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

Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

Belgooly Central School,
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11/11/2026

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. Please bear in mind that applications received after the closing date (i.e. 23/11/2026) will be considered as 'Late Applications', as per the school's 'Admission Policy'. Thank you also 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 update your family contact details, advise the school in respect of pupil absences/early collection/late arrival, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2026, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates ….. via 'Connect'.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – 'SCHOOL CALENDAR 2027'

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. The PA has been liaising with local photographer, Pat O'Brien, and another local Belgooly man, Conor Coleman of *Island Memorial Cards* to ensure that it proceeds again this year.

In order to make certain that ***School Calendar 2027***, always a favourite present for family members at Christmas, is available for distribution in December:

- School families will be able to order and pay online for ***School Calendar 2027*** for a limited period only from later this afternoon, **Wednesday, 11 November 2026 to Wednesday, 25 November 2026 (incl.)**
- You will receive a related link from the school later this afternoon, **Wednesday, 11 November**
- To order, simply enter the relevant amount of money (i.e. €15.00 per calendar). ***NOTE*** – As €15.00 is the minimum amount required to purchase a calendar, this amount will appear by default in the payment box, however, you will need to amend same to reflect the number of calendars you may wish to purchase (for example, €30.00 for 2 calendars or €45.00 for 3 calendars and so on)
- Complete payment transaction
- **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Wednesday, 25 November**
- Calendars will be distributed to your eldest child in the school in mid-December

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association for the amount of time and effort spent organising ***School Calendar 2027***.

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FOLENS 'CHRISTMAS 2026 ANNUALS'

The Folens Christmas Annual is available to purchase **(€3.20 per annual)** at the school for a limited period. Should you wish to purchase an annual for your child, you will be able to order and pay for same online for a limited period only from today, **Wednesday, 11 November 2026 to Wednesday, 25 November 2026 (incl.)**. You will receive a related link from the school later this afternoon, **Wednesday, 11 November** and to order, simply tick the relevant box and complete payment transaction. Once paid, annuals will be distributed to pupils from week commencing Monday, 23 November. **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Wednesday, 25 November.**

Just to note:

- Junior & Senior Infants – *Súgradh* (Folens Christmas 2026 Annual)
- First & Second Classes – *Spraoi* (Folens Christmas 2026 Annual)
- Third & Fourth Classes – *Siamsa* (Folens Christmas 2026 Annual)
- Fifth & Sixth Classes – *Sonas* (Folens Christmas 2026 Annual)

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR

The Scholastic Book returns to Scoil Mhuire na nGrást from Wednesday, 25 November to Tuesday, 01 December (incl.). Pupils will have an opportunity to purchase some fantastic books and at the end of the book fair, the school will receive 60% of the total purchased to supplement our class libraries! Please note the following:

- Pupils may view the books on the first day (25/11) and make purchases on the 26th, 27th & 30th November
- The book fair operates on a **CASH ONLY** basis
- Parents of Junior & Senior Infants may purchase books between 1.30 and 2.30pm on 26th, 27th & 30th November as these classes will not have the opportunity to purchase the books themselves
- The PA has kindly volunteered their time to help run this but we currently do not have enough volunteers. In this regard, we welcome a 2-hour volunteer commitment from parents/guardians. If you can assist, please contact the school office at belgoolyns@gmail.com by no later than ***Friday, 20 November***

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2026/2027

In-person Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Tuesday, 24 & Thursday, 26 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at *2.35pm on Tuesday 24th* and at the usual time of *2.50pm on Thursday, 26th*. The usual school bus provision will operate at these times. Usual 1.50pm finishing time for Junior & Senior Infants on both these dates.

During the course of this week, Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to book an appointment time(s), via Aladdin 'Connect', in the following order:

- From Wednesday, 11 November (available appointment times for families with three or more children attending the school)
- From Thursday, 12 November (available appointment times for families with two or more children attending the school)
- From Friday, 13 November (available appointment times for all families)

It is advisable to book early. To assist, a related *Aladdin 'Connect' Parent/Teacher Meeting* information sheet is attached.

SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & 'BUG BUSTING'

As part of the school's *SPHE Programme*, respiratory etiquette will be explored with classes over the coming weeks. If your child is unwell, it is recommended to remain at home until better.

Many thanks to families for your engagement with 'Bug Busting' night in September. To curtail and reduce occurrence of head lice, please ensure frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard.

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SPELLINGS POLICY

Following review (2025/2026), the school is implementing a new approach to Spellings. Pupils in the senior classes (3rd to 6th classes) will learn spellings based on phonics, morphology and/or commonly misspelt words using mnemonics etc. To suit the specific needs of the pupils/class, the approach will be decided on an individual needs/class level. By way of assessment, and in lieu of weekly spellings lists tests, dictation exercises will be used and corrected. In this regard, the focus will be on affirming what is correct and drawing attention and encouraging further practice on those spellings which may present as a challenge. Dictation tests will be sent home weekly for parental review and consideration.

First and Second Classes will be using UFLI (phonics scheme) assessments weekly which works on sounds, tricky words and, similarly, dictation sentences will be used to inform progress and shared with families.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2026 (INFANTS TO SIXTH CLASSES)

Pupils and staff are now beginning to commence preparations for a variety of events to celebrate Christmas. The school wishes to invite you to your child's Christmas celebration in December and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Please note details below:

- Tuesday, 15 December: *Sixth Classes (Ms Kelleher & Ms McCarthy)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Tuesday, 15 December: *Fourth Classes (Ms O'Driscoll & Mr McCarthy)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Tuesday, 15 December: *Junior Infant Classes (Ms Long & Mrs Patterson)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Wednesday, 16 December: *Second Classes (Ms Hurley & Mr Lane/Mrs Hellstern)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Wednesday, 16 December: *Third Classes (Ms McSweeney & Mr McCarthy)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Wednesday, 16 December: *First Classes (Ms O'Neill & Ms Miyazaki/Ms L Collins)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Thursday, 17 December: *Fifth Classes (Mr Curtin & Ms O'Callaghan)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Thursday, 17 December: *Senior Infant Classes (Mrs Finn & Mr Coomey)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Thursday evening, 17 December & School Choir, commencing at 7.30pm. In association with Mr Dan Twomey, Ms Julie O'Sullivan, Ms Gráinne Ryan & the Polyphonics, Clontead Christmas Concert 2026 (Church of the Sacred Heart, Belgooly)

At the invitation of the school, we will have many visitors over these dates/times. Your co-operation and support with the following is required:

- To assist with school organisation and hall preparation, there will be no access to the halla until **15 minutes** prior to the commencement of a class presentation
- In the interest of comfort, safety and unnecessary disruption to classes, **siblings of the pupils performing will remain in their own respective classrooms during the course of each performance.** All pupils will have an opportunity to view the different presentations during the course of Christmas week with their classmates.
- In the interest of safety, **no hot beverages are permitted in the halla**
- **Just to note, 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 at any stage during the visit**

Thank you for your co-operation and support in this regard. A contribution to our ***Arts Education Fund*** **of €10 per adult** on the day is requested. Any contribution would be very much appreciated.

SPORTS UPDATE

Schools GAA Coaching - Pupils from 2nd to 4th classes and the Sciath na Scol teams began their hurling and camogie sessions with schools coach Ryan Deasy. Pupils from these classes require a hurley and helmet each Friday. Thank you to Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating these sessions. Pupils from 1st and 2nd classes will avail of coaching in January.

3rd class indoor football blitzes - Our 3rd Class pupils are looking forward to taking part in the Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol Indoor Football Blitzes over the coming weeks. The girls' blitz will take place on **Tuesday, 08 December**, while the boys' blitz will take place on **Thursday, 10 December**. Further details, including times and fixtures, will be shared closer to the dates. Our young footballers are wished all the very best of luck!

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Sliabh Rua County Intermediate Champions - Congratulations to Sliabh Rua on their fantastic achievement in winning the County Intermediate Final recently! We are especially proud of Ms Kelleher and Ms Hennessy, who were both part of the winning team. Welcoming the team to the school was a highlight for our young aspiring players who eagerly listened to the advice, experiences and encouragement of so many of our former pupils. Well done to everyone involved on this fantastic achievement. We wish Sliabh Rua Camogie continued success in 2027!

'WE ARE CREATIVE' - HALLOWEEN THROUGH THE ARTS

Creativity was certainly alive and well in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást during our Halloween celebrations! As we continue to explore the new Primary Curriculum Framework, one of the seven key competencies we are focusing on is 'Being Creative'. This encourages children to use their imagination, express themselves, explore new ideas, solve problems and work creatively with others.

Our *Halloween Through the Arts* week was a wonderful opportunity to bring this competency to life. Throughout the school, children explored Halloween through visual art, music, drama and dance. Classrooms and corridors were transformed with fantastic artwork, while our Halloween door-decorating competition brought out everyone's imagination and creativity! One of the highlights was seeing children visit and respond to each other's artwork, sharing what they liked and appreciating the creativity of others - we even had our very own "Louvre" in Belgooly! Congratulations to Ms Long's Junior Infants and Ms McCarthy's 6th Class, our two winning classes, although every door was a winner in our eyes!

Our Student Council also played a fantastic role in planning and organising a fun-filled Halloween celebration, including a spooky Halloween Trail, games, discos and competitions. It was particularly lovely to see the older and younger pupils working together in their buddy groups during the trail. Building these connections across the school was one of the Student Council's goals at the beginning of the year. Imagining, exploring, collaborating and problem-solving are all important elements of the 'Being Creative' key competency in our new curriculum. Well done to our Student Council, pupils and staff for bringing them to life throughout the week.

SANTA'S VISIT!

Santa plans to visit the school on Friday, 18 December.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please note that the school will close for the Christmas break on ***Tuesday, 22 December at 12 noon***. School will re-open on ***Wednesday, 06 January 2027***.

WELCOME, WELL DONE & THANK YOU

- Thank you to the *Parents' Association* for decorating the gates and railing areas with some bewitching Halloween decorations just before the mid-term break. We wish the new PA Committee 2026/2027 all the very best for the year ahead and, as they plan activities for Christmas 2026, your input and assistance would be very welcome. Should you wish to volunteer, either as a PA committee member or *Friend of the PA*, please feel free to complete the ***'Friend of the PA'*** **link** – Parents' Association Volunteer Link 2026 2027
- *Road Safety Month (October)* – In this regard, the Board of Management wishes to thank families for their support and co-operation with the *Safe Routes to School* measures and for **refraining from parking at the school gate and within the School Zone area.** It is requested that this detail is also brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school
- *Monthly Assemblies* - Our school assemblies take place on the first Tuesday of every month, bringing all classes together to sing, celebrate achievements and birthdays, and hear about upcoming school events. This month's assembly was held yesterday morning focused on 'We are Creative' and the many STEM activities which are currently being undertaken this week, as part of Science Week 2026

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- *Social & Environmental Education (SEE)* - Our Green Committee are exceptionally busy – Energy Detectives, Wrapper Zappers, Patchwork Meadow Project (3rd & 4th class families) and, in association with Kinsale College and the KCS Sustainability Chaplaincy, our 'Wildlife Corridor' project. Further details to follow
- *STEM* – As part of *Science Week 2026 (08 – 15 November),* STEM features throughout activities this week. Classes are engaged in planning, designing, constructing and presenting real world mini models using our new STEAM kits, recently funded by the Parents' Association. Computational thinking, teamwork and problem solving provide the base of many mini challenges utilising Lego/ Beebots and other equipment. Mr.Coomey and the Vex Robotics team showcased their progress so far with their evolving robot design at our school assembly yesterday morning. Availing of the 'Outdoor Classroom' , outdoor science quiz trails are keeping pupils engaged and sixth class pupils have created spectacular investigations which will feature in this coming Friday's *Science Fair*
- To all the pupils and staff for the wonderful classroom and corridor displays of the pupils' work
- To the class teaching, SET and SNA teams for facilitating various Literacy/Numeracy Stations agus tacaíocht sa Ghaeilge freisin ar fud na scoile
- *Seesaw* - Thank you to everyone for your active engagement with *Seesaw* – an invaluable online learning platform
- In relation to *'Bug Busting',* thank you for your on-going attention in this regard. To curtail and reduce the occurrence of same, your on-going monitoring, co-operation and support throughout the school year is required

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- Parent/Teacher meetings (Day 1) - **Tuesday, 24 November (First to Sixth Classes will depart school at the slightly earlier time of 2.35pm on this date only)**
- *School Calendar 2027* – closing date for orders is **Wednesday, 25 November**
- *Folens Christmas Annual 2026* – closing date for orders is **Wednesday, 25 November**
- *Scholastic BookFair* – **Thursday & Friday, 26 & 27 November** and **Monday, 01 December** (see page 2 for further details)
- Parent/Teacher meetings (Day 2) - **Thursday, 26 November**
- Girls' Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol Football Blitz – **Tuesday, 08 December (other details tbc)**
- Boys' Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol Football Blitz – **Thursday, 10 December (other details tbc)**
- *Riverstick Christmas Market 2026* – **Sunday, 29 November in Riverstick Community Centre (11.00am until 4.00pm)**
- *Christmas Celebrations* – Various dates in December (see page 3 for additional information)
- Santa's planned visit - **Friday, 18 December**
- The school will close for the Christmas break on **Tuesday, 22 December at 12 noon**. School will re-open on **Wednesday, 06 January 2027**

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal