

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

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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08/09/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 30 September at 1.50pm)

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **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.

SUMMER WORKS 2025

Over the years, through various grants from the Department of Education & Skills, voluntary family contributions and Parents' Association fundraising and the generous efforts of the local community, the school has been able to add to its physical infrastructure to meet growing needs. The school community has a strong historical commitment to maintaining the integrity of the fabric of the physical learning and working environment and it is encouraging that such a commitment is on-going.

During the Easter break, as part of the DoE's School Photovoltaic Programme, twelve solar panels were installed. To further assist with reducing the school's significant annual power costs, an additional twenty-four panels were also installed at the time, largely funded by the *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2024/2025*. Over the summer break, carpets were replaced in Rooms 9 & 10 and an extensive deep clean, upgrade, maintenance and repair works were also undertaken throughout the school, as well as the school grounds receiving their usual late summer tidy ahead of re-opening. In addition, the roof in the 1986 section of the school was replaced and funded by the DoE.

ANNUAL VOLUNTARY FAMILY CONTRIBUTION 2025/2026

While the Board of Management continues to exhaust every possible avenue in terms of available funding, the *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution* plays a very significant role in bringing about such improvements, as outlined above. Given the increased costs associated with expenditure in respect of the school's many wide-ranging operational and educational resource requirements, the Board requests an *Annual Voluntary family Contribution of €60.00*. In the interest of safety, ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is facilitating e-payment in respect of this voluntary collection - families will receive a text tomorrow, Tuesday, with related payment advice details. Please refer to *page 4* of this letter for further details on this payment type. The payment of this voluntary contribution is facilitated in a number of ways: a once off payment of €60; €10.00 at the start of each term – Term 1/Term 2/Term 3 or €12.00 every other month. Your on-going generosity and support is much appreciated.

PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2025/2026 (Allianz)

The Allianz Pupil Personal Accident 24 hour cover is operational for all pupils again this year and the fee is €8 for 24 hour cover. **Friday, 03 October** is designated date for final collection of money. For ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is facilitating e-payment in respect of this collection - families will receive a text tomorrow, Tuesday, with related payment advice details. Related details attached which provide further information on this scheme. **(Please note that VHI Swiftcare in Mahon is dedicated only to VHI customers)**

Over....

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2025/2026

Just a reminder, the **Scoil Mhuire na nGrást Parents' Association 'Welcome Evening 2025/2026'** for the parents/guardians of all pupils attending the school will be held in **halla na scoile on Thursday, 11 September (teas/coffees from 7.00pm with a PA presentation commencing at 7.30pm)**. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend. For further details, please refer to a previous HSN 28/08/2025 & a PA note 05/09/2025.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2026/2027' & 'OPEN EVENING' (THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER from 7.00-8.00pm)

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.

Furthermore, to facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit the school, *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* will host an **Open Evening on Thursday, 18 September, 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.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2023-2027

Due to a parent nominee vacancy (father) on the school's Board of Management (2023-2027), and in accordance with *Constitution of Boards & Rules of Procedure for Boards of Management*, please see a related letter attached from the Chairperson, Board of Management in respect of a by-election, to replace the parent nominee (father), at the school on **Thursday, 18 September at 8.20pm**.

LITERACY - CLASS LIBRARIES, 'KINSALE WORDS BY WATER FESTIVAL 2025' & CCC MOBILE LIBRARY

Our school year has gotten off to a wonderful start with pupils from various classes enjoying our libraries which have been funded jointly by the Parents' Association and the Board of Management in recent years. As part of our schools vision to create a community of lifelong readers, it is hoped to hold book events throughout the year to give children the opportunity to have positive experiences with books and reading and to strengthen our relationship with the local library in Kinsale. In this regard, some dates to note, Kinsale Library will host upcoming events, as part of the *Words by Water Festival*. The festival has activities of interest for everyone – [Words by Water 2025](#)

In addition, both of our Fifth Classes will have an opportunity to visit the mobile library when it visits the school every fortnight, commencing with Mr Hayes-Cutin's fifth class in the near future.

WEAVING WELL-BEING PROGRAMME (SECOND TO SIXTH CLASSES)

Pupils from **Second to Sixth Class** will be availing of the **Weaving Well-Being Programme** in school again this year. *Weaving Well-Being* is an Irish-designed *Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme which teaches children evidence-based skills and strategies to develop positive mental health and well-being. It is based on Positive Psychology, which is the science of well-being. The aim of the programme is to empower children to become active participants in creating, maintaining and boosting positive mental health throughout their lives.

Additional information on the programme can be found on the publisher's website *Outside the Box Learning Resources* www.otb.ie/WWB

'MANNERS MATTER' MONTH

As part of the school's *Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)* programme, pupils learn to care for and respect others including how people interact, communicate, live, play and work together. 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. During the month of September, pupils will explore the role that manners play in relating with others through role-play, drama, stories, poems, quotations and print in our environment (e.g. receipts). The importance of whole body listening, what good manners look like at home/school, social media manners, good sportsmanship, giving and receiving compliments, respecting differences, greetings and common courtesies will form part of the basis of class exploration on this topic.

"Good manners open the closed doors; bad manners close the open doors!" From a Turkish playwright

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The school's Code of Behaviour (available to view at <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/school-policies>) aims to promote a sense of mutual respect among all members of the school community. In this regard, class teachers will be reminding pupils, over the course of the month, of those simple, everyday efforts which help to support the school with such an endeavour. To assist, parents/guardians are also requested to remind pupils on this important matter. The pupils are to be commended for their excellent behaviour, which is often remarked upon during school excursions (i.e. tour venues, on buses, at matches....). The school is very grateful to school families for their continued support and co-operation in relation to the promotion of positive, respectful behaviour, which, of course, is also essential with facilitating effective teaching and learning.

BÍ CINEÁLTA POLICY (Revised Anti-Bullying Procedures)

In line with DEY guidelines, the school has developed a *Bí Cineálta* policy. The pupils, supported by staff members, also developed a pupil-friendly *Bí Cineálta* policy. Both policies are available to view on our school website on the following link – [School Policies](#)

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2025/2026

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.

Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to book an appointment time(s) next month, via Aladdin 'Connect'. Further details to be advised in due course.

BELGOOLY TIDY VILLAGES

Thank you to our friends in the *Belgooly Tidy Villages* for attending to the colourful wall flower containers at the school (see photos). Such autumnal colour is welcomed by the pupils, staff and many school visitors.

SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)

Class teachers will be providing pupils with their Seesaw *Home Learning Codes* over the coming weeks. To maintain everyone's familiarity with this online learning platform, some elements of homework will be assigned via Seesaw.

HSE 'BACK TO SCHOOL'

The HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing Podcast has returned with a *Back to School* theme, focusing on providing support to parents as children return to school.

Related details available at:

[Back to School \(Common Illnesses & Building Healthy Routine\)](#)

[Healthy Lunch Boxes for Kids](#)

[Screen Time & Young People](#)

A HSE *Back to School* health advise note for parents is also attached.

HOT SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME SCHEME 2025/2026

Further to a previous HSN (26/08/2025), just a reminder, Ashdale Catering has advised that there is a lead time of at least two full days (excl. Bank Holidays, Saturdays & Sundays) for any new food orders/food changes. **To assist with pupils with bringing home uneaten lunches, please ensure that your child has a suitable container in their bag to facilitate same.**

Of course, this is an optional service and pupils may wish to bring their own packed lunch to school. In any case, it is advisable that pupils also bring a drink and a smaller healthy food and/or fruit snack for the earlier break-time.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION & ALADDIN 'CONNECT'

During the course of the school year, your child will receive various notice board updates (*via Aladdin 'Connect'*) informing you of different aspects of general school information and events. In addition, our school website (www.belgoolyns.ie) hosts school information and educational links you may find useful (e.g. School Calendar 2025/2026, Parents' section, previous Home/School notes, Parental Complaints Procedure, Requisites List 2025/2026, Child Safeguarding Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, RSE Policy....)

Aladdin 'Connect', an online school communication/organisation/administration facility, assists parents in relation to advising the school in respect of pupil absences, allows parents to update family contact details, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, regular school news via notice-board message updates and furnishes families with the annual school report card.

Thank you to families who have **1) registered 2) downloaded the related app and 3) validated mobile phone number (please complete all 3 steps, the attached information sheets 'Parent Signup for Connect' & 'Set Up App Parents' will assist).**

Given the significant pupil numbers in the school, digital communication will be key in the facilitation of school organisation and arrangements for 2025/2026. **As advised last School Year (2024/2025), owing to rising costs, the school has discontinued sending messages, via text. Instead, messages will be sent via the Aladdin 'Connect' app message service. To receive same, it is important that all parents/guardians have verified their mobile number on Aladdin 'Connect'.**

The school now requests that one or both parents from each family to sign-up for *Aladdin 'Connect'* as this will be used increasingly as the school's main communication means (please refer to the related information sheet attached). For parents who now wish to sign-up for 'Connect', another unique access code will be forwarded by text on Wednesday morning.

Please remember to refresh your Aladdin 'Connect' app page on a regular basis.

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal

ePayment Facility Details

The school uses the Aladdin software service for administrative purposes and the ePayment system will give you access from an internet browser on your computer, phone or tablet to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent Central Bank directives.

Aladdin uses state of the art security to safeguard information entered by you and the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish data protection laws. Normal debit and credit card usage costs will apply.

On receiving a text containing your **payment access link**, you will be brought to a parent payment page which will contain payment details requested for your child's/family's money collection. You will require a phone with internet access or, alternatively, you can type the related link in an internet browser on a computer to make an ePayment. Once you have completed your payment, you will be issued with a reference number. Please quote this reference number in any queries you may have regarding this payment with the school.