

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

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
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13/11/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing [Application for Admission/Enrolment 2024/2025](#), where relevant for new school entrants 2024/2025 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of the following:

- *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
- *Lifetime Lab Workshops (3rd classes only - €9.00 per/pupil)* - E-payment link sent on 29/09/2023
- *6th Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day (09/10/2023) & Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale (6th Classes only - €8 per/child)* - E-payment link sent on 22/09/2023
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money (only as relevant)* – various e-payment dates in September & October
- *Sciath na Scol Football Final 2023 (3rd to 6th Classes only - €13.00 per/pupil)* – E-payment link sent on 06/11/2023

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, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2023, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates via 'Connect'.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION – 'SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024'

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. The PA has been liaising with local photographer, Pat O'Brien, and another local Belgooly man, Conor Coleman of *Island Memorial Cards* to ensure that it proceeds again this year.

In order to make certain that *School Calendar 2024*, always a favourite present for family members at Christmas, is available for distribution in December:

- School families will be able to order and pay online for *School Calendar 2024* for a two-week period only from **Tuesday, 14 November 2023 to Monday, 27 November 2023 (incl.)**
- You will receive a related link from the school tomorrow, **Tuesday, 14 November**
- To order, simply enter the relevant amount of money (i.e. €10 per calendar). **NOTE** – As €10.00 is the minimum amount required to purchase a calendar, this amount will appear by default in the payment box, however, you will need to amend same to reflect the number of calendars you may wish to purchase (for example, €20.00 for 2 calendars or €30.00 for 3 calendars and so on)
- Complete payment transaction
- **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Monday, 27 November**
- Calendars will be distributed to your eldest child in the school in mid-December

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association for the amount of time and effort spent organising *School Calendar 2024*.

/Over.....

FOLENS 'CHRISTMAS 2023 ANNUALS'

The Folens Christmas Annual is available to purchase (**€2.80 per annual**) at the school for a limited period. Should you wish to purchase an annual for your child, you will be able to order and pay for same online for a two-week period only from **Tuesday, 14 November 2023 to Monday, 27 November 2023 (incl.)**. You will receive a related link from the school tomorrow, **Tuesday, 14 November** and to order, simply tick the relevant box and complete payment transaction. Once paid, annuals will be distributed to pupils from week commencing Monday, 27 November. **The school will not be able to facilitate orders received after Monday, 27 November.**

Just to note:

- Junior & Senior Infants – *Súgradh* (Folens Christmas 2023 Annual)
- First & Second Classes – *Spraioi* (Folens Christmas 2023 Annual)
- Third & Fourth Classes – *Siamsa* (Folens Christmas 2023 Annual)
- Fifth & Sixth Classes – *Sonás* (Folens Christmas 2023 Annual)

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (23rd & 28th NOVEMBER 2023)

Further to a previous HSN (27/09/2023 & 12/10/2023), 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 23rd* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 28th*. 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 may book an appointment time(s), via Aladdin 'Connect'.

Thank you for engaging with the related booking facility on Aladdin 'Connect'. Our system of appointments will help ensure, with your co-operation, that you meet each teacher at the appointed time. We will have over 228 families visiting the school over the two days and, to assist with the smooth running of our meetings, we request your co-operation and support with the following:

- *Please arrange to be in the school before your first appointment*
- *If necessary, please knock on the teacher's door at the time of your appointment*
- *As teachers will have a number of 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*
- *If you have more than one child in the school, there will be ten minutes between appointments*
- *Should you be late for your appointment, it will be necessary to reschedule the meeting with the teacher*
- ***Please note, no electronic recording of any school meeting is permitted***
- *As per the aims of the school's Code of Behaviour, we are mindful that Parent/Teacher meetings serve to enhance the learning environment of the school by promoting a sense of mutual respect among all members of the school community, thus increasing co-operation between home and school*

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2023 (INFANTS TO SIXTH CLASSES)

Pupils and staff are currently busy preparing a variety of events to celebrate Christmas. We invite you to your child's Christmas celebration and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Please note details below:

- Thursday, 14 December: *Fifth Class (Ms. Murphy)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Thursday, 14 December: *Fourth Class (Ms. O'Callaghan & Mr. Lane)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Thursday, 14 December: *Junior Infant Classes (Ms. O'Donovan & Ms. Hurley)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Friday, 15 December: *Second Classes (Ms. O'Driscoll & Mr. Cotter)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Friday, 15 December: *Third Classes (Ms. O'Leary & Ms. Kelleher)* – Halla at 11.30am
- Friday, 15 December: *First Classes (Mrs. Clancy & Ms. O'Sullivan)* – Halla at 1.15pm
- Monday, 18 December: *Sixth Classes (Mr. Hayes-Curtin & Ms. O'Neill)* – Halla at 9.45am
- Monday, 18 December: *Senior Infant Classes (Ms. Collins & Mrs. Finn)* – Halla at 1.15pm

At the invitation of the school, we will have many visitors over these dates/times. Your co-operation and support with the following is required:

- To assist with school organisation and hall preparation, there will be no access to the halla until **15 minutes** prior to the commencement of a class presentation
- In the interest of comfort, safety and unnecessary disruption to classes, **siblings of the pupils performing will remain in their own respective classrooms during the course of each performance.** All pupils will have an opportunity to view the different presentations during the course of Christmas week with their classmates.
- In the interest of safety, **no hot beverages are permitted in the halla**
- **Just to note, in keeping with child protection practices, and in the interest of pupil and staff privacy, photos and videos are not permitted on the school premises at any stage during the visit**

Thank you for your co-operation and support in this regard. A contribution to our *Arts Education Fund* of **€5 per adult** on the day is requested. Any contribution would be very much appreciated.

SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & ‘BUG BUSTING’

As part of the school’s *SPHE Programme*, respiratory etiquette will be explored with classes over the coming weeks. If your child is unwell, it is recommended to remain at home until better.

Many thanks to families for your engagement with ‘Bug Busting’ night in September. To curtail and reduce occurrence of head lice, please ensure frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard.

SANTA’S VISIT!

Santa will visit the school week commencing Monday, 18 December.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please note that the school will close for the Christmas break on **Friday, 22 December at 12 noon**. School will re-open on **Monday, 08 January 2024**.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *Road Safety Month (October)* – Many thanks for your continuing support and cooperation in terms of road safety within the school environs.
- *Maths Week 2023 (16th to 24th October)* - All pupils took part in many activities & challenges during Maths week. Ms Kelleher's 3rd class won the competition for guessing the correct amount of sweets in a jar! Many thanks to all who entered the "Maths Eyes" competition where pupils created Maths questions related to their local environment. Congratulations to Sam Coughlan, Archie Madden, Jamie Russell & Ellie Darmody who won this competition.
- Many thanks to our *Parents’ Association* for decorating the gates and railing areas with some bewitching Halloween decorations and pumpkins just before the mid-term break. We wish the new committee all the very best for 2023/2024 and, as they plan activities for Christmas 2023, 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 complete the [‘Friend of the PA’](#) link. 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’*
- Our ICT equipment needs to be updated frequently, and we are very grateful to a parent who recently, through a workplace donation, secured three refurbished laptops, along with peripherals (wireless mice, keyboards etc.) for the school. Our school also received refurbished laptops through staff advocacy for which we are very thankful. This valuable equipment enables our school and staff to provide pupils with a high quality IT experience
- In support of the school’s efforts to secure a Biodiversity Green Flag, and to supplement the apple, plum, raspberries and blackcurrants growing in our ‘Orchard Area’, the school welcomes the addition of 10 additional fruit trees! As part of the [Orchards in the Community](#) initiative, we are grateful for parental advocacy in this regard

- The school's *Green Committee* and classes have been busy – distributing reminder signs to classes '*Dúnta, Múchta, Glanta & Imithe!*', planting spring bulbs, undertaking garden bird surveys, using Seesaw to gather evidence of plants, animals and birds in our environment, a Biodiversity Awareness survey has been devised and pupils will undertake same on iPads and the 'Wrapper Zappers' are assisting with keeping our school litter free....
- To all the pupils and staff for the wonderful classroom and corridor displays of the pupils' work (*see photos attached*)
- To the class teaching, SET and SNA teams for facilitating various Literacy/Numeracy Stations agus tacaíocht sa Ghaeilge freisin ar fud na scoile
- *Seesaw* - Thank you to everyone for your active engagement with *Seesaw* – an invaluable online learning platform
- In relation to '*Bug Busting*', thank you for your on-going attention in this regard. To curtail and reduce the occurrence of same, your on-going monitoring, co-operation and support throughout the school year is required

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Confirmation Meeting* (Parents/Guardians of pupils in Mr. Hayes-Curtin's Sixth Class) - Wednesday, 15 November at 7.30pm in the Carmelite Friary Centre, Kinsale (next to the Friary Church)
- *Sciath na Scol Football Final 2023* - Thursday, 16 November at 10.00am in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. For further details, please refer to a previous school email (06/11/2023). Scoil Mhuire na nGrást Abú!
- *Confirmation Meeting* (Parents/Guardians of pupils in Ms. O'Neill's Sixth Class) - Thursday, 16 November at 7.30pm in the Carmelite Friary Centre, Kinsale (next to the Friary Church)
- Fundamental rugby skills with rugby coach, Santiago Gonzalez – Fourth Class (November 2023) & Third Class (December 2023 & January 2024)
- *School Science Week 2023 (20th -24th November)* - Inventors Trail, Science Workshops and other activities (see below)
- *Engineer's Visit (Ms O'Callaghan's Fourth Class)* – Tuesday, 21 November
- *Lifetime Lab Primary Science Quiz* - Tuesday, 21 November at 6.30pm in Devere Hall, UCC (sign in available from 5.45pm)
- *First Penance/Communion Meeting* (Parents/Guardians of pupils in Mr. Cotter's Second Class) - Tuesday, 21 November at 7.30pm in the Carmelite Friary Centre, Kinsale (next to the Friary Church)
- *PepsiCo Science Visit* (Sixth Classes) - Wednesday, 22 November
- *First Penance/Communion Meeting* (Parents/Guardians of pupils in Ms. O'Driscoll's Second Class) - Wednesday, 22 November at 7.30pm in the Carmelite Friary Centre, Kinsale (next to the Friary Church)
- *Parent/Teacher Meetings* – **Thursday, 23 November & Tuesday, 28 November**. Children will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on Thursday and at 2.50pm on Tuesday. The usual school bus provision will operate at these times. Usual 1.50pm finishing time for Junior & Senior Infants on both these dates. Please refer to *page 2* of this note for further details
- *School Calendar 2024* – closing date for orders is **Monday, 27 November**
- *Folens Christmas Annual 2023* – closing date for orders is **Monday, 27 November**
- Santa will visit the school **w/c Monday, 18 December**
- Class Christmas Presentations (December 2023) - Please refer to *page 2 & 3* of this note for further details
- The school will close for the Christmas break on **Friday, 22 December at 12 noon**. School will re-open on **Monday, 08 January 2024**

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal