

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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29/09/2025

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 2025/2026* (€60 per family). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2025
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2025/2026* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2025
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2025/2026* (Senior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 09/09/2025
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2025/2026* (Junior Infant classes only - €25 per/child). E-payment link sent on 16/09/2025
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money* (only as relevant) – various e-payment dates in September

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school tomorrow, **Tuesday, 30 September 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.

SCHOOL CLOSURE (Presidential Election 2025 - Friday, 24 October 2025)

Friday, 24 October has been confirmed as the date for the forthcoming Presidential Election. The school building has been requisitioned as a polling station and the school will be closed on that day. Sherpa will not operate on the day.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2025/2026

As previously advised, in-person Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 20 & Tuesday, 25 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 20th* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 25th*. 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 Wednesday, 01 October (available appointment times for families with three or more children attending the school)
- From Thursday, 02 October (available appointment times for families with two or more children attending the school)
- From Friday, 03 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* and related details will be sent to families over the next couple of weeks. In this regard, to maintain everyone's familiarity with this online learning platform, some elements of homework will be assigned via Seesaw.

SCIATH NA SCOL, GAA COACHING, RUGBY BLITZES & SOCCER

The pupils recently commenced their *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí* football league with their opening game against Canovee. Although they were defeated on the day, they displayed fantastic teamwork and skill throughout. This was followed by two wonderful victories over Ballinspittle NS, with both teams showing the skills they have been building in training and the resilience to bounce back positively from their earlier defeat. The pupils are now looking forward with great enthusiasm to their upcoming fixtures and the chance to continue developing their teamwork and skills on the pitch. Upcoming fixtures and, if you are available, please feel free to come along and support on the day:

- Friday, 03 October v Rathpeacon in Belgooly GAA Pitch. Girls - 11.00am & Boys - 11.45am
- Tuesday, 07 October v Farran in Belgooly GAA pitch. Girls - 11.30am & Boys - 12.15pm

Sciath na Scol Carrighoun Blitzes will also take place over the coming weeks:

- Boys (6th Class) - Thursday, 16 October (venue/time tbc)
- Girls (6th Class) – Tuesday, 21 October (venue/time tbc)

GAA Coaching - Pupils from 2nd to 4th classes have commenced their football *coaching sessions* with Sliabh Rua coach, Jack Deasy. Thank you to the Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating this support.

FAI Soccer League – 6th Class girls and boys will take part in a soccer League over the next number of weeks, commencing on Monday, 20 October in Passage West (details tbc)

Pupils from 3rd to 6th classes enjoyed tag rugby blitzes, in the lovely sunshine, in **Kinsale Rugby Club** earlier in the month. Two fantastic days and a great way to kickstart the school year with fun, teamwork, and lots of activity.

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), 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. A *Bus Éireann 'School Bus Safety'* flyer is also attached.

In addition, the Board of Management wishes to thank families for their support and co-operation with the *Safe Routes to School* measures and for **refraining from parking at the school gate and within the School Zone area.** It is requested that this detail is also brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2026/2027'

Further to previous communication (04/09/2025), please note that 'Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2026/2027' in respect of Mainstream Classes and the school's Special Class for Pupils with Autism will open from **Wednesday, 01 October until Wednesday, 22 October 2025**. All further related details and application requirements will be available/accessible at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab) from **Wednesday, 01 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 2026, to check these details on the website.

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 (08/09/2025), 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.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2019-2023

Due to a parent nominee vacancy on the school's Board of Management (2023-2027), and in accordance with *Constitution of Boards & Rules of Procedure for Boards of Management*, the school welcomes Pete Rawlinson for the remainder of this Board's term. The school is very grateful to Pat O'Regan for his contribution, as a parent nominee, to school life over the past number of years.

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 (2024/2025) 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 earlier in the month and we wish the new committee all the very best for 2025/2026. New members always welcome at [Parents' Association Volunteer Link 2025/2026](#)
- Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising class group photographs for the annual 'School Calendar' earlier this morning. In support of their endeavours, we are also grateful to our local photographer, Pat O'Brien, who visits each year

- Best of luck to our *Sciath na Scol Football Teams 2025* 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

- *Staff Meeting* – Just a reminder, all pupils will finish and leave early tomorrow, **Tuesday, 30 September**. Please refer to details on page 1 of this note. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time
- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2025/2026* will open for a three week period from **Wednesday, 01 October until Wednesday, 22 October 2025**. All related details and application requirements available/accessible at www.belgoolyns.ie (Admissions tab) from **Wednesday, 01 October 2025**
- [Lá na gCrann 2025](#) – **Thursday, 02 October**
- *Sliabh Rua football coaching sessions (pupils from 2nd to 4th classes & Sciath na Scol Football Teams 2025/2026)* every Friday, please remember to bring gum shields each week
- 5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football – **Friday, 03 October**. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást playing Rathpeacon in Belgooly GAA Grounds. Girls at 11.00am & Boys at 11.45am. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- *World Mental Health Day (06 October)* – to mark the day, pupils in sixth class will have an opportunity to attend a *Mental Health Awareness Day* in Sáile Kinsale on **Monday, 06 October**. Further details in due course
- 5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football – **Tuesday, 07 October**. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást playing Farran in Belgooly GAA Grounds on Tuesday, 07 October. Girls at 11.30am & boys at 12.15pm. If you are available, please feel free to come along and support
- 5th & 6th Classes will avail of 'Hacked' & 'Pushed' workshops by Reuben [The Entertainer](#) on **Friday, 10 October**. The school is grateful to the Parents' Association for making this possible
- *Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun Blitzes* - Boys (6th Class) - **Thursday, 16 October** (venue/time tbc) & Girls (6th Class) – **Tuesday, 21 October** (venue/time tbc)
- *FAI Soccer League* – 6th Class girls and boys league commences on **Monday, 20 October** in Passage West (details tbc)
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Monday, 27 October to Friday, 31 October (incl.)**
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings* – **Thursday, 20 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 25 November (Day 2)**. Please refer to page 1 & 2 of this note for additional information

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy