

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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18/04/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 25 April at 1.50pm)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 25 April at 1.50pm**. 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. The usual school bus provision will operate at this earlier time.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM/NEW PRIMARY CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK (STAFF IN-SERVICE) - SCHOOL CLOSURE (FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2023)

In order to facilitate staff training, please note that the school will remain closed on **Friday, 12 May**.

SCIATH NA SCOL (HURLING & CAMOGIE BLITZES, SCIATH NA SCOL CHORCAÍ)

Well done to the boys and girls in 4th class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun indoor camogie and hurling blitzes. The three teams played really well. Congratulations to the girl's team that went onto win the Sciath na Scol finals after beating Gaelscoil Chionn tSáile in the semi-finals and Scoil Naomh Eltin in the final.

The boys and girls in 5th and 6th got their Sciath na Scol campaign off to a great start with both teams securing two impressive wins, against Berrings and Frankfield, just before the Easter break. Their final two games will be played in Riverstick and, if you are available, please come along to support:

- **Thursday, 20 April** - Playing Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Rochestown. Girls game at 11.30am & Boys game at 12.30pm
- **Monday, 24 April** - Playing Scoil Bhailenóra. Girls game at 11.30am & Boys game at 12.30pm

The top two teams in the group will qualify for the semi-finals on **Thursday, 27 April** (venue & times tbc). Best of luck to both teams in their remaining games.

SCHOOL HURLING/CAMOGIE COACHING

Pupils from Second to Fourth Classes will commence hurling/camogie training with Donnacha Desmond (Sliabh Rua Coach) on **Friday, 21 April**. Further to Booklists (2022/2023), and a text prior to the Easter break, pupils will need a hurley and helmet. Junior Infants to First Classes will begin their hurling/camogie training at the end of May. They, too, will also require a hurley and helmet. The school would like to acknowledge the generous support of our local Sliabh Rua Clubs for this additional coaching provision.

CORK PRIMARY GAME TEAM

Congratulations to sixth class pupils, Tiernan Murphy and Kayleigh Murphy, who, after qualifying for the Cork Primary Game team, will represent the school and don the Cork jersey in current and impending GAA Championship fixtures. Tiernan played at half-time in the Cork & Clare Munster Football Championship match on Sunday, 09 April in Ennis. Kayleigh will play at half-time in the Cork & Limerick Munster Hurling Championship match on Sunday, 28 May in Limerick. Well done!

/Over.....

CORK PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS 2023

Well done to all the boys and girls who raced in the Cork Primary School Sports trials last month. Congratulations to all those who qualified and will represent the school in MTU on Thursday, 01 June - boys (morning) & girls (afternoon) . For those participating, further details to follow in due course. We would like to thank our Cork City Sports Committee for organising our school's participation at this annual event.

FAI 5-A-SIDE SOCCER BLITZ

FAI 5-a-side Soccer Blitz were held last month. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást were represented by two teams (girls and boys). All players were superb and semi-finals were reached on both days! They supported each other very well and showed some good skill. Well done!

SPRINGTIME – FARMING THROUGH THE SEASONS, BUDDING GARDENERS, WILDFLOWER MEADOW....!

Ms. Hurley's Junior Infant class are taking part in *Farming Through the Seasons*, a new virtual farm tour series by *Agri Aware*. The virtual tours will take place through Zoom Webinar and the children will learn all about what happens on a farm from the people on the ground in the comfort of their own classroom. Developing an awareness and appreciation for our rich agricultural location, *Farming Through the Seasons* will also help to connect children to the food they eat every day. The Junior Infants are very excited about this! They have also recently planted cress seeds and they are eagerly awaiting to see some shoots of green peeping through. Being mindful of healthy eating, cress seeds are a fast growing source of vitamins so they are looking forward to nibbling on these healthy foods.

Meanwhile, some classes in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást have been chosen for the *Woodie's Budding Gardener – Sow It, Grow It & Show It* competition. Having received a €50 voucher from Woodies, pupils in 5th class have designed and drawn up their plan for their garden which includes flowers that bloom & vegetables that grow during the month of June. The 1st phase "Sow It" is now in progress and they have beautiful trays where seeds are sown, watered and awaiting germination. Pupils have recorded their progress along with new scientific vocabulary while attending to their "windowsill garden"!

Outside, as part of Spring Bulb Project 2022, everyone is now enjoying the naturalised daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, grape hyacinths that are flowering in the vicinity of the sensory garden.

The school would like to acknowledge the very generous support of Kinsale College's Sustainability and Permaculture course team, and the course coordinator, Dónal Chambers, as part of a Kinsale Transition Town Education & Community initiative, for their work in preparing (October 2022) and recently planting a 'Managed for Wildlife' section of school grounds. Prompted by these enthusiastic efforts, the school now proposes to create an additional wildflower meadow section in a separate area for the pupils and staff to enjoy. In association with Belgooly Tidy Villages, and as part of An Taisce's Spring Clean Week 2023', our pupils in sixth class will gather litter on a section of the approach road to the school next week.

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge activities, the pupils enjoyed the 'Teacht le Chéile' in the halla last month. There was lovely Irish to be heard among the songs, pieces of music, plays, rhymes and poems! Pupils in Fifth Class have completed their "Book in a Box" projects with huge enthusiasm, creativity & attention to detail. Magnificent dioramas were created to represent a scene in their books along with recording of new vocabulary. Questions were also recorded on their boxes so that the future readers can test their comprehension skills. Let the reading now begin!

Equally impressive were the costumes worn by so many pupils and staff on World Book Day!

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

Further to previous correspondence (21/02/2023), the school is happy to facilitate, on a trial basis, an independent school lunch provider service for pupils. A representative from *The Lunch Bag* will visit classes on Thursday, 27 April. Families will receive an information pack (i.e. menu, cost, information on their dedicated app, order times etc.) on the day. It is planned that this optional service will be operational from Tuesday, 02 May. Meanwhile, *The Lunch Bag* website 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

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.

MTU SCIENCE SHOW (FOURTH CLASS)

A fun-filled science show that covered magnetism, electricity and many important engineering concepts was enjoyed by the fourth class pupils and staff when they visited MTU earlier last month.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – BINGO EVENING

Many thanks to our *Parents' Association* for organising the hugely successful Bingo Evening earlier last month. An attentive and competitive audience, the well-stocked shop with favourite goodies and an impressive selection of raffle prizes ensured a lovely evening of intergenerational entertainment for so many families to enjoy. Given the many tasks entailed in organising such an event, the school wishes to gratefully acknowledge same and to thank our many local businesses for their generosity with sponsoring raffle prizes. To support their ongoing efforts and endeavours, should you wish to volunteer, either as a PA committee member or *Friend of the PA*, please feel free to express this interest at the link below (paper copies also available from the school office). A special invitation is extended to our new school families who may wish to join the committee or support their work as a *'Friend of the PA'*.

'Friend of the PA' link -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0lVWQw_cRT1m8zOE8K41ds3d3TV4up1LC9wa4HMZGMPM9Tg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Details of committee members are also on the school website: www.belgoolyns.ie/parents-association

'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 ('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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Just a reminder, in addition to the main school uniform or the school tracksuit, pupils may also wear the following during the months of May, June & September:

- White polo t-shirt (as currently exists)
- An up-cycled short version of the existing school tracksuit (as some pupils currently wear in warm weather) or wine-coloured shorts (which are available to purchase from the school's uniform supplier, Cahill's Carrigaline)

ROAD SAFETY

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their co-operation and support in facilitating a flow of traffic outside the school in the mornings and afternoons. Your observation of the pedestrian pathway markings on the approach road to the school is also appreciated by the pupils and their families who walk to and from school on a daily basis.

NEW EXTENSION

The school was delighted to take occupancy of our three new classrooms yesterday and thank you to all the pupils and staff for assisting with the move. Three large bright spacious classrooms, a new Special Education Teaching (SET) room and generous lobby space are a welcome addition to the school's learning environment. The contractors will remain on site until the end of June as they finalise the conversion of an existing classroom to SET rooms (x2) and, given that the weather is now improved, complete grounds and landscaping works in the pitch area. The latter has also seen a new perimeter fence erected in February. Such extensive works have required the support and co-operation of many within the school community and, in this regard, the school is most appreciative. Given the challenges presented by COVID and construction labour/material supply challenges, the school's Board of Management is to be commended for their sterling efforts in terms of securing funding, planning and overseeing the project. The school is also very grateful to the Building Consultancy Team (Mulcahy Ralphs Architects) and the Building Contractor (JBC Ltd) for their on-going interest and commitment to this worthwhile project.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS

- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol* – The school will play Scoil Phádraig Naofa in Riverstick on Thursday, 20 April (girls at 11.30am & boys at 12.30pm), please come along and support
- *Clontead Parish First Holy Communion Ceremony 2023* – Saturday, 22 April, St Joseph's Church Riverstick (Mr. Cotter's class at 10.00am & Ms. O'Driscoll's class 12 noon)
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol* – The school will play Scoil Bhailenóra in Riverstick on Monday, 24 April (girls at 11.30am & boys at 12.30pm), please come along and support
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on Tuesday, 25 April (see page 1 for details)
- *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí (Semi-Finals)* – Thursday, 27 April. Venue/Times (TBC)
- *School Tours 2023* – Further to a previous email (06/03/2023), please note, to finalise transport requirements and venue confirmations, the designated date for payment of school tours 2023 is Friday, 28 April
- *School Transport Applications for New School Entrants To Primary & Post-Primary (School Year 2023/2024)* – Closing date – Friday, 28 April (see school email 20/03/2023)
- *The National Spring Clean 2023 (An Taisce)* – 01 to 30 April
- *Primary Language Curriculum & New Primary Curriculum Framework (Staff In-Service)* – School Closure on Friday, 12 May 2023
- *National Bike Week* – w/c Monday, 15 May (further details to follow)
- *Junior Infants School Tour - Leahy's Farm* on Thursday, 18 May 2023 (further details to follow)
- *Senior Infants School Tour - Leahy's Farm* on Friday, 19 May 2023 (further details to follow)
- *Zumba Class with Dancing Derek* – Monday, 22 May (Day 1 of 4)
- *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 (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

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy