

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



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

PERMANENT SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

In relation to our current building extension project, it is envisaged, owing to labour and material shortages/delays, that the new extension will now be ready for occupancy in October/November. Our building contractors and architectural team continue to progress the project and we look forward to seeing further development over the summer months.

SUMMER WORKS SCHEME 2022

The school has been fortunate to secure funding, under the Department of Education & Skills Summer Works Scheme 2022, to facilitate electrical upgrade works throughout the school. This will involve significant internal works being undertaken during the summer break.

This now also presents an opportunity to generally upgrade other school areas, subject to school funds. As this school year (2021/2022) concludes, your *Annual Voluntary Family Contributions* (€50 p/family) will assist in this regard. We are grateful for contributions to-date and any further contributions may be made via e-payment.

SCHOOL TOUR 2022 & PARKING

School Tours 2022 will commence over the coming weeks and an email with specific details will be issued to each class group closer to the time.

Parking facilities around the school are limited. In the interest of safety, to avoid a build-up of a large volume of traffic and to facilitate school bus set-down provision, we request that parents/guardians might endeavour to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off for school tours. The designated date for payment of school tour was last Friday, 13 May. As the school will now need to confirm attendance numbers with the various venues and finalise transport arrangements, we would be grateful if any outstanding school tour payments could be attended to by the end of this week. A related note last month (25/04/2022) contains further information and families received an e-payment link by text on Tuesday, 26 April.

So as not to compromise the list of scheduled activities for each individual school tour group, buses will depart promptly at their designated departure times.

We would like to acknowledge Mrs. Whelan's role in coordinating the various excursions.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Further to a previous Home/School note (29/03/2022), 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)

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'BIG FRIENDLY GUIDE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION' PROGRAMME

As their involvement with the *BFGtoEU* programme draws to a close, Mrs. Clancy's fifth class celebrated European Week last Wednesday. They had the privilege of engaging with the President of the European Parliament, President Roberta Metsola, and this was followed by the infamous Europe Day Zoom Quiz. This event included children from many countries within the European Union and celebrated the E.U. motto, *United in Diversity*. Further details on this programme available at <https://bfgtoeu.com/>.

AGRI AWARE & INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

As part of the Incredible Edibles initiative, pupils in Ms O'Donovan's Second Class have been learning about the origins of food, identifying different fruit/vegetables and reading food labels. They have collected food labels, made posters showing processed/unprocessed foods, planted lots of seeds (carrots, chives, lettuce, turnips and spinach) and enjoyed watering them and watching them grow. They currently have strawberries and potatoes growing in the classroom. Their efforts were acknowledged by Agri Aware last week and featured on their website as 'School of the Week' (<https://www.agriaware.ie/incredible-edibles-school-of-the-week-scoil-mhuire-na-ngrast-co-cork/>). Well done!

FARM SAFETY & WATER SAFETY

To ensure that everyone stays safe over the summer months, the classes will be covering water and farm safety with their class teachers over the coming weeks.

To assist parents with supporting their child's learning in this area, the following will be of help:

- *HSE 'Child Safety Around the Farm'* - <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/child-health/child-safety-around-the-farm.html>
- *Water Safety Ireland* - <https://watersafety.ie/recreation/>

GREEN FLAG & TRAVEL FLAG SUCCESS

Scoil Mhuire na nGrást is delighted to announce that we have been awarded our fifth *An Taisce* Green Flag, the Travel Flag. The Green Committee, comprising of current & former 6th class pupils, teachers & SNAs, have all done trojan work to ensure our success in this area.

The many wide-ranging activities undertaken entailed sourcing funds for our bike shelter, travel surveys, bike workshops, 'Walk on Wednesday' (W.O.W.) days (which have taken off with gusto), a poster campaign on idling engines along with many more initiatives. Such endeavours encouraged the pupils and school community to actively consider and experience various sustainable forms of travel to and from school (i.e. walking, cycling/scooting, bus & car-pooling). In this regard, the school has also been granted funding under the *Safe Routes to School* programme which will lead to improved active travel paths for the entire school community.

This impressive achievement would not have been possible without the wonderful support of school families and our wider school and local community. Being a school embedded in the community, our efforts towards sustainable travel for pupils and staff are no different! We now look forward to celebrating and raising our Travel Flag on Wednesday 25 May at the school.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN WEEK (AN TAISCE)

To support the work of the Belgooly Tidy Villages, who tend to the school's wall-mounted flower containers, our Sixth Class pupils and staff undertook a Spring Clean of our local approach roads to the school, as well as the Belgooly Walk area, at the end of last month, as part of *An Taisce*'s 'National Spring Clean Week 2022'. Well done to everyone!

CITY SPORTS

Trials for Cork City Sports were held on our return to school after Easter. Congratulations to all our qualifiers who will represent the school at MTU, Bishopstown on *Friday, 03 June* – girls (morning) & boys (afternoon). We would like to thank our Cork City Sports Committee for organising our school's participation at this annual event.

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SCIATH NA SCOL SUCCESS & NEW SCHOOL JERSYS (KINSALE STORAGE CENTRE)

Congratulations to the girls and boys in 5th and 6th classes who have reached the Sciath na Scol camogie and hurling finals. Both teams beat Castlemartyr in the semi-finals last week. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support the teams during the group stages. The finals will take place either during the week beginning Monday, 30 May or Monday, 07 June (TBC) in Páirc Uí Rinn or Páirc Uí Chaoimh (TBC). This success is well-deserved as the teams have been busy training with their coaches since after the mid-term break. They are also sporting a new set of impressive school jerseys. In this regard, the school would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship, by **Kinsale Storage Centre** (www.kinsalestoragecentre.com), of a set of thirty new jerseys.

Ahead of the Sciath na Scol finals, the pupils will take part in the Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol football blitzes. The girls' blitz takes place this Friday, 20 May and the boys' blitz takes place on Friday, 27 May. We wish both teams the best of luck.

Congratulations to Tadgh Cummins who represented the school on the Primary Games hurling team. Tadgh had a superb game when he played at the half-time match between Cork and Limerick on Easter Sunday.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – EASTER RAFFLE

The Easter Raffle, organised by the Parents' Association, created some great excitement about the school just before Easter. A great success with an impressive amount raised - €7692.50. Thank you to the PA, the pupils, school families, staff and local business/individual sponsors for your wonderful support.

To support the P.A. in their planned activities and work for the final term of 2021/2022, new members are always welcome. If you would like to get involved, please email: pabelgoolyschoolagm@gmail.com. Details of committee members are also on the school website: www.belgoolyns.ie/parents-association

SCÓR COMMITTEE 2022/2023 – NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We have been advised that Carrigdhoun GAA are currently in the process of forming a new Coiste Scór. Expressions of interest are invited for committee members, within the division, to support the planning and organisation of related activities over the course of the next school year. In previous years, the pupils have enjoyed participating in the various events that form part of *Scór na bPáistí* (e.g. solo-singing, ballad group, instrumental music, recitation, drama, table quiz, figure dancing & set dancing). Such worthwhile participation has formed part of the pupils' developmental journey and it also serves as an enjoyable family and local community event during the winter months (usually February & March).

Should any parent/guardian wish to become involved or should you know of anyone in the wider community who may be interested, further information and details may be obtained by emailing Pat O'Leary (Carrigdhoun Cultural Officer) at culturalofficer.carrigdhoun.cork@gaa.ie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are fortunate to have such a rich variety of school events which add to the pupils learning experience in so many ways. The school is mindful of the many individuals (committed and dedicated staff, pupils, parents, Garden Angels, local GAA coaches, assistance and offers in relation to ICT and school excursions) and various groups (Parish Groups, Parents' Association, Board of Management, Belgooly Tidy Villages, local sporting organisations, local businesses/companies....) who are most generous with their time in facilitating, organising and supporting the school in numerous ways. Everyone's continuing support is much appreciated. Should you have a particular interest or be in a position to possibly assist and add to school life in any area, in terms of expertise/practical support/materials/resources, please feel free to contact the school office at any time.

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'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2022/2023'

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 2022, 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 2022/2023 school year, please advise the school if there are any pupils currently enrolled who will not be returning in September.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 2022/2023 – Irish dancing, Music, Drama & Art

Relevant details are outlined in the school's website at <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/after-school-activities> and related flyers attached, except for Art (recommencement details to be advised in September 2022).

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that these activities are independent of the primary function of the school and that all queries, related arrangements and other contact in respect of same should be made directly with the respective tutor and not through the school office.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *First & Second Class School Tour (Mardyke Arena) – Friday, 27 May*
- *Senior Infant School Tour (Rumley's Open Farm) – Wednesday, 01 June*
- *Cork City Sports – Friday, 03 June at MTU. Girls (morning) & boys (afternoon)*
- *Annual Belgooly Show 2022 – Saturday, 04 June*
- *'Creative Schools Week' & 'History Week' – Tuesday, 07 June to Friday, 17 June*
- *Fifth Class (Mr McKeown) School Tour (Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre) – Tuesday, 07 June*
- *Junior Infant School Tour (Rumley's Open Farm) – Wednesday, 08 June*
- *Fifth Class (Mrs Clancy) School Tour (Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre) – Wednesday, 08 June*
- *Clontead Parish First Holy Communion Ceremony (Ms. O'Driscoll's Second Class) – Friday, 10 June at 11am, St. Joseph's Church Riverstick*
- *Clontead Parish First Holy Communion Ceremony (Ms. O'Donovan's Second Class) – Saturday, 11 June at 11am, St. Joseph's Church Riverstick*
- *Third Class School Tour (Sand Sculpting, Robert's Cove) – Monday, 13 June*
- *Sixth Class School Tour (Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre) – Monday, 13 June*
- *New Entrants 2022/2023 & Pupil/Parent School Visit – Monday, 13 June (Family surnames A to M) in Tír na nÓg & School Hall from 12.45-1.30pm*
- *Fourth Class School Tour (Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre) – Tuesday, 14 June*
- *New Entrants 2022/2023 & Pupil/Parent School Visit – Tuesday, 14 June (Family surnames N to Z) in Tír na nÓg & School Hall from 12.45-1.30pm*
- *6th Class Bring-and-Buy' – Thursday, 16 June*
- *School Sports Day 2022 – Monday, 20 June*

Yours faithfully



School Principal