

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



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hoped that you had an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend with your families in recent days.

As in previous correspondence on 27th February, the Board of Management now wishes to provide some further details in respect of revised COVID-19 guidance from the Department of Education & Skills.

While reviewing developments over the last number of weeks, the board has also given consideration to traditional aspects of school organisation. Owing to revised school arrangements since September 2020, a number of positive practices have emerged. Some elements of school routines and practices have changed and, as we realign school organisation to normal teaching and learning at Scoil Mhuire na nGrást, the board now wishes to advise families as to how these may be incorporated into school life and the recommencement of some other familiar activities.

DAILY SCHOOL TIMETABLE & ASSEMBLY/DISMISSAL

Reflecting pupil and bus arrival times to the school, and in fulfilling adequate supervision during assembly and dismissal times, the Board of Management wishes to advise families of the following revised daily school assembly and dismissal arrangements which will become effective from after the Easter break (*i.e. Monday, 25 April 2022*):

- 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)
- 10.55 – 11.10am – Break 1
- 12.45 – 1.00pm – Break 2
- 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. As was the case previously, 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.

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.

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SCHOOL ACCESS

As was the case previously, the Board of Management wishes to advise 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.

BREAKTIMES

Pupils with the same year group, where relevant, have recommenced playing together in the yard. Given the current reduced play area, owing to the building extension, staggered break-times will remain in place until after the Easter break. It is understood that the pitch area will be available then again for school use. The practice of two fifteen-minute yard break-times during the day will be maintained.

UNIFORMS

The continued use of ventilation will be maintained, pupils may continue to wear their tracksuit and additional clothing, if preferred. As the finer weather approaches, pupils will, of course, have the option of wearing the school summer uniform. Regarding the latter, families will receive a reminder of related requirements next week.

SCHOOL TOURS

The school has been endeavouring over the last number of weeks to secure venues for school tours 2022. Owing to the limited time-frame, it is appreciated that this has presented a challenge for school staff, however, it is envisaged that a related communication piece will issue to families after the Easter break with further details.

OTHER CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Some sporting fixtures, such as Sciath na Scol, have recommenced and pupils in the senior classes started hurling training after the mid-term break – a head-start for a potential win! Trials for City Sports 2022 (MTU Sports Grounds on Friday, 03 June) will take place over the coming weeks and our 6th classes enjoyed an excursion to KCS yesterday. Singing and all other usual teaching and learning activities are now taking place in the school.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

As the school extension project will near completion over the coming summer months, and owing to the school being granted a complete electrical upgrade (under the recently announced DES Summer Works Scheme 2022 programme), it is not feasible to recommence after-school activities during the final term of 2021/2022. These activities will recommence again in September and related providers will issue further details in June and September.

INFECTION CONTROL

To prevent the spread of infection within the school, the continued use of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory etiquette and ventilation will be maintained.

The pupils and staff have welcomed the resumption of usual school activities and the Board wishes to express its appreciation to everyone for their continued and on-going support and co-operation on such matters during this time.

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Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta



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