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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15/10/2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing Application for Admission/Enrolment 2027/2028, where relevant for new school entrants 2027/2028 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2026/2027* (€60 per family). E-payment link sent on 08/09/2026, 29/09/2026 & 15/10/2026
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2026/2027 (All classes - €8 per/child).* E-payment link sent on 08/09/2026, 29/09/2026 & 15/10/2026
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2026/2027 (Senior Infant classes only - €20 per/child).* E-payment link sent on 23/09/2026, 29/09/2026 & 15/10/2026
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2026/2027 (Junior Infant classes only - €25 per/child).* E-payment link sent on 23/09/2026, 29/09/2026 & 15/10/2026
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money (only as relevant)* – various e-payment dates in September & October
- *6th Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day (05/10/2026) & Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale (6th Classes only - €10 per/child)* - E-payment link sent on 09/09/2026, 29/09/2026 & 15/10/2026

Also, in relation to *Aladdin 'Connect',* thank you for **registering, downloading the related app and validating your mobile phone**. You may also update your family contact details, advise the school in respect of pupil absences/early collection/late arrival, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates ….. via 'Connect'.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

In this regard, the Board of Management wishes to thank families for their co-operation and support. In relation to the main school uniform requirement (i.e. 2/3 days per week) for pupils from First to Sixth classes, class teachers are currently advising their pupils of the respective days that the main school uniform is to be worn. To facilitate full uniform presentation for all pupils from after the October mid-term break, Cahills Carrigaline (suppliers) has advised that both new tracksuit and main school inform stocks have recently been replenished. School Uniform Requirements, as previously advised, are available, once again, on the afore-mentioned link.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SURVEY 2025 & SURVEY RESULTS 2026

Further to previous Home/School communication (June & September 2026), the Board of Management gave the related findings additional consideration at a recent meeting. In light of the results and the related margin of error applications, it was deemed appropriate to retain the existing school configuration in respect of language, co-educational & patronage/ethos. The Board wishes to thank school families and staff for their engagement with this process.

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PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2026/2027 (HALLOWEEN & SCHOOL CALENDAR 2027)

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 week of the half-term. To further add to the spirit, pupils may, if they wish, wear a costume on the final day of the half-term (i.e. Friday, 23 October) 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 next month

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** – **Parents' Association Volunteer Link 2026/2027**

Being ever mindful of internet safety, Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free (Voluntary Code) is available for parental consideration and participation. In addition, your family may be interested in engaging with CyberBreak – 24 Hour Detox 2026 from 5.00pm on Friday, 16 October until 5.00pm on Saturday, 17 October.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH WEEK (05/10/2026)

To celebrate *World Mental Health Week, Kinsale Youth Support Services (KYSS)* hosted a *Mental Health Awareness Day* in Sáile Kinsale Community Centre for local 6th class pupils last 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; Red Cross; An Garda Síochána; Kuk Sool Won; CrossFit Kinsale; art therapists; Kinsale Fire Service; Kinsale Youth Support Services; Kinsale Youth Community Centre; Elasnik Computers; Kinsale College; Kinsale Boxing Club and the RNLI.*

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, engaging enthusiastically with the speakers and organisations throughout the day. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote wellbeing, strengthen community connections and remind our young people that looking after their mental health is just as important as looking after their physical health. A sincere thank you to KYSS for organising such a worthwhile and informative event and for their continued commitment to supporting the wellbeing of young people in our community.

SCIATH NA SCOL FOOTBALL 2026

Well done to the boys and girls from 5th and 6th Classes who have just completed their Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Football League campaign! Both teams competed at one of the highest levels of primary school football in Cork. Throughout the campaign, the pupils displayed fantastic teamwork, determination, skill and sportsmanship. The girls team progressed to the play-off stages following three great victories over Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin (Ballincollig), Canovee and Ovens. We are very proud of all the boys and girls who represented the school so brilliantly, both on and off the pitch. We now look forward to the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Hurling League in the spring! Maith sibh go léir!

School GAA Coaching - Following the midterm break, pupils from 2nd to 4th Classes, along with 5th and 6th Class pupils who are members of our Sciath na Scol panels, will begin their hurling and camogie coaching sessions as part of our school GAA programme. All pupils participating in these sessions will need to bring a hurley and helmet**.** A sincere thank you to Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie Clubs for their continued support and commitment to promoting Gaelic games in our school. We are very grateful for the time, effort and enthusiasm that go into providing these fantastic coaching opportunities for the pupils. We look forward to seeing the children develop their skills, confidence and enjoyment of hurling and camogie over the coming months!

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STEM/IT

STEM week, with an underlying focus on Maths will be celebrated in November this year. Owing to PA fundraising (Easter 2026) and parent advocacy with a local company (Lilly, Kinsale), an order has just been placed for a new set of 16 iPads for the school. This technology will further benefit our pupils develop their IT skills – huge thanks to all who supported the PA in their efforts!

SOCIAL & EVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In our continuing efforts to promote team building, collaboration, problem-solving and balance/coordination skills, the school has invested in many new outdoor and indoor games.

The *Green Team* and Mrs Clancy's class recently paid a visit to Kinsale Further Education Centre to see the great work being done by Donal Chambers, his colleagues and students in the Permaculture and Sustainability department. The importance of growing your own food, working with nature and switching to sustainable models for energy production and use all featured as part of the visit. Pupils and staff gathered lots of great ideas to bring back to Scoil Mhuire na nGrást and their own homes, and the pupils availed of the opportunity to transplant and bring home their own guava fruit tree. Donal and his team will continue to link in with our school for future projects in order to develop our surroundings for the benefit of local wildlife and everyone in the school and wider community.

ROAD SAFETY MONTH

As part of our *Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, the topic of *Road Safety* is being covered by 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, 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. A *Bus Éireann 'School Bus Safety'* flyer was attached to previous Home/School correspondence on 29/09/2025.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing co-operation and support with the road safety measures within the school environs.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2027/2028'

For those families with new entrants for next school year (i.e. 2027/2028), 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) 2027/2028'* opened on **Thursday, 01 October until Monday, 23 November 2026 (incl.)**. 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 2027, to check these details on the website.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- The classes celebrated *Lá na gCrann* earlier in the month 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
- *Bord Dúlra* - Our Green Team began this year with an emphasis on biodiversity. Well done to all classes who have created wonderful Bord Dúlra/Nature Tables. Thanks to the pupils who brought in all the colourful Autumn treasures to be found in nature at this time of the year
- *Corridor Display/Projects:* Our corridors resemble a fine gallery featuring art, literacy and class project work through various media (see photos attached)

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- *Road Safety Month* – Given the heightened necessity for Road Safety during the winter months, the pupils are engaging with related activities at school
- *School Attendance 'Every School Day is a New Day'* – 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*)
- *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..)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***School Closure (Curriculum Planning Day) – Friday, 16 October*** (note – Sherpa & After-School Art Class will not operate on the day)
- ***School Closure (Industrial Action)*** – Planned for ***Wednesday, 21 October 2026*** (note - Sherpa & After-School Drama & Chess Classes will not operate on the day). Please refer to email (09/10/2026) for further details
- ***Halloween Celebrations*** *on* ***Friday, 23 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, 26 to Friday, 30 October (incl.)***
- *Theme for November* - ***'Fire Safety Month'***
- *Clontead Foróige Youth Club* – Registration night on ***Thursday, 05 November at 8.00pm*** Riverstick Community Centre (see flyer attached)
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings 2065* – Planned for ***Tuesday, 24 November (Day 1) & Thursday, 24 November (Day 2)***

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal