

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

Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy  
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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



Telephone: 021 4770712

Email: [belgoolyns@gmail.com](mailto:belgoolyns@gmail.com)

Website: [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie)

27/09/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have been back at school now for a few weeks and everyone has settled in and is working well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their co-operation with the following:

- *Aladdin 'Connect'* - Registering, downloading the related app and validating your mobile phone number. Thank you for updating your family contact and other details via 'Connect'.
- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2023/2024* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 13/09/2023
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2023/2024* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 13/09/2023
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2023/2024* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 26/09/2023
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2023/2024* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 20/09/2023
- *6<sup>th</sup> Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day* (09/10/2023) & *Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale* (6<sup>th</sup> Classes only - €8 per/child) - E-payment link sent on 22/09/2023
- *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money* (only as relevant) – various e-payment dates in September

### **STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 03 OCTOBER)**

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 03 October 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.

### **PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2023/2024**

As previously advised, in-person Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 23 & Tuesday, 28 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>*. 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 next week, Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to book an appointment time(s), via Aladdin 'Connect', in the following order:

- From Tuesday, 03 October (available appointment times for families with three or more children attending the school)
- From Wednesday, 04 October (available appointment times for families with two or more children attending the school)
- From Thursday, 05 October (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.

/Over.....

**SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)**

Class teachers are currently finalising details in relation to providing pupils with their Seesaw *Home Learning Codes*. To maintain everyone's familiarity with this online learning platform, some elements of homework will be assigned via Seesaw.

**SOCIAL, PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE)**

*Relationships and Sexuality Education & Stay Safe* are integral parts of the *Social, Personal, and Health Education (S.P.H.E)* curriculum as per Department of Education & Skills guidelines. Related links to these programmes/resources and the school's RSE policy are available for viewing on the school's website (Parents tab/SPHE section).

Stay Safe - <http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe> RSE - [PDST RSE Resources](#) & [Belgooly School SPHE Resources](#)

**ROAD SAFETY MONTH**

As part of our *Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, the school will cover the topic of *Road Safety* with all classes during the month of October. The main themes covered in school will be walking, cycling, travelling on the school bus and transport. At home, should your child walk, travel by bike, scooter, bus or car to school, it is important that they consider their safety and the safety of others in the context of their respective school travel arrangements. In this regard, the *Road Safety Authority* website ([www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)), also features many resources and an information leaflet entitled, *Going to School*, which may be of assistance to you in further exploring this topic with your child.

In addition, the Board of Management wishes to remind families of our *Safe Routes to School* measures which are nearing completion. Further to communication on Monday (28/08/2023), please find related details attached, once again, for your careful attention. It is requested that this information is brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2023/2024**

Thank you for attending the recent Parents' Association AGM at the school last Thursday evening. Successive Parents' Associations have always been most supportive, resourceful and generous with their time and talents in adding to the social and educational aspects of school life. They have made significant contributions over the years to ensure that we enjoy the physical and educational infrastructure which school families and staff are so fortunate to enjoy learning and working in today.

Going forward, 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 express this interest at the link below. 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/1FAIpQLScYUFcq37V0FQcNxTgRCmXz-tcDiwvSGZ\\_7EyNFvJ66yQN4kg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYUFcq37V0FQcNxTgRCmXz-tcDiwvSGZ_7EyNFvJ66yQN4kg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail_form_link)

**'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2024/2025' & 'OPEN EVENING' (THURSDAY, 05 OCTOBER from 7.00-8.00pm)**

Further to previous communication last week (20/09/2023), please note that '*Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2024/2025*' in respect of Mainstream Classes and the school's Special Class for Pupils with Autism will open from **Monday, 02 October until Monday, 23 October 2023**. All further related details and application requirements will be available/accessible at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) ('Admissions' tab) from next **Monday, 02 October**. 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 2024, to check these details on the website.

Furthermore, to facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit the school, *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* will host an **Open Evening on Thursday, 05 October from 7.00-8.00pm**. Should you know of any family who may wish to send their child to the school over the coming years, it would be appreciated if you could also bring this event to their attention.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, the school must be informed of the reason for all school absences. Aladdin 'Connect' provides an easy facility for parents to advise the school of the duration and reason for a pupil's absence ('Attendance Note' details below). **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)**. In this regard, to assist families with monitoring attendance, all families will receive a generic text, via Aladdin, advising of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25.... day absence notifications, where relevant. 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. Good attendance also benefits your child's progress and establishes good work patterns for later life. School attendance is exceptionally strong in *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* and we hope to maintain this throughout the entire school year.

### **ALADDIN 'CONNECT' & 'ATTENDANCE NOTE'**

Further to previous Home/School communication (12/09/2023), thank you to families for your active engagement with 'Connect'. Its use has proved beneficial for families and the busy office here at the school. Regarding 'School Attendance' above, 'Attendance note' is a feature of 'Connect' that is also available to families. **Parents/Guardians may send early leaving, late arrival or an absence note ahead of time with the tap of a button**. You will be able to access this feature by tapping on the 'Absence' section of the app home-screen (please remember to refresh your Aladdin 'Connect' app page on a regular basis). To support the use of this 'Connect' feature, a related information sheet is also attached.

### **WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS**

- *'Bug Busting' Night* – Many thanks to families for your engagement with 'Bug Busting' night earlier in the month. To curtail and reduce occurrence of head lice, please ensure frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard. Also, as part of our *Social Personal & Health Education* programme (SPHE), the school would ask parents to remind pupils about the importance of washing hands as school staff will convey the role clean hands play in helping to reduce the spread of infection
- The school and Parents' Association committee (2022/2023) are most appreciative of all the support from all school families for the many activities/events throughout the past year. Thank you to all who attended the school's *Parents' Association* AGM last Thursday evening and we wish the new committee all the very best for 2023/2024
- Best of luck to our *Sciath na Scol Football Teams 2023* over the coming weeks
- Thank you to everyone for your engagement with *Manners Matter* month and taking the time to familiarise the pupils with the school's *Code of Behaviour*. The development of a range of communication and interpersonal skills will add to a child's experience of life at home with their families, in school and the wider community as well as serving them well in various settings later in adult life

### **SOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 5th/6th Class *Sciath na Scol* Football match (playing GS Chionn tSáile) on **Friday, 29 September** in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 11.30am & Boys match at 12.30pm. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support

- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2024/2025* will open for a three week period from **Monday, 02 October 2023 until Monday, 23 October 2023**. All related details and application requirements available/accessible at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) (Admissions tab) from **Monday, 02 October 2023**.
- *Staff Meeting* – all pupils will finish and leave early on **Tuesday, 03 October**. Please refer to details on page 1 of this note. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time
- *Lá na gCrann* – All classes on **Thursday, 05 October**
- ‘*Open Evening 2023*’ for prospective school families on **Thursday, 05 October from 7.00-8.00pm**
- 5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing Scoil na nÓg) in The Pike, Glanmire on **Friday, 06 October**. Both matches at 10.45am. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- *KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day (Sáile, Kinsale Sports & Community Centre)* – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes on **Monday, 09 October**. Related details sent by email on 22/09/2023
- 5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing GS Mhichíl Uí Choileáin, Cloich na Coillte) in Clonakilty GAA Grounds on Tuesday, 10 October. Both matches at 11.30am. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Monday, 30 October to Friday, 03 November (incl.)**
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings* – **Thursday, 23 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 28 November (Day 2)**. Please refer to page 1 of this note for additional information.

Yours faithfully,  
Diarmuid Hennessy  
School Principal