

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy  
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18/10/2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation in forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2022/2023* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022 & 17/10/2022
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2022/2023* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022 & 17/10/2022
- *Weaving Wellbeing Pupil Workbook* (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes only - €5.00 per/pupil) - E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022 & 17/10/2022
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2022/2023* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 27/09/2022 & 17/10/2022
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2022/2023* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 27/09/2022 & 17/10/2022
- *6<sup>th</sup> Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day* (10/10/2022) & *Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale* (6<sup>th</sup> Classes only) - E-payment link sent on 30/09/2022 & 17/10/2022
- *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
- *Book Rental Scheme Participants 2022/2023* (Junior Infant to Second Classes €10 & Second to Sixth Classes €20) – If outstanding, most recent e-payment link sent on 17/10/2022
- *Non-Book Rental Scheme Participants 2022/2023* (€5 per child). In relation to Non-Book Rental Scheme participants, **Friday 07 October** was designated date for final collection of money. This may be forwarded to class teacher or paid online (e-payment link 17/10/2022). Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated

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, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2022, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates ..... via 'Connect'.

### **RUGBY SESSIONS**

Pupils in both 5<sup>th</sup> classes are enjoying rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez. The children are learning the skills of rugby through play and experience and are having lots of fun. Thanks to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2022/2023 (HALLOWEEN & SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023)**

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 day of the half-term (i.e. Friday, 28 October). To further add to the spirit, 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

/Over.....

- 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 in November

### **TEACHER ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMME**

The school is fortunate to have been selected by the Cork Education Support Centre to participate in the above-mentioned programme, a Creative Ireland initiative funded by both the Department of Education and Creative Ireland. Mrs. Clancy's fifth class will commence working with the school's designated artist over the coming weeks. The school is grateful to Mrs. Clancy for coordinating this initiative.

### **CHESS (FICHEALL PROGRAMME) & KINSALE/CLONTEAD COMMUNITY GAMES**

With the support of the *Ficheall* programme, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes have recently started to learn how to play chess. Chess has been proven to develop critical thinking, concentration, logic planning, problem solving and memory skills. Added to this are the social skills and of course the evident enjoyment and engagement from the pupils.

All pupils will now have an opportunity to partake in the following *Kinsale/Clontead Community Games* chess tournament. If interested, you may wish to bring your child to this tournament as a taster. There is no obligation to join a chess team, however, there may be an opportunity to do so, if your child wishes.

#### **Kinsale/Clontead Community Games Junior Chess Tournament**

**Date:** Sunday, 20 November 2022 - Riverstick Community Centre

**Overview:** This will be the first such tournament to be held. Following on from the successful *Community Games* chess teams at u11, u13 and u16 in 2022, this tournament seeks to open up the opportunity for many new players from different schools in the Kinsale-Clontead area to join the team. The highest ranked players in the tournament will form the *Community Games* chess teams for 2023 at each age level. The selected players will prepare for the *Cork Community Games* competition which is planned for January 2023.

**Time:** 11.00am-4.00pm

**Venue:** Riverstick Community Centre

**Eircode:** P43 DX99

**Competitions:** Under 11, 13, 16 on 31st July 2023

**Entry Fee:** €10 per chess player, €5 discount if entering 3 or more players

**Registration Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/mr3j2khr>

### **ICT & PUPIL LEARNING**

Pupils are using ICT to enhance their learning throughout a variety of lessons. Younger classes are using apps such as *Khan Academy Kids* on the iPads to consolidate Maths and Literacy. Some older classes are using MS PowerPoint and iPads to research and design projects, such as the Stone Age. Sixth class will be starting to learn how to code using Scratch soon, building on logic and computational thinking.

Thank you to everyone for your active engagement with *Seesaw*. By degrees, we are all increasing our familiarity once again with this invaluable online learning platform.

Also, *DojoMór 2022* at MTU has advised that free coding workshops, funded by the HEA, will be running online on Saturday, 22 October 2022 from 10.00am to 1.00pm offering a range of activities to suit all ages and interests. On the day, 24,000 students, from primary and secondary schools around Ireland, can learn to code in a fun and exciting virtual environment. This event is being supported by Munster Technological University, Atlantic Technological University, South East Technological University, Maynooth University, Dún Laoghaire Institute of Design Art and Technology Design, and Offaly County Council. For information and bookings - [www.dojomor.ie](http://www.dojomor.ie)

### **LITERACY DEVELOPMENT**

Literacy stations are beginning across the school. Stations allow for small group discussions, fun oral language games and paired-reading. They give children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what can be done in both reading and writing.

Complementary activities further enhance our literacy development programme, both third classes participated in a Cork County Council Library zoom webinar with Alan Nolan, Children's Author, earlier in October, as part of 'World Teachers' Day'. Alan Nolan summarised his most famous books and gave the pupils a great insight into what they are about. Using the chat box feature, the pupils had an opportunity to ask Alan Nolan some questions and, to conclude, the pupils engaged in a 'draw with Alan Nolan' activity where they drew two characters from his books.

### **PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2022)**

Further to a previous HSN (28/09/2022), Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 17 & Tuesday, 22 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 22<sup>nd</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'. It is advisable to book early and to assist, a related *Aladdin 'Connect' Parent/Teacher Meeting* information sheet is attached.

Our system of appointments will help ensure, with your co-operation, that you meet each teacher at the appointed time. We will have over 237 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*

### **ROAD SAFETY MONTH**

In the interest of safety, please remember:

- Park on the Belgooly side of the school entrance in the morning and afternoon (9.00-9.20am & 2.30pm-3.00pm), leaving the Riverstick side available for school buses
- To avoid parking in the yellow-boxed areas
- Parking facilities around the school are limited so it is preferable to avoid double parking and a build-up of a large volume of traffic. Parents/guardians are asked to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off and collected

Please bring these recommendations to the attention of child-minders/others. We look forward to your continued support and co-operation.

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

For those families with new entrants for next school year (i.e. 2023/2024), 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) 2023/2024*' opened on Monday, 03 October 2022 until Monday, 24 October 2022. All related details and application requirements available at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://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 2023, to check these details on the website.

## WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- Well done to all the coaches and helpers who supported the boys and girls in their *Sciath na Scol Football 2022* journey. Their progress in the game reflects the skills developed and we now look forward to our third classes participation in the in-door Carrigdhoun Football blitzes over the coming months. The school is grateful to the local clubs for their continued support.
- The classes celebrated *Lá na gCrann* on Thursday, 06 October 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. The theme this year, 'Root for Nature', calls on us to get involved with helping the environment
- The newly formed *2022-2023 Green Committee* are working hard on establishing an action plan for The Biodiversity Flag. Eager and enthusiastic members are: working on creating an awareness in relation to the meaning of Biodiversity; embarking on a Spring Bulb planting project and work has also commenced on mapping habitats on our school grounds. The committee continue to monitor our progress on Litter & Waste reduction and Energy and Water conservation. Go néirí go geal leo!
- As part of the KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day last week in Sáile Kinsale, pupils in Sixth Class have an increased awareness of wellbeing and the many supports and resources available in the local area
- Pupils in Third Class enjoyed learning all about 'House of Circuits' at the school-based *Lifetime Lab* workshop last Friday
- *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..)
- *Road Safety Month* – Given the heightened necessity for Road Safety during the winter months, the pupils are engaging with related activities at school
- *Corridor Display/Projects:* Our corridors resemble a fine gallery featuring art, literacy and class project work through various media - Stone Age projects, a Biodiversity collage, 'International Dot Day' Art, Autumn & Halloween art, Queen Elizabeth II projects, Self-Portraits, Lego Self-Portraits, Recount Writing, Flying High (Air Balloons), Optical Illusions, Colours, Streetscapes, Night Skyline, Eye Art, Day & Night, Lightning and Volcanoes (see photo attached). Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to see this fine work when visiting the school for Parent/Teacher meetings next month. Remember to book you appointment time(s) on Aladdin 'Connect'
- '*Open Evening*' – To facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit, the school held an 'Opening Evening' last Thursday. Families enjoyed visiting the various classrooms and engaging with staff, pupils and parents to learn about school life in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást. Thank you to the staff, pupils and Parents' Association for your involvement with planning, organising and assisting on the evening. We look forward to welcoming these new families to the school over the coming years ahead.
- '*Bug Busting Night*' – thank you for attending to same last week and over the weekend. To curtail and reduce occurrence of same, your on-going monitoring, co-operation and support throughout the year is required
- *School Attendance* – Thank you to everyone for your engagement with 'Attendance Note' on Aladdin 'Connect'. Good attendance helps develop confidence and self-esteem. '*Every School Day Counts - Tips for Parents by Parents*', a leaflet devised by TUSLA & CYPSC with the support of parents, may be of assistance. In this regard, to assist families with monitoring attendance, all families will receive a generic text, via Aladdin, advising of 5, 10, 15 & 20 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*).

***SOME UPCOMING EVENTS***

- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2023/2024* are currently open for a three week period from Monday, 03 October 2022 until Monday, 24 October. All related details and application requirements available at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) (Admissions tab).
- *Maths Week 2022* (16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October) – to create an awareness of maths in everyday life, pupils are engaging in various activities
- In preparation for *First Penance & First Holy Communion 2022/2023*, an information evening for the parents/guardians of pupils in Second Class will take place on Tuesday, 18 October at 7.30pm in Riverstick Church
- In preparation for *Confirmation 2022/2023*, an information evening for the parents/guardians of pupils in Sixth Class will take place on Tuesday, 25 October at 7.30pm in Riverstick Church
- *Halloween & Celebration* – Friday, 28 October
- *School Mid-term Break* – Monday, 31 October to Friday, 04 November (incl.)
- *Parent/Teacher Meetings* – Thursday, 17 November & Tuesday, 22 November. Parents/Guardians may book an appointment time(s), via Aladdin 'Connect'.
- *Kinsale/Clontead Community Games Junior Chess Tournament* - Sunday, 20 November 2022 at Riverstick Community Centre from 11.00am to 4.00pm

Yours faithfully,  
*Diarmuid Hennessy*  
*School Principal*