

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



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16/05/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE**

As part of An Taisce's *Safe Routes to School*, Cork County Council has given notice of its intention to carry out a proposed school zone initiative in the environs of the school. Further details (drawings, submissions etc.) are all available at [Cork County Council - Proposed School Zone Initiative and associated Traffic Calming Works at L7226 and L7227 Lackenacummeen, Belgooly, Co Cork](#)

### **NATIONAL BIKE WEEK 2023**

Scoil Mhuire na nGrást has been nominated by Cork County Council for a related cycle event tomorrow, Wednesday, 17 May. In this regard, please refer to previous Home School correspondence (see email 05/05/2023) for further details. In addition, a full list of free cycling events in the county are available at [www.corkbikeweek.ie](http://www.corkbikeweek.ie)

### **GREEN FLAG UPDATE**

Green Flag Committee members have been busy over the last few weeks: *Wrapper Zappers* have been monitoring our school grounds weekly in an effort to keep our school a litter free zone; log pieces, as well as a homemade bug hotel, have been placed along the hedgerow to encourage mini-beasts to make their homes there; some classes are busy planting, germinating and growing vegetable and flower seeds and observing optimum conditions for the growth of plants such as sunflowers, nasturtiums, beetroot, salad leaves and peas.

*An Taisce National Spring Clean* - On Friday, 28 April, the pupils in Mr Lane's and Mr Hayes-Curtin's 6<sup>th</sup> classes embarked on our annual *An Taisce Spring Clean*, along the Belgooly Walkway and locals roads, with great enthusiasm. Special thanks to members of the *Belgooly Tidy Villages Association* for collecting the recycling and refuse bags gathered on the day.

*National Bike Week (13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023)* - *National Bike Week 2023* is being marked in the school by a visit from Ulick O'Beirne of *Bike Wizards* - third & fifth classes will have an opportunity to learn about bike maintenance and bike safety skills. Also, in terms of bike safety, classes are partaking in a *Cork County Council Cycle Safety Webinar* today, Tuesday. Tomorrow, Wednesday, pupils and parents are invited to partake in a *Cycle to School* event, organised by *Cork County Council* (see email 05/05/2023 for further details).

Upcoming events: International Day for Biological Diversity – Monday, 22 May 2023 [International Day for Biological Diversity 2023](#)

### **FREE SCHOOLBOOKS SCHEME 2023/2024**

Further to the department's announcement earlier in March, please find a school letter and a Department of Education information note attached outlining related terms and conditions pertaining to the scheme.

In general, funding is being provided directly to primary schools and special schools by the Department to implement the scheme and schools will make provision for schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for all children at the start of the school year. /Over.....

**SCHOOL TOUR 2023**

Further to a previous school email (06/03/2023), School Tours 2023 will commence over the coming weeks and emails with specific details are in the process of being issued to each class group.

To facilitate related arrangements, and for everyone's safety and enjoyment, please note the following:

- Parking facilities around the school are limited. In the interest of safety, to avoid a build-up of a large volume of traffic and to facilitate school bus set-down provision, we request that parents/guardians might endeavour to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off for school tours
- So as not to compromise the list of scheduled activities for each individual school tour group, buses will depart promptly at their designated departure times
- 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/school environs
- Designated final date for school tour payment – Monday, 08 May 2023. Owing to bus and school tour capacity limitations, it will not be possible to facilitate bookings received after this date
- Owing to financial commitments incurred by the school in respect of venue and transport bookings, it will not be possible to facilitate a refund for any reason should any pupil not travel on the day of the tour

We would like to acknowledge Ms. Cronin's role in coordinating the various excursions.

**BUS & TRAVEL SAFETY – 'BE ALERT TO BE SAFE'**

Bus Eireann has prepared brief leaflet (attached) outlining the key safety message when using school buses. Indeed, in light of increasing public transport usage, the advice is relevant for all who avail of this mode of transport. Families are requested to discuss and explore these safety tips with their child(ren).

**SCIATH NA SCOL CHORCAÍ (HURLING & CAMOGIE)**

Well done to the boys and girls in Fifth & Sixth classes who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí League. Both teams played really well. Congratulations to the girl's team who were successful in winning the Sciath na Scol Semi-Final against Scartleigh last week. They will now play Berrings in the final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Wednesday, 24 May at 10.00am. Further details to follow.

**SCIATH NA SCOL CARRIGDHOUN (HURLING & CAMOGIE)**

Best of luck to the boys and girls in Fifth & Sixth classes who will take part in the Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun Hurling and Camogie blitzes this week. The girls played yesterday, Monday, and the boys will play on Friday, 19 May in Crosshaven GAA Grounds (matches at 11.00am, 11.45am & 12.30pm). If you are available, please come along to support.

**SCHOOL COACHING**

Pupils from Second to Fourth classes are enjoying their hurling and camogie training with our Sliabh Rua School Coach, Donnacha Desmond. Pupils in the Junior Infants to Second classes will begin hurling and camogie training on Friday, 26 May. A hurley and helmet will be required for these training sessions.

**RUGBY BLITZES**

Best of luck to all the pupils in the upcoming rugby blitzes which is being organised by Kinsale Rugby Club. Pupils from Fourth to Sixth classes had an opportunity to learn some fundamental rugby skills in Term 1 & 2, provided by Santiago Gonzalez (Munster Rugby Coach).

Third & Fourth Classes participated in the blitz last week, First & Second Classes will travel to Kinsale on Thursday, 18 May (11.00am-1.00pm) and Fifth & Sixth Classes will participate on Thursday, 25 May (11.00am – 1.00pm)

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**CITY SPORTS 2023 (ATHLETICS)**

Best of luck to all the children taking part in the City Sports in MTU on Thursday, 01 June (Boys – commencing at 10.00am & Girls – commencing at 4.15pm). Further details to follow and each child who is competing will receive a related note shortly.

**SENSORY GARDEN - OUTDOOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

The school wishes to gratefully acknowledge the recent generous donation of two new musical instruments to its Sensory Garden. An outdoor drum panel and a set of rainbow chimes (photos attached) were provided by the Parents' Association and The Angel Heart ([The Heart Angel](#)) respectively. These new musical additions are being enjoyed by all the pupils as they visit the garden and are proving a key attraction!

**CREATIVE SCHOOLS**

Will Richardson, UCC Palaeontology Research Assistant, has emailed Fifth class expressing his gratitude for the interest shown in the *National Fossil Art Competition*. Fifth class pupils enjoyed studying fossil patterns and recreating them through Art.

**FARM SAFETY & WATER SAFETY**

To ensure that everyone stays safe over the summer months, the classes will be covering water and farm safety with their class teachers over the coming weeks.

To assist parents with supporting their child's learning in this area, the following will be of help:

- HSE 'Child Safety Around the Farm' - <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/child-health/child-safety-around-the-farm.html>
- Water Safety Ireland - <https://watersafety.ie/recreation/>

**SUMMER WORKS SCHEME 2023**

As part of the department's *Summer Works Scheme 2023*, extensive electrical works will be undertaken throughout while the school is closed during the summer break.

This now also presents an opportunity to generally upgrade other school areas, subject to school funds. As this school year (2022/2023) concludes, your *Annual Voluntary Family Contributions* (€50 p/family) will assist in this regard. We are grateful for contributions to-date and any further contributions may be made via e-payment.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE ( [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) )**

Our school website features many of our exciting activities (check the various classes under the 'Gallery' section at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie)) such as Halloween and Christmas celebrations 2022, FAI 5-aside soccer blitz, Green team events like An Taisce Spring Clean and Bike week, Historic artefacts, 'The Garden Centre' (Aistear), Leaf Art, Chess club, and more. In addition, it includes school information and educational related links you may find useful e.g. School Calendar 2022/2023, parents' section, previous home/school notes, parental complaints procedure... We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who attends to our school website during the year. Mrs. Finn plays a pivotal role in facilitating this valuable communication medium.

**'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2023/2024'**

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 nGráist* in August 2023, to visit the school's website. All related details and application requirements available at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) ('Admissions' tab).

***As we are presently reviewing our pupil enrolment numbers for the 2023/2024 school year, please advise the school if there are any pupils currently enrolled who will not be returning in August 2023.***

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**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 2023/2024 – Irish dancing, Music, Drama & Art**

Relevant details are outlined in the school's website at <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/after-school-activities> and some related flyers are also attached.

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that these activities, facilitated by independent contractors, are 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 these activities is to be made directly and separately with the respective tutor/group and not through the school office.

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *Junior Infants School Tour - Leahy's Farm on Thursday, 18 May 2023*
- *Rugby Blitz (First & Second Classes) – Thursday, 18 May (11.00am – 1.00pm) Kinsale RFC Grounds*
- *Senior Infants School Tour - Leahy's Farm on Friday, 19 May 2023*
- *Carrigdhoun Hurling Blitz (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes) – Friday, 19 May in Crosshaven GAA Grounds (matches at 11.00am, 11.45am & 12.30pm). If you are available, please come along to support*
- *Zumba Class with Dancing Derek – Monday, 22 May (Day 1 of 4)*
- *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Camogie Final in Páirc Ui Chaoimh on Wednesday, 24 May at 10.00am. Further details to follow*
- *Rugby Blitz (Fifth & Sixth Classes) – Thursday, 25 May (11.00am – 1.00pm) Kinsale RFC Grounds*
- *Family Bingo Bonanza, in aid of Kinsale Youth Support Services & KRFC U12s touring team – Thursday, 25 May Acton's Hotel (Doors open 6pm ,Eyes down 6.30pm). Related poster attached.*
- *First Class School Tour - Mardyke Arena on Friday, 26 May 2023 (further details to follow)*
- *Zumba Class with Dancing Derek – Monday, 29 May (Day 2 of 4)*
- *Cork Primary School Sports – Thursday, 01 June 2023 in MTU. Boys (commencing at 10.00am) & girls (commencing at 4.15pm). Further details to follow.*
- *Fourth Class School Tour – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Friday, 02 June 2023 (further details to follow)*
- *Annual Belgooly Show 2023 – Saturday, 03 June 2023*
- *Monday, 05 June (Public Holiday) – School Closure*
- *Tuesday, 06 June (School Holiday) – School Closure*
- *Fifth Class School Tour – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Wednesday, 07 June 2023 (further details to follow)*
- *Second Class School Tour – Just for Fun MTU on Thursday, 08 June 2023 (further details to follow)*
- *Third Class School Tour – Just for Fun MTU on Friday, 09 June 2023 (further details to follow)*
- *Creative Schools Week 2023 – w/c Monday, 12 June*
- *Zumba Class with Dancing Derek – Monday, 12 June (Day 3 of 4)*
- *New Entrants 2023/2024 & Pupil/Parent School Visit – Monday, 12 June (Family surnames A to L) in Tír na nÓg & School Hall from 12.45-1.30pm*
- *New Entrants 2023/2024 & Pupil/Parent School Visit – Tuesday, 13 June (Family surnames M to Z) in Tír na nÓg & School Hall from 12.45-1.30pm*
- *6<sup>th</sup> Class Bring-and-Buy' – Thursday, 15 June*
- *Active Week & School Sports Day 2023 – Monday, 19 June*
- *Zumba Class with Dancing Derek – Monday, 19 June (Day 4 of 4)*
- *The school will close for the summer break on Thursday, 22 June at 12 noon and will re-open on Wednesday, 30 August*
- *Riverstick Festival – 14 - 16 July. Related poster attached.*

Yours faithfully,  
Diarmuid Hennessy  
School Principal