

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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10/11/2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing [Application for Admission 2022/2023](#), where relevant for new school entrants 2022/2023 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2021/2022* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2021 & 14/10/2021
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2021/2022* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2021 & 14/10/2021
- *Weaving Wellbeing Pupil Workbook* (2nd to 6th classes only - €5.00 per/pupil). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2021 & 14/10/2021
- *Lifetime Lab Workshops* (Third to Fifth Classes only - €5.00 per/pupil). E-payment link sent on 14/10/2021 & 08/11/2021
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2021/2022* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 29/09/2021 & 14/10/2021
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2021/2022* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 05/10/2021 & 14/10/2021
- *Non-Book Rental Scheme Participants 2021/2022* (€5 per child). In relation to Non-Book Rental Scheme participants, **Friday 01 October** was designated date for final collection of money. This may be forwarded to class teacher. Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated

As the school wishes to settle related bills, any outstanding amounts in respect of the above are now due. Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – 'SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022'

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. To retain a memento of this time, maintain school community spirit and to thank local businesses for their continuous support, 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 2022*, 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 2022* for a two-week period only from **Monday, 15 November 2021 to Monday, 29 November 2021 (incl.)**
- You will receive a related link from the school on Monday, 15 November
- To order, simply enter the relevant amount of money (i.e. €10 per calendar). **NOTE** – As €10.00 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, €20.00 for 2 calendars or €30.00 for 3 calendars and so on)
- Complete payment transaction

/Over.....

- **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Monday, 29 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 2022*.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2021/2022

Further to previous Home/School correspondence (13/10/2021) and recent/impending email contact from your child's class teacher, staff are currently facilitating parent/teacher meetings over a three-week period (i.e. week commencing Monday, 08 November and concluding by Friday, 26 November).

In relation to this 'Telephone Parent/Teacher Meeting', the Board of Management advises parents/guardians to note:

- In the interests of confidentiality, parents/guardians will need to confirm that they are participating on their own, without the possibility of being over-heard or recorded. Please note, no electronic recording of any school meeting is permitted
- As teachers will have a number of telephone 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

FOLENS 'CHRISTMAS 2021 ANNUALS'

The Folens Christmas Annual is available to purchase (€2.50 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 two-week period only from **Monday, 15 November 2021 to Monday, 29 November 2021 (incl.)**. You will receive a related link from the school on Monday, 15 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, 29 November. **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Monday, 29 November.**

Just to note:

Junior & Senior Infants – *Súgradh* (Folens Christmas 2021 Annual)

First & Second Classes – *Spraoi* (Folens Christmas 2021 Annual)

Third & Fourth Classes – *Siamsa* (Folens Christmas 2021 Annual)

Fifth & Sixth Classes – *Sonas* (Folens Christmas 2021 Annual)

'FOOD DUDES' & 'HEALTHY EATING WEEK' (Monday, 15 November to Friday, 19 November)

Further to correspondence earlier in the week, next Monday, the school will partake again in phase 3 of the Food Dudes initiative. Managed by an Bord Bia, the initiative aims to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables and achieve the recommended daily intake of 5-7 portions a day. Phase 3 gives the children the opportunity to taste a portion of fruit and vegetable for five consecutive days. They will also learn about the importance of healthy eating through Food Dudes interactive videos and curriculum-based activities.

To further promote the healthy eating ethos in the school, this week will have a 'Healthy Eating' theme. The children will complete Healthy Eating Passports at home to encourage and enhance the healthy eating ethos in school and at home. Classes will also design their classroom door with a healthy eating theme to be in with a chance to win a prize!

For further information on the programme and healthy eating ideas visit www.fooddudes.ie

GAA FOOTBALL TRAINING & GUM SHIELD REMINDER (First to Third Class Classes & Sixth Classes)

Gavin Webb commenced football coaching with pupils in 1st, 2nd 3rd & 6th classes last Friday. When availing of this training, all pupils need to remember to bring in their gum shields each Friday. The school would like to thank our local GAA Clubs for facilitating these sessions for the pupils.

SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Former members of the **Riverstick Cycling Club** visited the school on Thursday, 21st October last. They shared many stories of their past experiences as competitive cyclists, some competing around the country in races such as the famous *Rás Tailteann*. The children in 3rd & 4th classes were treated with a display of memorabilia from the time, including newspaper cuttings of competitions. Some members brought their knitted cycling jerseys, and were happy to display an array of county, provincial and national medals won. Michael and Anne Allen presented a perpetual trophy to the school for its archival collection. This trophy had been the award given by their father, Michael, as a prize for a famous annual Riverstick circuit race. 5th and 6th class pupils are busy preparing reports for the local **Tracton Newsheet 'Christmas Writing Competition'**. The theme, a written account of life in their grandparents time, similar in format to the National Schools Folklore collection in the 1930's, will hopefully form part of a local archive for future pupils of Tracton and Clontead to experience and enjoy in years to come.

3rd, 4th & 5th classes are currently partaking in hands-on workshops that are being provided by the **Lifetime Lab**. Workshops will cover electrical circuits in the Energy and Forces Strand of the Science curriculum. 3rd Class pupils have commenced participation in the **Picker Pals** initiative, facilitated by Cork County Council and VOICE Ireland. This is an environmental action programme for primary school children, their families, schools and communities. *Picker Pals* motivates children through immersion in a song and story world, equipping the classroom with a Picker Pack and inspiring children on parent-led local litter-picking adventures. By becoming active in this way, they are joining a community of environmentally active people, leading to a lifetime of positive participation. The *Picker Packs* are manufactured in the design upcycling workshop at the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun and made from old dinghy sails, thereby contributing to the circular economy. More info can be found at: <https://pickerpalsworld.org/>

Clean Air Week 2021 runs from the **15th to 19th November**. Organised by *Green School Ireland*, this week aims to educate pupils and their families on the importance of clean air for all of our health and wellbeing. Air pollution, from domestic fires, industrial sources and from exhausts of motor vehicles can lead to serious health issues in children and adults. Lots of air pollution can be avoided in our travel choices, by walking, cycling or park & striding to the school gate. When we have to drive, we can switch the engine off when parked, as idling engines emit the equivalent of 150 balloons full of dangerous toxins every minute. The related posters attached attempt to illustrate the impact of air pollution.

The 6th class **Green Committee** is working hard on the **Travel Flag**, letting everyone know the benefits of walking, cycling or scooting to school. Meanwhile Third class are preparing boxes for recycling centres in each classroom. Fourth classes have the slogans ready to go on the boxes. Other slogans in relation to saving energy and conserving water are being prepared by fourth and fifth classes for display around the school. Thank you to the **Parents' Association** who have kindly purchased four more benches for the sensory garden. We hope to have more additions to the garden in time for Christmas, so the **Garden Angels** will be busy.

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

As part of our *Social Personal & Health Education* programme (SPHE), and in light of the current Pandemic and given the time of year, teachers continue to create awareness among the pupils about the importance of proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing and coughing. Parents are also requested to emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to their children at home on a frequent basis. To assist, please refer to relevant posters (**Appendix 1**).

As an added measure, and in an effort to promote enhanced hygiene at this time, pupils in the older classes (i.e. 3rd to 6th classes) may wish to bring a '**small personal hygiene bag**' which will be kept in their school bag.

The following suggested items may be placed in the hygiene bag:

- **Small hand sanitiser**
- **Tissues**
- **Antibacterial wet wipes**

Pupils in all classes are requested to have a small packet of tissues in their bag.

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

'VIRTUAL GALLERY' – School Activities & Events

The rich variety of activities and work currently being undertaken by the pupils and staff, in the various classes, all feature in the school's 'Virtual Gallery'. Recent school events (i.e. Opening of Bike Shelter, Mrs. Harrington's Retirement gathering, Tree Day & Halloween 2021 celebrations), learning with technology, music time, drama, creative schools initiative, interview with David Walliams, science, art activities...are all available to view on www.belgoolyns.ie ('Gallery' tab) – please pay a visit!

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *Road Safety Month (October)* – Many thanks for your continuing support and cooperation in terms of road safety within the school environs.
- *Safe Routes to School Programme (SRSP) & Parent/Guardian Survey* – Thank you to families for completing same.
- *'Manners Matter' Month (October)* – A great success throughout the school. A significant life-skill for the pupils and everyone's continuing efforts are much appreciated
- Interviews with authors, creative writing workshops and competitions all featured during *Children's Book Festival 2020*
- Many thanks to our *Parents' Association* for decorating the gates and railing areas with some bewitching Halloween decorations and pumpkins just before the mid-term break. Thank you to all who responded to the recent call for additional P.A. committee members and we wish the new committee all the very best for 2021/2022
- To all the staff for the wonderful classroom and corridor displays of the pupils' work
- To the class teaching, SET and SNA teams for facilitating Literacy/Numeracy Stations in Junior Infant to Second Classes
- Our 3rd, 4th & 5th classes enjoyed the *House of Circuits* workshops with Lifetime yesterday and today
- *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

- *Kinsale Community School & Admissions for School Year 2022/2023* – Closing date for applications is Thursday, 11 November 2021
- *Parent/Teacher Meetings* – Monday, 08 November to Friday, 26 November. Please refer to *page 2* of this note for further details
- *Community Games Christmas Choir Competition* (further details at www.communitygames.ie/choir) – closing date for entry is Sunday, 14 November
- *'Food Dudes & Healthy Eating Week 2021'* - Monday 15 to Friday 19 November
- *'Clean Air Week 2021'* - Monday 15 to Friday 19 November
- *Tracton Newsheet 'Christmas Writing Competition' (5th & 6th Classes)* – closing date for entry is Thursday, 25 November
- *School Calendar 2022 & Folens Christmas Annual 2021* – closing date for orders is Monday, 29 November

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy