

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

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy  
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12/11/2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing [Application for Admission/Enrolment 2025/2026](#), where relevant for new school entrants 2025/2026 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2024/2025* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 11/09/2024 & 14/10/2024
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2024/2025* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 11/09/2024 & 14/10/2024
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2024/2025* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 26/09/2024 & 14/10/2024
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2024/2025* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 12/09/2024 & 14/10/2024
- *6<sup>th</sup> Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day* (08/10/2024) & *Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale* (6<sup>th</sup> Classes only - €10 per/child) - E-payment link sent on 30/09/2024 & 14/10/2024
- *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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/early collection/late arrival, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2024, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates ..... via 'Connect'.

**Owing to rising costs, the school plans on discontinuing sending messages, via text, from January 2025. Instead, messages will be via the Aladdin 'Connect' app message service. To receive same, it is important that all parents/guardians have verified their mobile number on Aladdin 'Connect'. In this regard, please refer to the related information sheet attached.**

#### ***SCHOOL CLOSURE (General Election - Friday, 29 November 2024)***

**Friday, 29 November** has been confirmed as the date for the forthcoming General Election. The school building has been requisitioned as a polling station and the school will be closed on that day. Sherpa and the After-School Art Class (Friday) will not operate on the day.

#### ***PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – 'SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025'***

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. The PA has been liaising with local photographer, Pat O'Brien, and another local Belgooly man, Conor Coleman of *Island Memorial Cards* to ensure that it proceeds again this year.

In order to make certain that *School Calendar 2025*, always a favourite present for family members at Christmas, is available for distribution in December:

/Over.....

- School families will be able to order and pay online for **School Calendar 2025** for a limited period only from **Wednesday, 13 November 2024 to Monday, 25 November 2024 (incl.)**
- You will receive a related link from the school tomorrow, **Wednesday, 13 November**
- To order, simply enter the relevant amount of money (i.e. €13.00 per calendar). **NOTE** – As €13.00 is the minimum amount required to purchase a calendar, this amount will appear by default in the payment box, however, you will need to amend same to reflect the number of calendars you may wish to purchase (for example, €26.00 for 2 calendars or €39.00 for 3 calendars and so on)
- Complete payment transaction
- **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Monday, 25 November**
- Calendars will be distributed to your eldest child in the school in mid-December

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association for the amount of time and effort spent organising **School Calendar 2025**.

### **FOLENS 'CHRISTMAS 2024 ANNUALS'**

The Folens Christmas Annual is available to purchase (**€3.00 per annual**) at the school for a limited period. Should you wish to purchase an annual for your child, you will be able to order and pay for same online for a limited period only from **Wednesday, 13 November 2024 to Monday, 25 November 2024 (incl.)**. You will receive a related link from the school tomorrow, **Wednesday, 13 November** and to order, simply tick the relevant box and complete payment transaction. Once paid, annuals will be distributed to pupils from week commencing Monday, 25 November. **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Monday, 25 November.**

*Just to note:*

- Junior & Senior Infants – *Súgradh* (Folens Christmas 2024 Annual)
- First & Second Classes – *Spraoi* (Folens Christmas 2024 Annual)
- Third & Fourth Classes – *Siamsa* (Folens Christmas 2024 Annual)
- Fifth & Sixth Classes – *Sonas* (Folens Christmas 2024 Annual)

### **PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (21<sup>st</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024)**

Further to a previous HSN (24/09/2024 & 10/10/2024), Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 21 & Tuesday, 26 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>*. 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'.

Thank you for engaging with the related booking facility on Aladdin 'Connect'. Our system of appointments will help ensure, with your co-operation, that you meet each teacher at the appointed time. We will have over 227 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*

**LIFETIME LAB WORKSHOPS (THIRD & SIXTH CLASSES)**

Lifetime Lab, a Cork City Council operated facility offering hands on science workshops and activities and events to primary schools in the Cork area, is currently offering a workshop entitled, *House of Circuits*. This project has been developed with assistance from *Science Foundation Ireland*.

This STEM Outreach initiative is a fun and hands-on exploration of electrical circuits, allowing children to explore and discover, building up their understanding of current electricity and simple circuits. The workshop will be school-based, with individual workshop kits for each child in the class to work on. Pupils in third & sixth classes will avail of the workshops on **Thursday, 05 December**.

To facilitate these workshops, there is a cost of **€5.00 per pupil**. **Monday, 02 December** is the designated date for final collection of money. For ease of payment and to assist with administration, families of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will receive a text tomorrow, Wednesday, with related payment advice details.

**CHARLES FORT KINSALE (Fourth Classes – Friday, 06 December)**

Fourth classes have been invited to participate in a Christmas Workshop at Charles Fort Kinsale on **Friday, 06 December 2024**. This workshop will include partaking in Quiz Time, a Hula Hoop challenge & Fun Story Time. Should you wish for your child to attend this event, please note the following details below:

- Buses will depart the school at 10.00am (sharp) and return at 12.30pm (approx.)
- Bus transport cost is **€8.00** per child & an e-payment facility will be available, via a text link, from tomorrow, **Wednesday, 13 November until Monday, 02 December**. Bus transport arrangements and related capacity will be based on payments received by **Monday, 02 December**
- Parents are also required to complete a related '**Permission**' for this trip which will be available on Aladdin from tomorrow, Wednesday, and will need to be completed by no later than **Monday, 02 December**

**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2024 (INFANTS TO SIXTH CLASSES)**

Pupils and staff are currently busy preparing a variety of events to celebrate Christmas. We invite you to your child's Christmas celebration and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Please note details below:

- Thursday, 12 December: *Fifth Classes (Mr Hayes-Curtin & Ms O'Callaghan)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Thursday, 12 December: *Fourth Classes (Mr Lane & Mrs Ryan/Ms O'Hea)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Thursday, 12 December: *Junior Infant Classes (Ms É O'Leary & Ms Hurley)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Friday, 13 December: *Second Classes (Ms O'Driscoll & Ms N O'Leary)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Friday, 13 December: *Third Classes (Ms Collins & Ms. Kelleher)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Friday, 15 December: *First Classes (Mrs. Clancy & Ms. O'Sullivan)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Monday, 16 December: *Sixth Class (Ms. O'Neill)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Monday, 16 December: *Senior Infant Classes (Mrs Finn & Mr Coomey)* – Halla at 1.15pm

**At the invitation of the school, we will have many visitors over these dates/times. Your co-operation and support with the following is required:**

- To assist with school organisation and hall preparation, there will be no access to the halla until **15 minutes** prior to the commencement of a class presentation
- In the interest of comfort, safety and unnecessary disruption to classes, **siblings of the pupils performing will remain in their own respective classrooms during the course of each performance**. All pupils will have an opportunity to view the different presentations during the course of Christmas week with their classmates.
- In the interest of safety, **no hot beverages are permitted in the halla**
- **Just to note, in keeping with child protection practices, and in the interest of pupil and staff privacy, photos and videos are not permitted on the school premises at any stage during the visit**

Thank you for your co-operation and support in this regard. A contribution to our *Arts Education Fund* of **€5 per adult** on the day is requested. Any contribution would be very much appreciated.

### **AMBER FLAG CEREMONY**

We are delighted that our Amber Flag Raising Celebration on Friday, 08 November was a wonderful success! The Amber Flag is an initiative run by *Pieta House*, which recognises the individual efforts of schools to promote mental health awareness and well-being within our school communities.

Thank you to the incredible efforts of the Amber Flag Committee, we raised funds for *Pieta House*, created an *Affirmation Station* to spread positivity, organised a *Wellbeing Week* filled with meaningful activities, and promoted *Buddy Benches*, generously supplied by the *Parents' Association*, to encourage friendship and support among students.

This event truly highlighted our commitment to fostering a caring and inclusive environment, and we are grateful to all staff and students who contributed to its success. Thank you to Ms Marie Walsh for coordinating this very worthwhile initiative. Some photos attached.

### ***SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & ‘BUG BUSTING’***

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.

Many thanks to families for your engagement with 'Bug Busting' night in September. To curtail and reduce occurrence of head lice, please ensure frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard.

### ***SANTA'S VISIT!***

Santa plans to visit the school on Tuesday, 17 December.

### ***CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS***

Please note that the school will close for the Christmas break on ***Friday, 20 December at 12 noon***. School will re-open on ***Monday, 06 January 2025***.

### ***WELCOME, WELL DONE & THANK YOU***

- *School Staff Celebration* – the superb weather on Friday, 11 October helped add to celebrations as we marked the retirement of Mrs Crean and Mr Cotter, and the departure of Mrs Whelan to another school. Instrumental music, singing, special cards and gifts, farewell speeches, flowers and the presence of former staff and BoM members were all very much appreciated by our departing staff, as were the many kind and thoughtful messages of appreciation by our many families, friends of Scoil Mhuire na nGrást and former pupils/families. We wish Mrs Whelan, Mrs Crean and Mr Cotter all the very best for the future! Regarding the preparations for this event, the school wishes to acknowledge the combined efforts of the many staff, BoM and PA members who were involved
- *Welcome* - We would like to welcome and congratulate Ms Helena Keohane on her appointment as school secretary
- *Scholastic Book Fair (October)* – Last month, the school held a *Scholastic Book Fair*. Scholastic donates 60% of all sales back to the school and, as a result, each class received approximately 20 new books for their class library. There was great excitement amongst pupils and parents with many parents and teachers noting a renewed and expanded interest in books and reading. This is part of the school's vision to create a community of readers. Many thanks to the many volunteers from the *Parents Association* - without whom the Book Fair could not have happened. The school is also very grateful to Ms Jenny O'Neill for coordinating this worthwhile event
- *Road Safety Month (October)* – Many thanks for your continuing support and cooperation in terms of road safety within the school environs
- *Maths Week 2024 (14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October)* - All pupils took part in many activities & challenges during Maths week. Many thanks to all who entered the "Maths Eyes" competition where pupils created Maths questions related to their local environment. Congratulations to Megan Daly, Mary Kate Daly, Cheyanne Dineen, Tom Coleman & Liam Daly who won this competition

- As part of the recent *Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free*, many thanks to the Parents' Association for facilitating the recent survey in respect of this proposed voluntary code. In this regard, and as a support for families, the PA liaised with our local KYSS to facilitate an *Internet Safety & Cyberbullying* parental presentation by Ger Brick earlier last month. Ger's experienced insights, tips and suggestions in this area were invaluable for parents/guardians. Again, parental monitoring and frequent communication with children on their internet use remains key to ensuring safe usage. There is a further opportunity for parents/guardians to avail of assistance in this area at the forthcoming *National Parents' Council Education Conference 2024 'Building Futures Together'*, hosted locally by *Kinsale Community School* on **Saturday, 23 November**. With many eminent speakers, all parents/guardians are encouraged to register for this event at [NPC Education Conference 2024 Registration](#) A related poster is attached.
- Thank you to the *Parents' Association* for decorating the gates and railing areas with some bewitching Halloween decorations just before the mid-term break. We wish the new [PA Committee 2024/2025](#) all the very best for the year ahead and, as they plan activities for Christmas 2024, your input and assistance would be very welcome. Should you wish to volunteer, either as a PA committee member or *Friend of the PA*, please feel free to complete the [Parents' Association Volunteer Form 2024/2025](#). A special invitation is extended to our new school families who may wish to join the committee or support their work as a *'Friend of the PA'*
- In support of the school's ongoing Biodiversity efforts, and to support our established and more recent additions to the school's 'Orchard Area', we welcome the kind donation of over 250 bulbs! As part of the 'Buffet for Bees' Bulbs in the Community initiative, we are grateful for parental advocacy in this regard
- With Christmas around the corner, the school very much appreciates the kind donation of two new large Christmas trees and a selection of seasonal baubles. Again, these items, along with canteen equipment, were secured through the thoughtful workplace advocacy of a parent
- To all the pupils and staff for the wonderful classroom and corridor displays of the pupils' work (*see photos attached*)
- To the class teaching, SET and SNA teams for facilitating various Literacy/Numeracy Stations agus tacaíocht sa Ghaeilge freisin ar fud na scoile
- *Seesaw* - Thank you to everyone for your active engagement with *Seesaw* – an invaluable online learning platform
- In relation to *'Bug Busting'*, thank you for your on-going attention in this regard. To curtail and reduce the occurrence of same, your on-going monitoring, co-operation and support throughout the school year is required

### **SOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *Schools GAA Coaching* – pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes commenced their hurling and camogie sessions with school coach Jack Deasy last Friday. Children from these classes are required to bring a hurley and helmet each Friday. Thank you to Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating these sessions. Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will begin their training sessions in January
- *School Science Week 2024 (10th -17th November)* – KCS TY VEX Robotics demonstration...
- *Lifetime Lab Primary Science Quiz - Wednesday, 13 November at 6.30pm* in Devere Hall, UCC (sign in available from 5.45pm)
- Fundamental rugby skills with rugby coach, Santiago Gonzalez – Third Classes (November & December 2024 ) & Fourth Classes (January 2025)
- As part of the school's **Active School Flag (ASF)** programme, pupils will partake in the **'Active Break Every Day'** challenge in late November/early December

- *OurKidsCode – Family Coding Programme (a series of four workshops) – **Thursdays, 21 & 28 November 2024 and 09 & 16 January 2025*** at Riverstick Community Centre from 3.30 to 5.30pm. For further details, see related poster attached
- *Parent/Teacher Meetings – **Thursday, 21 November & Tuesday, 26 November***. Children will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on Thursday and at 2.50pm on Tuesday. The usual school bus provision will operate at these times. Usual 1.50pm finishing time for Junior & Senior Infants on both these dates. Please refer to *page 2* of this note for further details
- *National Parents Council (NPC) Education Conference ‘Building Futures Together’ – **Saturday, 23 November from 11.00am to 4.00pm*** at Kinsale Community School. Attendance open to all parents/guardians who are encouraged to register at [NPC Education Conference 2024 Registration](#)
- *Riverstick Christmas Market – **Sunday, 24 November*** from 12 noon to 5.00pm at Riverstick Community Centre
- *School Calendar 2025 – closing date for orders is **Monday, 25 November***
- *Folens Christmas Annual 2024 – closing date for orders is **Monday, 25 November***
- *3<sup>rd</sup> Class Girls Indoor Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun Football – **Wednesday, 27 November in Riverstick Community Centre***
- ***School Closure (General Election) - Friday, 29 November*** has been confirmed as the date for the forthcoming General Election. The school building has been requisitioned as a polling station and the school will be closed on that day. Sherpa and the After-School Art Class (Friday) will not operate on the day
- *3<sup>rd</sup> Class Boys Indoor Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun Football – **Monday or Tuesday, 02 or 03 December (TBC) in Riverstick Community Centre***
- *Lifetime Lab Workshops (3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes) – **Thursday, 05 December*** (see page 3 for further details)
- *Charles Fort Christmas Primary School Workshop (Fourth Classes) – **Friday, 06 December*** (see page 3 for further details)
- *Class Christmas Presentations (**December 2024**)* - Please refer to page 2 of this note for further details
- *Santa’s planned visit - **Tuesday, 17 December***
- *The school will close for the Christmas break on **Friday, 20 December at 12 noon**. School will re-open on **Monday, 06 January 2025***

Yours faithfully,  
*Diarmuid Hennessy*  
*School Principal*