

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

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



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

21/02/2023

### ***SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023/2024 (v.20/02/2023)***

A copy of the calendar for the 2023/2024 school year is attached. Please note that the school will be re-opening after the summer break on **Wednesday, 30 August 2023**.

### ***PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM STAFF IN-SERVICE & SCHOOL CLOSURE (THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023)***

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate staff training, please note that the school will remain closed on **Thursday, 16 March 2023**.

### ***ANNUAL SCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION 2022/2023***

There have been many improvements to the school's physical, teaching and learning environments over the past number of years from which all children benefit. The voluntary *Annual Family Contribution* of €50 plays a significant role in supporting necessary improvements. The payment of this voluntary contribution is facilitated in a number of ways:

- a once off payment of €50
- at the start of each term e.g. Term1 (€20), Term 2 (€20) & Term 3 (€10)
- €10 every other month
- €5 per month (Sept – June)

We thank you for your annual voluntary contributions to date and wish to remind school families that contributions may be given to class teachers or made by e-payment. Larger contributions would be very much welcomed and will be gratefully acknowledged by the Board.

### ***SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS TO PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY (SCHOOL YEAR 2023/2024)***

Bus Éireann is offering an online application system for School Transport for new entrants to primary school and post-primary school for the 2023/2024 School Year. Online applications can be made on [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) (School Transport Section). ***The closing date for applications for 2023/2024 school year is Friday, 28 April 2023.***

If you have another child starting in Junior Infants or transferring from primary to post primary school in August/September 2023, you will need to make an application for this new school entrant, quoting your Family ID No. which is located on your existing school-going child's bus ticket, School Roll No. (e.g. *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* - 19672H) and Class Year Definition (e.g. Junior Infants is Yr 1 etc). Should you have any further queries, please contact Cork School Transport Office, Bus Éireann, Capwell, Cork (Tel. 021 – 4557137/4557129 or at [st.cork@buseireann.ie](mailto:st.cork@buseireann.ie) )

### ***'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 nGrást* 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).

*/Over.....*

**SPRING 2023**

Fourth class pupils certainly have a spring in their step and are looking forward to taking part in the *Step into Spring Walking Challenge*, in association with *Cork Sports Partnership* and *Get Cork Walking*.

Walking is one of the easiest and best ways to get active. By promoting walking in school, we aim to encourage more physical activity at a time of year when the evenings may still be a little too short for other team games and activities, etc.

As a class, the pupils hope to walk 10km over a 6-week period (Feb 6th to March 16th ) and to achieve a bronze certificate for their efforts, all while enjoying our beautiful local environment, developing a further appreciation of biodiversity (current Green Flag initiative) and getting active.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023, FIRST PENANCE & CONFIRMATION 2023**

*Catholic Schools Week 2023* was celebrated earlier in the month (*Sunday, 29 January to Sunday, 05 February*). The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2023 (CSW2023) was '*Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love*'. Some of the daily themes during the course of the week included – Walking Together in Faith/Love/Hope/To Celebrate/To Transform Our World. As part of CSW 2023 celebrations, Ms. Healy's third class pupils learned how to make St Brigid's Crosses using rushes.

Second class pupils celebrated the Sacrament of First Penance last evening, Monday, 20 February in The Sacred Heart Church Belgooly. Our sixth classes will celebrate the Clontead Parish Confirmation this coming Friday, 24 February in St. John the Baptist Church, Kinsale at 10.30am.

**TEACHER ARTIST PARTNERSHIP (TAPS)' PROGRAMME**

The artist residency with Artist, Julie O 'Hea, concluded earlier in the month. To display their many creative endeavours which they have been working on over the past few months, Mrs. Clancy's fifth class hosted an exhibition for the senior classes. Chimes (created with shells, driftwood & sea glass which looked magnificent & sounded magical), watercolour paintings (mixed inks with natural preservatives), charcoal drawings (having learnt and engaged with the process of pyrolysis) and willow artistry (bird feeders and dragon-flies) all featured in the exhibition..

**FIRST SOUTH CREDIT UNION QUIZ TEAMS**

The Credit Union Schools Quiz returned this year on 30th January in the Cork International Hotel. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást was represented by two U13 teams and one U11 team. They travelled in style in the Garda Community Bus, driven by Garda Dave Kelly. Competition was fierce with over twenty schools from the First South Credit Union Chapter competing. Our U11 team came third after a very tough tie-breaker and both U13 teams placed very highly in their competition. Well done to all involved!

**STAY SAFE PROGRAMME**

All classes continue to engage with the *Stay Safe* Programme and thank you for your support in this regard. A related link to this programme - Stay Safe - <http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe>

**CLASS LIBRARIES**

Our class libraries have benefitted from a spring clean over the last number of weeks. The pupils and their teachers have been very busy giving their input on what types of books they would like to have included in their class libraries. The school has been fortunate to receive funding from the Department of Education for extra literacy resources. This is in addition to the support from the Parents' Association who are also donating funding for the expansion of class libraries and literacy resources. In this regard, your support with the PA's forthcoming event, *Family Bingo on Saturday, 11 March 2023 at 7.00pm in Riverstick Community Hall*, would be most welcome and very much appreciated. It is recognised that facilitating access to a variety of books at home and school is an integral part of creating readers and book lovers and it is hoped that the purchase of new books for the libraries will be a significant step in this regard.

**SCIATH NA SCOL - HURLING & CAMOGIE BLITZES**

Well done to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls who recently took part in the *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Hurling & Camogie* blitzes!

The school entered four 3<sup>rd</sup> class teams and three 4<sup>th</sup> class teams and had an opportunity to play many teams from other schools, including Innishannon, Ballinspittle, Kinsale, Cloghroe and Strawberry Hill. Each player performed very well on the day and great skill and teamwork was displayed. Thank you to Ms. Healy, Ms. Kiely, Ms. O Donovan, Mrs. Miyazaki, Mrs. Ryan Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Murphy for training the children and accompanying them to the blitzes.

We now look forward to the Carrigdhoun 4<sup>th</sup> class in-door camogie and hurling blitzes. In this regard, the boys will play Gaelscoil Chionn tSáile, Ballinadee and Minane Bridge this coming Thursday, 23 February in Riverstick from 10.30am until 12.30pm. The girls' fixtures will take place in Riverstick on Thursday, 02 March. Times (TBC)

The pupils' sporting skills are quite impressive and we look forward to seeing the senior classes take part in the *Sciath na Scol* outdoor competitions in March and April!

**INTERNET SAFETY**

The theme for this year's *Safer Internet Day*, held on Tuesday, 07 February, was *Together for a better internet*.

All classes covered a variety of age-appropriate cyber-safety topics and, in addition, a growing awareness of the positive and negative aspects of the internet was developed among the senior classes. The range of lessons covered how to be kind online and how to deal with unwanted content.

*Webwise* and the *National Parents Council (NPC)* offer support to parents in their engagement with their children's lives online. They advocate the importance of having regular, open conversations as being one of the most effective ways of supporting your child online. In this regard, further parental support is available at <https://www.webwise.ie/talklistenlearn/>. Trend Micro also provided an online internet safety presentation for parents.

Videos of webinars that support parents managing various topics such as safety, privacy, managing time online, gaming, social networks are available at <https://www.webwise.ie/category/videos/videos-for-parents/>. It is necessary that parents monitor their child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis. This will help ensure that:

- Children are accessing only age-appropriate games
- Children are complying with minimum age requirements in respect of social media sites
- Children's communication with others online is appropriate and respectful.

The school's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)* & appendices are all available to view on <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/school-policies>. Be 'SMART' on the internet (Appendix 1) and other internet etiquette requirements are outlined in related appendices.

**'THE LUNCH BAG' (Independent School Lunch Provider)**

The school is currently liaising with *The Lunch Bag*, an independent school lunch provider of school lunches, with a view to establishing such a service, on a trial basis, at the school.

In the first instance, families are requested to familiarise themselves with the related service provider details attached. In addition, their website [www.thelunchbag.ie](http://www.thelunchbag.ie) contains related information (menu details & cost) and has a helpful FAQ section at <https://www.thelunchbag.ie/faq/>. Should you have any further queries, they may also be emailed directly at [info@thelunchbag.ie](mailto:info@thelunchbag.ie)

To ascertain the possible level of interest among school families in availing of such a service, all families will receive a survey link at some stage over the next couple of weeks. It is anticipated, where feasibility and need is established, that this service will be operational from late April/May 2023.

The Board of Management wishes to advise that as such a potential service is independent of the primary function of the school, and facilitated by an independent provider, all queries, related arrangements (including, where necessary, individual pupil needs/requirements) and other contact in respect of such a service is to be made directly and separately with the service provider and not through the school office.

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

Please note that the school will close for the Easter break on **Friday, 31 March at 12 noon**. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time. 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 on the day. School will re-open on **Monday, 17 April 2023**.

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *Rugby Skills Training* – Sixth Classes (February) & Fourth Class (March)
- *Stay Safe Programme* – further to previous correspondence (29/11/2022 & 11/01/2023), all classes are currently engaging with the Stay Safe Programme (**January to March 2023**)
- *Sciath na Scol Indoor Hurling Blitz* (Fourth Class) – **Thursday, 23 February** in Riverstick from 10.30am – 12.30pm
- *Clontead Parish Confirmation Day* – **Friday, 24 February 2023 at 10.30am (St John the Baptist Church, Kinsale)**
- *6<sup>th</sup> Class FAI Five-a-side Boys Soccer Blitz in Carrigaline* – **Tuesday, 28 February**. Girls' fixtures (TBC)
- *Sciath na Scol Indoor Camogie Blitz* (Fourth Class) – **Thursday, 02 March**. Further details (TBC)
- *Dressing up as a character for your favourite book* (in celebration of *World Book Day 2023*) – **Friday, 03 March**
- *New School Entrant 2023/2024 'Information Evening'* for parents/guardians will take place in the School Halla on **Wednesday, 08 March at 7.30pm**
- *City Sports 2023 Trials* - **March 2023**
- *Senior Class Camogie & Hurling Sciath na Scol Training & Fixtures* – **March & April 2023**
- *Parents' Association 'FAMILY BINGO NIGHT'* – **Saturday, 11 March in Riverstick Community Centre (Doors 7.00pm & Eyes Down 7.30pm)**
- *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023* – Beidh Teach le Chéile san halla Dé Máirt 14ú Márta, chun *Lá 'le Pádraig* a chéiliúradh. Is féidir leis na daltaí éadaí glasa a chaitheamh, más mian leo.  
In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, pupils will gather in the halla on **Tuesday, 14 March** to share and enjoy many aspects of Irish culture – song, dance & story-telling. If they wish, pupils may wear green items of clothing on the day - 'Lá Glas!'
- *Primary Language Curriculum Staff In-Service* – School Closure on **Thursday, 16 March 2023**
- The school will close for the *Easter break* on **Friday, 31 March at 12 noon**. School will re-open on **Monday, 17 April 2023**

Yours faithfully,  
 Diarmuid Hennessy  
 School Principal