

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
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13/10/2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation in 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
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2021/2022* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2021
- *Weaving Wellbeing Pupil Workbook* (2nd to 6th classes only - €5.00 per/pupil) - E-payment link sent on 09/09/2021
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2021/2022* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 29/09/2021
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2021/2022* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 05/10/2021
- *Non-Book Rental Scheme Participants 2020/2021* (€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

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, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates via 'Connect'.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM STAFF IN-SERVICE & EARLY CLOSURE (Friday, 15 October)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate staff training, pupils will finish and leave **on Friday, 15 October** in the following order:

- 'Junior Infants' – 12.50 – 1.00pm
- 'Senior Infants' – 1.00 – 1.10pm
- 'Walkers' (1st & 2nd Classes) – 1.10 – 1.20pm
- 'Walkers' (3rd to 6th Classes) – 1.20 – 1.40pm
- School Buses – 1.30 – 1.40pm

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 at the relevant times in respect of school departure, as outlined above.

GAA FOOTBALL TRAINING & GUM SHIELD REMINDER (First to Third Class Classes & Sixth Class after Mid-Term Break)

After mid-term, Gavin will provide coaching to pupils in 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 6th classes, starting on Friday, 05 November. When availing of this training, all pupils need to remember to bring in their gum shields. The school would like to thank our local GAA Clubs for facilitating these sessions for the pupils.

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LIFETIME LAB WORKSHOPS (THIRD TO FIFTH CLASSES)

Lifetime Lab, a Cork City Council operated facility offering hands on science workshops and activities and events to primary schools in the Cork area, is currently offering a workshop entitled, *House of Circuits*. This project has been developed with assistance from *Science Foundation Ireland*.

This STEM Outreach initiative is a fun and hands-on exploration of electrical circuits, allowing children to explore and discover, building up their understanding of current electricity and simple circuits. The workshop will be school-based and will comprise of a sixty minute online workshop, with individual workshop kits for each child in the class to work on. Pupils will avail of the workshops on the following dates:

- Third & Fourth Classes – Tuesday, 09 November
- Fifth Classes – Wednesday, 10 November

To facilitate these workshops, there is a cost of **€5.00 per pupil**. **Friday, 05 November** is designated date for final collection of money. For ease of payment and to assist with administration, families of 3rd to 5th class pupils will receive a text tomorrow, Thursday, with related payment advice details.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2021/2022 (HALLOWEEN & SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022)

In collaboration with the school's Parents' Association, please note some upcoming events/projects below:

- To create a *Hallowe'en* atmosphere, the Parents' Association will decorate the railings/canopy area (by clown) with Hallowe'en decorations/pumpkins for the final day of the half-term (i.e. Friday, 22 October). To further add to the spirit, pupils may, if they wish, wear a costume on the day and are also invited to bring one or two small treats for themselves to celebrate
- 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. Some lovely autumnal photographs for the calendar were recently taken at various locations on the school grounds by our local photographer Pat O'Brien. Another local Belgooly man, Conor Coleman of *Island Memorial Cards*, will have the busy task of printing the many calendars over the coming weeks. Always a favourite present for family members at Christmas, further details in relation to orders etc. will follow later in November

Thank you for attending the recent Parents' Association AGM webinar on 28/09/2021. 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/1FAIpQLSeR9CbpR62NdomOGw-AFdN7tEJrzVwiIGmlKQopI9iTod8lg/viewform?usp=sf_link

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2021/2022

This year, to facilitate Parent/Teacher Meetings, teachers will email the parents/guardians of pupils in their class week commencing Monday, 01 November to provide details and make arrangements for an opportunity to discuss, via telephone, your child's progress so far during this new school year. Given the numbers involved, it is anticipated that this will span a three-week period, beginning on 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 details overpage:

- 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

ROAD SAFETY & 'SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME' (PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY)

In the interest of safety, please remember:

- Please park on the Belgooly side of the school entrance in the morning and afternoon (9.00-9.20am & 2.30pm-3.00pm), leaving the Riverstick side available for school buses
- To avoid parking in the yellow-boxed areas
- Parking facilities around the school are limited so it is preferable to avoid double parking and a build-up of a large volume of traffic. Parents/guardians are asked to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off and collected

Please bring these recommendations to the attention of child-minders/others. We look forward to your continued support and co-operation.

In addition, as part of the *Safe Routes to School Programme (SRTS)*, and further to a previous email & Aladdin noticeboard message on 11/10/2021, Parents/Guardians are invited to complete an important survey by no later than Saturday, 31 October.

SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)

Thank you to everyone for your active engagement with *Seesaw* and, by degrees, we are all increasing our familiarity once again with this invaluable online learning platform.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2022/2023'

For those families with new entrants for next school year (i.e. 2022/2023), thank you for attending to this matter. For anyone who has yet to enrol a new child for next year, please note that '*Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2022/2023*' opened on Monday 04 October 2021 until Friday 05 November 2021. All related details and application requirements available at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab).

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 2022, to check these details on the website.

SHERPA KIDS (Before & After-School Childcare Programme) - UPDATE

Sherpa Kids has advised that they plan on commencing the above-mentioned service at the school from Monday, 29 November. In this regard, a related Sherpa registration link will be forwarded to families before the mid-term break.

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that this activity is independent of the primary function of the school and that all queries, related arrangements and other contact in respect of this new facility are to be made directly with Sherpa (related details will be noted on registration link correspondence) and not via the school office.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the preparation and planning involved and is grateful to the school's principal for facilitating same, at a time when there are many other significant projects being undertaken. The facility will be subject to on-going review by the Board of Management in terms of any potential disruptive impact on the daily operation of the school and, due to the changing and evolving need for classroom/SET accommodation, the availability of suitable space.

ALADDIN 'CONNECT' & NEW FEATURE - 'ATTENDANCE NOTE'

Further to previous Home/School communication (27/09/2021), thank you to families for your active engagement with 'Attendance Note' on 'Connect'. Its use has proved beneficial for families and the busy office here at the school.

'Attendance note', a feature of 'Connect', facilitates parents/Guardians to send early leaving, late arrival or an absence note ahead of time with the tap of a button, thus, no longer requiring an email to the office. 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 new addition to 'Connect', a related information sheet is also attached.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *Manners Matters Month* – the boys and girls are, as always, displaying exemplary behaviour and being respectful to others.
- *Road Safety Month* – Pupils enjoyed related workshops with Road Safety Education Officer, Paul Stafford, last week.
- The classes celebrated *Lá na gCrann* on Thursday, 07 October with a tree and mammal trail on the school grounds. Such an engagement with 'The Outdoor Classroom' helps the pupils to appreciate the school's natural environment and all that is to be learnt there. The theme this year, 'Trees are Good Neighbours', emphasises the fact that trees have an incredibly positive, good neighbourly effect on all biodiversity, and that includes ourselves!, to the soil in the autumn and winter when they fall.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Clancy's 5th class who enjoyed the various roles of creator, editor, researcher and presenter when they compiled a video, *Are Bikes the Greatest Invention Ever?*, for the ReelLIFESCIENCE Competition (further details on <https://reellifescience.com/cia>). Best of luck!
- As part of *Book Fest*, some of our Fourth class pupils enjoyed an engaging talk with Shane Hegarty, author of the *Darkmouth* series. They look forward to joining medieval crafts expert, Melissa Shiels, tomorrow morning for a talk and demonstration on historical costumes and weapon props from medieval times. Fifth classes joined an interview with author David Walliams earlier in the month.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2022/2023* are now open for a five week period from Monday 04 October 2021 until Friday 05 November. All related details and application requirements available at www.belgoolyns.ie (Admissions tab).
- *Mrs. Harrington's Retirement* gathering on Friday, 15 October.
- *Staff Training* – all pupils will finish and leave early on Friday, 15 October. Please refer to details on page 1 of this note. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time
- *Maths Week 2021* (16th to 24th October) – to create an awareness of maths in everyday life, pupils are engaging in various activities
- *Cycle Trophy* - to coincide with Road Safety month and the school's promotion of cycling, we welcome a former sports club, *The Riverstick Cycling Club*, to the school on Thursday, 21 October. Long disbanded, members of this group will share stories with the pupils of past competitive events. A donation by the group of one their former trophies will add to the school's local historical artefact collection.
- *Halloween & Celebration* – Friday, 22 October
- *School Mid-term Break* – Monday, 25 |October to Friday, 29 October (incl.)
- *Safe Routes to School Programme (SRTS) & Parent/Guardian Survey* – Further to a previous email & Aladdin noticeboard message (11/10/2021), families are invited to complete this important survey by no later than Saturday, 31 October.

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal