

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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12/10/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing [Application for Admission/Enrolment 2024/2025](#), where relevant for new school entrants 2024/2025 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2023/2024* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 13/09/2023
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2023/2024* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 13/09/2023
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2023/2024* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 26/09/2023
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2023/2024* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 20/09/2023
- *Lifetime Lab Workshops* (3rd classes only - €9.00 per/pupil) - E-payment link sent on 29/09/2023
- *6th Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day* (09/10/2023) & *Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale* (6th Classes only - €8 per/child) - E-payment link sent on 22/09/2023
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money* (only as relevant) – various e-payment dates in September & October

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, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2023, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates via 'Connect'.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2023-2027

As the current Board of Management will complete its term of office on the 30 November, members of the Board of Management for the new term of office 2023-2027 must be appointed by the Patron and ratified by the Minister for Education & Skills by 01 December 2023.

With this in mind, please find a letter attached from the current Chairperson, Mr. Seán Scully, in relation to the procedure for the election of the Parents' nominees to the Board of Management. A meeting to facilitate same will take place in the main school hall on **Wednesday, 25 October at 8pm.**

The current Board's term has been characterised by a care and concern of the school and its future, a willingness to listen to the views and needs of others, practical and constructive ideas and a commitment to maintaining a vibrant school. This four year term has demonstrated a most generous commitment in terms of time, talents and an ability to work in a collaborative manner. As Principal, I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the current Board and the supportive role they have played in the school's many developments over the past four years.

NEW GOAL POSTS & APPRECIATION

The school would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the generous donation, from the Dwyer Family of *Belgooly Engineering*, of a pair of new goal posts for our school pitch. Now in-situ, and with new netting, the pupils will derive much enjoyment and benefit from such a resource over time and, hopefully, their use will yield some eagerly anticipated success in our various sporting endeavours!

/Over.....

RUGBY SESSIONS

Pupils in both 4th classes are 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. Thanks to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions. In celebration of Rugby World Cup 2023, see photo of a school noticeboard display attached.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2023/2024 (HALLOWEEN & SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024)

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 day of the half-term (i.e. Friday, 27 October). To further add to the spirit, 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
- 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 in November

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.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY (10/10/2023)

To celebrate *World Mental Health Day*, *Kinsale Youth Support Services (KYSS)* hosted a *Mental Health Awareness Day* in Sáile Kinsale Community Centre for local 6th class pupils earlier in the 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; CrossFit Kinsale; Jennifer Fitzgerald Art Therapy; Dearbhail Connon Art Therapy; Kinsale Fire Services; Kinsale Youth Support Services; Kinsale Youth Community Centre; Kinsale Youth Theatre; Taekwon-Do; Elasník Computers; RNLI; Teen Yoga and the OEC.*

The pupils enjoyed a workshop with Julie Cummins, a local counsellor specialising in teen counselling. Speaking on anxiety, Julie shared strategies on how best to seek help and to support oneself and Sinéad Pollock explored the important role nature plays in our wellbeing. The pupils had a wonderful day and photos of the event will be on the school website over the coming weeks.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (23rd & 28th NOVEMBER 2023)

Further to a previous HSN (27/09/2023), 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 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 228 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*

- *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*

ROAD SAFETY MONTH

As part of our *Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, the school will cover the topic of *Road Safety* with 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.

In addition, the Board of Management wishes to remind families of our *Safe Routes to School* measures which are nearing completion. Further to previous communication (28/08/2023 & 27/09/2023), please find related details attached, once again, for your careful attention. It is requested that this information is brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2024/2025'

For those families with new entrants for next school year (i.e. 2024/2025), 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) 2024/2025*' opened last week on Monday, 02 October 2023 until Monday, 23 October 2023. 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 nGrást* in September 2024, to check these details on the website.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *Lifetime Labs* – Last week, pupils in 3rd class received a visit from the Lifetime Labs Cork and availed of a workshop entitled, *House of Circuits*. The children learned about electricity, circuits and even made some of their own. No doubt, we have some budding engineers and electricians among our 3rd class. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event
- The classes celebrated *Lá na gCrann* on Thursday, 05 October 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. The theme this year, *Nuts About Nature*, saw pupils add two hazel trees, one kindly donated by a parent, to our school grounds. In celebration of Autumn, please see a photo of a school noticeboard display attached.
- *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..)
- *Road Safety Month* – Given the heightened necessity for Road Safety during the winter months, the pupils are engaging with related activities at school

- *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 you appointment time(s) on Aladdin 'Connect'
- *Open Evening* – To facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit, the school held an Opening Evening last Thursday evening. Families enjoyed visiting the various classrooms and engaging with staff, pupils and parents to learn about school life in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást. Thank you to the staff, pupils and Parents' Association for your involvement with planning, organising and assisting on the evening. We look forward to welcoming these new families to the school over the coming years ahead
- The school's newly composed anthem, *It is the place for you*, was premiered at the *Open Evening* last week. Recognising our endeavours in the Arts, sport and friendship, this musical piece was sung by our sixth class pupils and accompanied by Ms Cronin on guitar. Thank you to Ms Cronin for coordinating the composition of our new school anthem. It is now planned that all classes will have an opportunity to learn same over the coming weeks and we hope to perform it at school events going forward.
- Well done to all the coaches and helpers who supported the boys and girls in their *Sciath na Scol Football 2023* journey. Their progress in the game reflects the skills developed and we now look forward to our third classes participation in the in-door Carrigdhoun Football blitzes over the coming months. The school is grateful to the local clubs for their continued support.
- A new and enthusiastic *Green Committee* has been formed for this coming year, comprising of pupils from 5th & 6th classes. They will embark on promoting awareness of the importance of biodiversity for our world - planting Spring bulbs and making bug hotels will form part of their many projects for the year ahead. In addition, the committee continue to monitor our progress on Litter & Waste reduction and Energy and Water conservation. Go néirí go geal leo! The photos attached, provide an opportunity to review the work/projects of the school in this area over the past year
- *School Attendance* – 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*)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- Ahead of ***Maths Week 2023 (14 – 22 October)***, pupils are currently enjoying problem solving and working collaboratively in their Maths classes using *Izak9* blocks
- ***Board Of Management 2023-2027*** – To facilitate the election of the Parents' nominees to the Board of Management 2023-2027, a meeting will take place for parents in 'Halla na Scoile' on ***Wednesday, 25 October at 8.00pm.***
- ***Halloween Celebrations on Friday, 27 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 Mid-term Break – Monday, 30 October to Friday, 03 November (incl.)***
- ***Third Class Carrigdhoun Football Blitzes – November/December 2023***
- ***In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings – Thursday, 23 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 28 November (Day 2).*** Please refer to pages 2 & 3 of this note for additional information.

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal