classes have participated in national Maths quizzes and there is peer-tutoring & Maths problem-solving for the whole-school Maths session on Thursday. The search is underway for our 'Mathscot' prize winners – to be announced next week!

SCIATH NA SCOL FOOTBALL

Well done to the boys and girls from 5th and 6th Classes who have just completed their *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Football League* campaign. Both teams reached the semi-final stage after three fantastic wins in the group rounds.

The girls had a titanic battle against Gaelscoil Uí Riada, Bishopstown. They worked tirelessly and showed tremendous determination and resilience against a very strong side. Although defeated, they can hold their heads high. They represented themselves, their school, and their community with great pride.

The boys also faced a tough contest against Kilcredan NS. The game was level at half-time and went right down to the wire, with Belgooly NS emerging victorious. They now progress to the final against Scartleigh NS, which will take place after the mid-term break in Páirc Uí Chaoimh or Páirc Uí Rinn. Scoil Mhuire na nGráist Abú!

School GAA Coaching - After the mid-term break, pupils from 2nd to 4th Classes, along with 5th and 6th Class pupils, who are part of the Sciath na Scol panel, will begin their hurling and camogie sessions with schools GAA coach Ryan Deasy. Pupils from these classes will require a hurley and helmet for the sessions.

A sincere thank you to Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football, and Camogie Clubs for their ongoing support and for facilitating these coaching sessions with the pupils.

To celebrate *Sliabh Rua reaching the County Intermediate Final*, pupils may, if they wish, wear their Sliabh Rua jerseys to school tomorrow, Friday, 17 October. We wish the team, including many former pupils, the very best of luck on Sunday in Castle Road at 4pm. A special mention to Ms. Kelleher who is a player on the team!

ROAD SAFETY MONTH

As part of our *Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, the topic of *Road Safety* is being covered by all classes during the month of October. The main themes covered in school will be walking, cycling, travelling on the school bus and transport. At home, should your child walk, travel by bike, scooter, bus or car to school, it is important that they consider their safety and the safety of others in the context of their respective school travel arrangements. In this regard, the *Road Safety Authority* website (www.rsa.ie), also features many resources and an information leaflet entitled, *Going to School*, which may be of assistance to you in further exploring this topic with your child. A *Bus Éireann 'School Bus Safety'* flyer was attached to previous Home/School correspondence on 29/09/2025.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing co-operation and support with the road safety measures within the school environs.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2026/2027'

For those families with new entrants for next school year (i.e. 2026/2027), thank you for attending to this matter. For anyone who has yet to enrol a new child for next year, please note that '*Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2026/2027*' opened on Wednesday, 01 October until Wednesday, 22 October 2025. All related details and application requirements available at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab).

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 nGráist* in September 2026, to check these details on the website.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2025 (INFANTS TO SIXTH CLASSES)

Later next month, pupils will commence preparing a variety of events to celebrate Christmas. The school wishes to invite you to your child's Christmas celebration in December and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Please note details below:

- Thursday, 11 December: *Sixth Classes (Ms O'Neill & Mr Lane)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Thursday, 11 December: *Fourth Classes (Ms O'Driscoll & Ms McCarthy)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Thursday, 11 December: *Junior Infant Classes (Ms Long & Mrs Patterson)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Friday, 12 December: *Second Classes (Ms Hurley & Mr McCarthy)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Friday, 12 December: *Third Classes (Ms Kelleher & Ms McCarthy)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Friday, 12 December: *First Classes (Ms Keohane & Ms Buckley)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Monday, 15 December: *Fifth Classes (Mr Hayes-Curtin & Ms O'Callaghan)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Monday, 15 December: *Senior Infant Classes (Mrs Finn & Mr Coomey)* – Halla at 1.15pm

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- Well done to Ms O'Callaghan's fifth class pupils who have been busy engaging with the *Globe Ireland Air Quality & Climate Resilience* campaign. Air quality monitoring tubes have been placed in three separate locations around the school grounds (i.e. sensory garden, staff car-park and school entrance). The tubes will be assessed at the end of the month and we look forward to examining the results within the coming weeks
- Mr Hayes-Curtin's class are also involved with a *Globe Ireland* campaign on exploring '*Climate Resilience: Temperatures & Trees*'
- The classes celebrated *Lá na gCrann* earlier in the month with a tree trail on the school grounds. Such an engagement with 'The Outdoor Classroom' helps the pupils to appreciate the school's natural environment and all that is to be learnt there
- *Bord Dúlra* - Our Green Team began this year with an emphasis on biodiversity. Well done to all classes who have created wonderful Bord Dúlra/Nature Tables. Thanks to the pupils who brought in all the colourful Autumn treasures to be found in nature at this time of the year. The Green Team will decide on the best *Bord Dúlra* next week!
- *Corridor Display/Projects*: Our corridors resemble a fine gallery featuring art, literacy and class project work through various media (see photos attached). Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to see this fine work when visiting the school for Parent/Teacher meetings next month. Remember to book your appointment time(s) on Aladdin 'Connect'. To assist, a related information sheet is attached
- Well done to all the coaches and helpers who supported the boys and girls in their *Sciath na Scol Football 2025* journey. Their progress in the game reflects the skills developed
- *Road Safety Month* – Given the heightened necessity for Road Safety during the winter months, the pupils are engaging with related activities at school
- [School Attendance 'Every School Day is a New Day'](#) – Thank you to everyone for your engagement with 'Attendance Note' on Aladdin 'Connect'. Good attendance helps develop confidence and self-esteem. To assist families with monitoring attendance, all families will receive a generic text, via Aladdin, advising of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30.... day absence notifications, where relevant. As previously advised, if your child has been absent for 20 days or more, please be mindful that the school is obliged to notify the *Educational Welfare Service* (part of *Tusla Education Support Services*)
- *Manners Matters Month* – the boys and girls are, as always, displaying exemplary behaviour and being respectful to others. This was noted by recent visitors to the school and when attending events outside the school (e.g. KYSS event, Sciath na Scol matches..)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *6th class Boys Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol Football Blitz - Thursday, 16 October*, Carrigaline GAA Grounds
- To mark *Sliabh Rua Camogie* reaching the *County Intermediate Final*, pupils may, if they wish, wear their Sliabh Rua jerseys to school on **Friday, 17 October**

/Over.....

- *FAI Soccer Blitz – Monday, 20 October*, Passage West
- *6th Class Girls Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol Football Blitz - Tuesday, 21 October*, Brinny, Innishannon
- *Halloween Celebrations on Thursday, 23 October* – pupils may, if they wish, wear a costume on the day and are also invited to bring one or two small treats for themselves to celebrate
- *School Closure - Friday, 24 October 2025* (Presidential Election 2025)
- *School Mid-term Break – Monday, 27 to Friday, 31 October (incl.)*
- *Theme for November - 'Fire Safety Month'*
- *'School Portrait Day' - Junior Infant Class (& siblings) and Sixth Class (& siblings) pupil photographs with Pat O'Brien on Tuesday, 04 November* in the halla. Further details to follow early next week
- *Multicultural Week – w/c Monday, 10 November*. A school community celebration of cultural diversity and richness
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings 2025 – Thursday, 20 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 25 November (Day 2)*. Please refer to pages 1 & 2 of this note for additional information`
- *Lifetime Lab Primary Science Quiz – Tuesday, 25 November at 6.30pm* (doors open at 5.15pm), Devere Hall, UCC
- *Christmas Celebrations* – Various dates in December (see page 4 for additional information)

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal