

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

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

'SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021/2022' & REVISED SUMMER SCHOOL CLOSURE DATE

In light of the recent government announcement of an additional Bank Holiday this year (Friday, 18 March 2022), and as the school was scheduled to be closed (as an additional school holiday) on this date, the school will now close a day earlier in June 2022. The final day of the School Year 2021/2022 is now **Wednesday, 22 June 2022.**

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022/2023

A copy of the calendar for the 2022/2023 school year is attached. Please note that the school will be re-opening after the summer break on **Monday, 29 August 2022.**

ANNUAL SCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION 2021/2022

There have been many improvements to the school's physical, teaching and learning environments over the past number of years from which all children benefit. The voluntary *Annual Family Contribution* of €50 plays a significant role in supporting necessary improvements. 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 e.g. Term 1 (€20), Term 2 (€20) & Term 3 (€10)
- €10 every other month
- €5 per month (Sept – June)

We thank you for your annual voluntary contributions to date and wish to remind school families that contributions may be given to class teachers or made by e-payment. Larger contributions would be very much welcomed and will be gratefully acknowledged by the Board.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS TO PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY (SCHOOL YEAR 2022/2023)

Bus Éireann is offering an online application system for School Transport for new entrants to primary school and post-primary school for the 2022/2023 School Year. Online applications can be made on www.buseireann.ie (School Transport Section). **The closing date for applications for 2022/2023 school year is Friday, 29 April 2022.**

If you have another child starting in Junior Infants or transferring from primary to post primary school in August/September 2022, you will need to make an application for this new school entrant, quoting your Family ID No. which is located on your existing school-going child's bus ticket, School Roll No. (e.g. *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* - 19672H) and Class Year Definition (e.g. Junior Infants is Yr 1 etc). Should you have any further queries, please contact Cork School Transport Office, Bus Éireann, Capwell, Cork (Tel. 021 – 4557137/4557129 or at st.cork@buseireann.ie)

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ST. BRIGID'S DAY

Having celebrated *Catholic Schools Week 2022* in late January, fourth class pupils in Mrs Ryan/Mrs Miyazaki's class celebrated St. Brigid's Day by taking part in a special live in-class story-telling and craft webinar. During the webinar, best-selling children's author, Caroline Busher, explored the folklore and traditions of our ancestors as they heralded the start of spring and celebrated St Brigid's Day on 1st February each year. Artist Sarah Bowie demonstrated how to make and decorate a paper St. Brigid's cross. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the unique event and created fantastic crosses.

'CREATIVE SCHOOLS' & DRUMMING WORKSHOPS

Pupils have enjoyed these sessions with Pat Naughton over the past few weeks. Pat will return again after the Easter break for additional sessions with the Junior Infant to Second classes.

RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE) PROGRAMME

All classes continue to engage with the *RSE* Programme and thank you for your support in this regard. To assist, further resources and sources of support, suitable for varying age levels, are available for parents/guardians and these may be accessed on the HSE website at <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-parents/resources/>

MOTUS LEARNING (SIXTH CLASSES)

Sixth class pupils will have an opportunity to avail of Emotional Intelligence Workshops, facilitated by *Motus Learning* (in association with the School of Applied Psychology UCC), on Friday 11th & Monday 14th March. *Motus Learning* provide mental health programs in primary schools, specifically focusing on sixth class transition into secondary school. They provide education on student mental health, well-being, transition, meta-cognition, and resilience. Their program includes workshops on Emotional Identification/Regulation & Management.

The program was designed by clinical psychologists and it teaches children about how to understand their minds through cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness, and neuroscience. It is full of games and activities, so it is a fun day for the children. The program aims to improve emotion regulation, emotional intelligence, and well-being.

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT & PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

Given the pivotal role that literacy plays in a child's learning journey, the school has been focusing on a number of key aspects in this area over the past number of months - the development of inclusive practices that support and enhance language teaching and development and establishing and developing literacy stations from junior infants to second classes. In preparation for World Book Day (03 March)/Week, fifth classes are working on 'Book in a Box' projects. Their boxes, which are now on display, represent their favourite novels are decorated on the outside with dioramas inside the boxes to recreate a scene or a character from the book. In addition, each box includes ten questions and new vocabulary learned. Pupils continue to enjoy sharing and exploring their fellow class mates 'Book in a Box'. Book scavenger hunt/trail, book cover classroom door mural designs, a Belgooly School Story and utilising IT to create a book trailer will prove popular with classes during the course of **World Book Day/Week** and, of course, pupils are invited to dress as a character from their favourite book on **Thursday, 03 March** (just remember, in the interests of safety, no wands/swords/sticks...). Developing their research, writing and presentation skills, supported by the Concern primary debating website, will feature as part of literacy work among the senior classes over the coming months.

We would also like to take this opportunity to make parents/guardians aware that **Kinsale & Carrigaline Libraries** are excellent local amenities and easily accessible to all. Literacy is at the foundation of all learning and children should be given every opportunity to avail of the local library service.

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GREEN SCHOOL – TRAVEL FLAG

'Bin your litter. It's cool. That's what we do in Belgooly School', 'Water is needy. It's not an App'. 'Don't be greedy. Turn off the Tap', 'Save our Seas (SOS)', 'Stop the pollution. It's the best solution', 'Do the Earth a favour. Be a power saver' have all featured as slogans in achieving previous Green Flags for Waste, Energy, Water & the Marine Environment. The school's Green committee is now inviting slogans to help promote the Active Travel Challenge, as part of our efforts to secure the Green Travel Flag. 'WOW – Walk on Wednesday' was a great success and everyone enjoyed the fresh air and exercise before starting their school day. The committee are also busy preparing for a forthcoming visit by an Taisce Green School representative.

'BIG FRIENDLY GUIDE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION' PROGRAMME

Mrs Clancy's fifth class have now enrolled in the *BFGtoEU* project which includes an e twinning with a school in Europe. My *Big Friendly Guide to the European Union* is an innovative 6-week teaching and learning programme. It aims at developing awareness, knowledge and critical thinking at primary school level on the European Union and Ireland's role within it. The first zoom will take place with a few schools in the E.U. online and will be hosted by Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan, Lecturer in European Politics, U.C.C. There are 4 zoom lessons in total where pupils from different countries can discuss the E.U. and take part in various activities. Further details on this programme available at <https://bfgtoeu.com/>.

INTERNET SAFETY

As part of this year's *Safer Internet Day* (Tuesday 08 February), all classes covered a variety of age-appropriate cyber-safety topics and, in addition, a growing awareness of an individual's digital footprint was developed among the senior classes. *Webwise* and the *National Parents Council (NPC)* ran a campaign this year to support parents in their engagement with their children's lives online. They advocate the importance of having regular open conversations as being one of the most effective ways of supporting your child online. In addition, it is important that parents monitor their child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis. This will help ensure that:

- Children are accessing only age-appropriate games
- Children are complying with minimum age requirements in respect of social media sites
- Children's communication with others online is appropriate and respectful.

In addition to monitoring usage, it is important that there is frequent communication between parent and child about their online activity. In this regard, further parental support is available at <https://www.webwise.ie/talklistenlearn/>.

Safety, privacy, managing time online, gaming, social networks and more was covered by *Trend Micro's* recent *Internet Safety Night for Parents* on 07/02/2022 (email 04/02/2022).

The school's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)* & appendices are all available to view on <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/school-policies>. Be 'SMART' on the internet (Appendix 1) and other internet etiquette requirements are outlined in related appendices.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2022/2023'

Applications for next year's enrolment is now being finalised. 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 nGrást* in August 2022, to visit the school's website. All related details and application requirements available at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab).

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal