

*Scoil Mhuire na nGráist,
Béal Guðala,
Co. Chorcaí.*

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



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06/01/2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break and to wish you all a Happy New Year!

December was a busy month. The school choir's debut performance in the International Airport Hotel early last month marked the commencement of Scoil Mhuire na nGráist's seasonal festivities. All those assembled enjoyed, and sang along, to some familiar Christmas songs. Rehearsing every Tuesday and Friday, many enthusiastic singers from 2nd to 6th classes have been working incredibly hard, learning new songs and harmonies with great energy and teamwork. Well done to all involved for their dedication and enthusiasm and a special word of thanks to their musical maestro, Ms Tracey Cronin.

Thank you also to our *Parents' Association* and the *Friends of the Parents Association* for creating a magical Christmas grotto, to facilitate Santa's visit. The P.A.'s *School Calendar 2026*, is, once again, a great success. The pupils and staff are also to be complimented for their Christmas 2025 presentations before Christmas.

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2026 at 1.50pm)

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school **on Tuesday, 27 January 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.

SCHOOL CLOSURE (MONDAY, 09 FEBRUARY 2026) – DEY'S 'PRIMARY CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK' & WHOLE-STAFF IN-SERVICE

To facilitate engagement of all staff with the Department of Education & Youth's new *Primary Curriculum Framework*, please note that the school will remain closed on **Monday, 09 February 2026**.

Sherpa & After-School Irish Dancing & Music classes will not operate on the day.

DAILY SCHOOL TIMETABLE & ASSEMBLY/DISMISSAL

The Board of Management wishes to remind families of the school's daily school assembly and dismissal arrangements:

- 9.00 - 9.10am - Outside assembly
- 9.10 - 9.20 – Classroom Assembly (all pupils are expected to be in school by no later than 9.20am)
- 1.50pm – Junior & Senior Infant departure (from the main school gate)
- 2.50pm – All other pupils depart (from the main school gate)

The school premises will open to receive pupils at 9.00 am. For their own health and safety, the children are not permitted to enter the school grounds any earlier than 9.00am and parents/carers and pupils are advised not to gather outside the school before 9.00am. Upon arrival at school, from 9.00am onwards, pupils should go straight to their designated class lines for outside assembly.

The school will open at 9.10am and pupils will proceed to assemble in their respective classrooms. All pupils are expected to be at school by no later than 9.20am as formal instruction commences at this time.

/Over.....

In the afternoon, all pupils, including infant pupils, may be collected from the main school gate. Classes will end each day for all pupils at 2.50pm (with the exception of Junior & Senior Infants who finish classes and leave school each day at 1.50pm). Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate. The person to escort them should be at the school by no later than 2.50pm (or 1.50pm in the case of Junior & Senior Infants) as the school is not in a position to accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

SCHOOL ACCESS

The Board of Management wishes to remind all parents and guardians that no adults, other than staff members, should enter the school building or grounds, unless by prior arrangement and/or on the express permission of the Principal or Deputy Principal, or on an established basis/arrangement with the teacher. Please note that this is in keeping with Health and Safety guidelines and also with child protection legislation. It should also be noted that if a parent/guardian wishes to meet an individual teacher, he/she should first contact the School Office to make the appropriate arrangements. Messages for teachers can be sent by (1) writing a note to the class teacher **or** (2) emailing the school at belgoolyns@gmail.com **or** (3) by phoning the school office (021 4770712). The Board of Management would like to remind all parents and guardians to be aware that it is obliged to take the safety and well-being of all the pupils and staff in the school very seriously.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Should a parent/carer need to collect a child during the school day, he/she is asked to advise the relevant class teacher in advance by (1) Noting the early collection on Aladdin 'Connect' **or** (2) writing a note to the class teacher **or** (3) emailing the school at belgoolyns@gmail.com **or** (4) by phoning the school office (021 4770712). The child will be brought from his/her class to the main school office area to meet with his/her parent/carer.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2025/2026)

Parents are requested to inform the Board, through the Principal, of any allergies or any *Specific Requirements* of their child. The Board will then inform all parents of a food allergy within the school. Without identifying any individual pupils, the teachers will make their pupils aware of food allergies. This, the Board hopes will provide a safe environment and invites parents, staff, pupils and school visitors for their co-operation.

Because the consequences of a child having an allergic reaction can be serious, the Board assumes that the whole school community will assist in making the school as safe as is reasonably possible for each child.

Regarding School Year 2025/2026, please note we have pupils in the following classes who have particular allergies - Third (nuts), Fifth (nuts & shellfish) & Sixth (nuts, eggs & lentils) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same. We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2026

Catholic Schools Week 2026 will be celebrated from *Sunday, 18 January to Saturday, 24 January 2026*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2026 (CSW2026) is '**Normal Lives, Called to Holiness**'. Over the course of the week, classes will explore Called to Holiness through Prayer/Love & Friendship/Family Life/Service & Courage/Joy & Mission.

GAEILGE & BUA NA CAINTE (Parent App)

To complement the teaching of *Bua na Cainte* in the school, *Edco* has developed a free app for parents. It is accessible on all devices - laptop, mobile-phone and tablet. Conversations, songs, poems, rhymes and stories on the familiar themes - Mé Féin, An Scoil, Bia, Caitheamh Aimsire, An Aimsir, Éadaí, Sa Bhaile, An Teilifís, Ag Siopadóireacht & Ócайдí Speisialta can be viewed. You may access the *Bua na Cainte* themes on <https://buaathome.ie/> Go n-eirí libh!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sciath na Scol - Well done to the pupils in 3rd class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol indoor football blitzes. The pupils displayed some great teamwork and skills while having lots of fun. The pupils in 4th class will take part in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí hurling and camogie blitzes next month. Further details to follow.

Pupils in **2nd, 3rd and 4th classes, along with members of our Sciath na Scol teams**, will continue to participate in weekly hurling and camogie coaching sessions with the Sliabh Rua school coach. These sessions will take place every Friday and pupils in these classes will require hurleys and helmets. We would like to sincerely thank Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie Clubs for their continued support and for providing these enjoyable and invaluable coaching sessions, which promote teamwork, skill development and a love of Gaelic games among our pupils. We look forward to another enjoyable and active term of GAA participation for our pupils.

Best of luck to sixth class pupils who will take part in the **Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz on Wednesday, 14 January from 4.00 – 6.00pm in the Rochestown Park Hotel.**

City Sports – Just to note, this year's **City Sports** will take place on **Thursday, 28 May** in MTU. Further details in due course

SHERPA - BEFORE & AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDCARE PROVISION

Should you wish to avail of this service, Sherpa has requested that, in the first instance, contact be made via email at bns@sherpakids.ie

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that this activity, facilitated by an independent contractor, is independent of the primary function of the school. Therefore, all queries, related arrangements (including, where necessary, individual pupil needs/requirements) and other contact in respect of this facility is to be made directly and separately with Sherpa and not through the school office.

SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & ‘BUG BUSTING NIGHT (THURSDAY, 08 JANUARY)

As part of the school's *SPHE Programme*, respiratory etiquette will be explored with classes over the coming weeks. If your child is unwell, it is recommended to remain at home until better.

While the prevalence of head lice is a community dilemma, the school, for its part, requests that all parents/guardians engage with a 'Bug Busting' night at home on **Thursday night, 08 January**. It is hoped that such a whole school approach – at the start of a new school term - will assist detection and, should the need arise, provide families with the opportunity to engage with head louse treatment measures over the coming weekend. Please find attached a HSE information sheet on the matter and your local pharmacist will also be in a position to advise. It is important that all families co-operate and support this initiative and engage with frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- **Parent/Teacher Meeting:** We would like to thank parents/guardians for your co-operation and support with related arrangements in November
- During **Science Week 2025** in November, the pupils had an opportunity to experience some related events. Both 6th classes availed of the [WiseWater Academy Programme](#) Taking place throughout November and December, interactive workshops provided pupils with opportunities to learn about water through a scientific, artistic and literary lens. Carrying out conservation studies, they examined water samples from the local River Stick. The sessions concluded with both classes sharing their new knowledge and insights on water in halla na scoile. Also, as part of **Science Week 2025**, sixth classes hosted their annual Science Fair where they designed their own experiments and presented findings to our budding scientists in the younger classes. Well done to our Science Quiz teams who also attended the Lifetime Lab Science Quiz in UCC

- Our **Vex Robotics** team from sixth class recently entered a scrimmage competition in KCS where they learned how to control the robot they built. They have finished a new robot, Huey, and are entering a Vex Robotics competition in MTU on Thursday, 15 January. Mrs.Finn and Mr.Coomey will accompany the team on the day and further details will be issued shortly to those involved
- Last month, pupils in 2nd class welcomed a grandparent who shared stories about school long ago, the games played and what life was like when he was a young boy. It was a fabulous experience for all involved and everyone had a lovely afternoon

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS

- **Bug Busting Night – Thursday night, 08 January**
- Various classes will practice *station teaching* in relation to *mathematics* over the next umber of weeks. This gives pupils an opportunity to fully engage in the new *Primary Maths Curriculum* which presents a fresh vision for children's mathematical learning. It is characterised by playfulness, creativity, challenge, collaboration and opportunities for reasoning and solving real-life problems. This will help introduce the new way of learning in Maths. To assist your child, please find some related details attached
- **Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz** on **Wednesday, 14 January from 4.00-6.00pm** in the Rochestown Park Hotel
- **Vex Robotics Competition** in MTU on **Thursday, 15 January**
- DEY Invitation to apply to participate in the '**Convention on Education 2026**' - Further to a related email & Aladdin noticeboard message on 16/12/2025, please, if interested, complete the application link by no later than **Friday, 16 January 2026**
- **Catholic Schools Week 2026** will be celebrated from **Sunday, 18 January to Saturday, 24 January 2026**. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2026 (CSW2026) is '**Normal Lives, Called to Holiness**'. Please refer to page 2 for further details
- **RSE Programme** – Further to previous correspondence in Term 1, all classes will engage with the RSE Programme from week commencing **Monday, 19 January until April 2026 (incl.)**
- **Staff Meeting** – Early closure on **Tuesday, 27 January at 1.50pm**. Please refer to page 1 for further details. School bus provision will operate at this earlier time
- **School Closure (Public Holiday) – Monday, 02 February**
- **School Closure (Primary Curriculum Framework Staff In-Service) – Monday, 09 February**. Please refer to page 1 for further details
- **First South Credit Union Quiz – Monday, 09 February 2026 (Venue tbc)**
- **Safer Internet Day 2026 – Tuesday, 10 February 2026**. Information pertaining to [**Safer Internet Day 2026 for Parents**](#) is available in the afore-mentioned link. Please be mindful that parental monitoring of your child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis is necessary and essential
- **Clonthead Parish First Penance – Tuesday, 17 February 2026 at 6.00pm in Belgoole Church**
- **School Mid-term Break – Thursday & Friday, 19 & 20 February (incl.)**
- **City Sports 2026 Trials - March 2026**
- **Senior Class Camogie & Hurling Sciath na Scol Training & Fixtures – March & April 2026**
- **Clonthead Parish Confirmation Day – Tuesday, 24 February 2026 at 10.30am in St. John the Baptist Church, Kinsale**
- **School Closure – Monday & Tuesday, 16 & 17 March** (Public Holiday & Vacation Day)
- **New Entrant 2026/2027 Evening – Tuesday, 24 March 2026** at 7.30pm in *Halla na Scoile*
- The school will close for the *Easter break* on **Friday, 27 March at 12 noon**
- School will re-open after the Easter break on **Monday, 13 April 2026**
- **Clonthead Parish First Holy Communion – Saturday, 25 April 2026** at 11.00am in **St. Joseph's Church, Riverstick**

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy, *Príomhoide*