

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
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10/10/2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation with completing [Application for Admission/Enrolment 2025/2026](#), where relevant for new school entrants 2025/2026 only, and for forwarding monies requested in respect of 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'. **Owing to rising costs, the school plans on discontinuing sending messages, via text, from January 2025. Instead, messages will be 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'. In this regard, please refer to the related information sheet attached**
- *Annual Voluntary Family Contribution 2024/2025* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 11/09/2024
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2024/2025* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 11/09/2024
- *Junior Infant Requisites 2024/2025* (Junior Infant classes only - €20 per/child). E-payment link sent on 26/09/2024
- *Senior Infant Requisites 2024/2025* (Senior Infant classes only - €15 per/child). E-payment link sent on 12/09/2024
- *6th Class KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day (08/10/2024) & Bus Transport to Sáile Sports & Community Centre, Kinsale (6th Classes only - €10 per/child)* - E-payment link sent on 30/09/2024
- *5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Bus money (only as relevant)* – various e-payment dates in September

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/early collection/late arrival, book Parent/Teacher meeting appointment(s) for November 2024, provide various permissions in relation to certain activities, receive regular school news via notice-board message updates via 'Connect'.

SCIATH NA SCOL

Well done to the boys and girls from 5th and 6th classes who have just finished their *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Football League*. They played great games against Rochestown, Cloghroe and Innishannon. We now look forward to the hurling leagues in the spring. In this regard, the school's GAA coach, Jack Deasy, will commence coaching pupils from 3rd to 6th classes, beginning on Thursday, 18 October. Pupils from these classes will require a hurley and helmet. The school wishes to express its appreciation to the Sliabh Rua Hurling, Football and Camogie clubs for facilitating these sessions.

RUGBY SESSIONS

Pupils in both 2nd classes are currently enjoying rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez. The children are learning the skills of rugby through play and experience and are having lots of fun. Pupils in 3rd classes will commence rugby training after the mid-term break. Thank you to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

/Over.....

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2024/2025 (HALLOWEEN & SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025)

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 week of the half-term. To further add to the spirit, pupils may, if they wish, wear a costume on the final day of the half-term (i.e. Friday, 25 October) 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 photographs for the calendar were recently taken 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 next month

The Parents' Association always require assistance with these activities, should you be available to help in any way, please feel free to complete the '*Friend of the PA*' link – [Parents' Association Volunteer Form 2024/2025](#)

In relation to *Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free*, and the related PA & BoM correspondence last week (02/10/2024), parents/guardians are encouraged to complete the [survey](#) by no later than **Friday, 01 November**. Your view as a parent/guardian is important to help inform the approach to this important initiative.

Also, just a reminder that KYSS will host an *Internet Safety & Cyberbullying* talk for parents & guardians later this evening, **Thursday, 10 October at 7.30pm in Acton's Hotel**.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH WEEK (08/10/2024)

To celebrate *World Mental Health Week*, Kinsale Youth Support Services (KYSS) hosted a *Mental Health Awareness Day* in Sáile Kinsale Community Centre for local 6th class pupils on Tuesday.

The purpose of this event was to make young people more aware of their own mental and physical wellbeing, while also creating an awareness of community support groups. Mental Health/wellbeing organisations were invited by KYSS to meet and share information with the pupils on activities and supports that are available in the locality. Some of the groups present were: *Community First Responders; Community Garda; KUK Sool Won; CrossFit Kinsale; Art Therapy; Kinsale Fire Services; Kinsale Youth Support Services; Kinsale Library; Kinsale Youth Community Centre; Kinsale Youth Theatre and Elasník Computers*.

The pupils enjoyed a workshop with a local psychotherapist specialising in teen counselling. Speaking on anxiety, she shared strategies on how best to seek help and support. They also attended a workshop with a psychologist who discussed different personality traits, emphasising that it's okay to be different and to be content with the way we are.

Thank you to all the team at KYSS.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS (THURSDAY, 21st & TUESDAY, 26th NOVEMBER 2024)

Further to a previous HSN (24/09/2024), Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 21 & Tuesday, 26 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 21st* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 26th*. 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'. It is advisable to book early and to assist, a related *Aladdin 'Connect' Parent/Teacher Meeting* information sheet is attached.

Our system of appointments will help ensure, with your co-operation, that you meet each teacher at the appointed time. We will have over 229 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*

ROAD SAFETY MONTH & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY

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. It was encouraging to see so many families partaking in our *Active Travel Day* yesterday – walking, cycling/scooting, travelling by bus, car-pooling!

In relation to the *Safe Routes to School* programme (SRTS), and further to related communication (07/10/2024), families are reminded about sharing their feedback with *An Taisce's SRTS team* on [SURVEY](#) by no later than **Thursday, 31 October 2024**. School staff and pupils will also have an opportunity to complete a survey. It is timely that we are requested to attend to these surveys during *Road Safety Month*. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing co-operation and support with these safety measures.

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2025/2026'

For those families with new entrants for next school year (i.e. 2025/2026), 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) 2025/2026*' opened last week from Tuesday, 01 October 2024 until Tuesday, 22 October 2024. 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 2025, to check these details on the website.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- *Open Evening* – To facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit, the school held an Opening Evening on Thursday, 26 September. Families enjoyed visiting the various classrooms and engaging with staff, pupils and parents to learn about school life in *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást*. Thank you to the staff, pupils and Parents' Association for your involvement with planning, organising and assisting on the evening. We look forward to welcoming these new families to the school over the coming years ahead
- The classes celebrated *Lá na gCrann* on Thursday, 03 October with a tree 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, *Planting Trees for a Brighter Future*, saw pupils add an additional hawthorn tree to our school grounds. In celebration of Autumn, please see a photo of a school noticeboard display attached.
- *Manners Matters Month* – the boys and girls are, as always, displaying exemplary behaviour and being respectful to others. This was noted by recent visitors to the school and when attending events outside the school (e.g. KYSS event, Sciath na Scol matches..)

- *Corridor Display/Projects:* Our corridors resemble a fine gallery featuring art, literacy and class project work through various media (see photos attached). Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to see this fine work when visiting the school for Parent/Teacher meetings next month. Remember to book your appointment time(s) on Aladdin 'Connect'. To assist, a related information sheet is attached
- Well done to all the coaches and helpers who supported the boys and girls in their *Sciath na Scol Football 2024* journey. Their progress in the game reflects the skills developed and we now look forward to our third classes participation in the in-door Carrigdhoun Football blitzes over the coming months. The school is grateful to the local clubs for their continued support.
- A new and enthusiastic *Green Committee* has been formed for this coming year, comprising of pupils from 5th & 6th classes. Through various activities throughout the coming year, they will embark on activities that consolidate the six themes on our Green Flag Project, namely Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Global Citizenship & the Marine Environment, Travel and Biodiversity. Go n-éirí leo! *Walk to School Week* is currently being promoted by *An Taisce Green Schools*. In an effort to promote healthy and sustainable travel, the school community participated in an *Active Travel Day* yesterday, Wednesday. The photos attached, provide an opportunity to review the work/projects of the school in this area over the past year
- *Road Safety Month* – Given the heightened necessity for Road Safety during the winter months, the pupils are engaging with related activities at school
- *School Attendance* – Thank you to everyone for your engagement with 'Attendance Note' on Aladdin 'Connect'. Good attendance helps develop confidence and self-esteem. To assist families with monitoring attendance, all families will receive a generic text, via Aladdin, advising of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30.... day absence notifications, where relevant. As previously advised, 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*)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *School Celebration* - Further to a previous Home/School note (29/08/2024), to mark the retirement of Mr Risteárd Cotter and Mrs Maria Crean and Mrs Karen Whelan's departure to another school, the school will host a celebration tomorrow afternoon, **Friday (1.45-2.50pm), 11 October**
- Ahead of **Maths Week 2024 (12 – 20 October)**, pupils are currently enjoying problem solving and working collaboratively in their Maths classes using *Izak9* blocks
- *4th & 5th Classes* will attend a *Golf Taster* session, hosted by *Golf Ireland*, on **Wednesday, 16 October**
- **Halloween Celebrations on Friday, 25 October** – 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
- Please note that there is **no hot school lunch provision on Friday, 25 October. Pupils will need to bring their own lunches on the day**
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Monday, 28 October to Friday, 01 November (incl.)**.
- *Safe Routes to School (SRTS)* - Further to related communication (07/10/2024), families are reminded about sharing their feedback with the *An Taisce's SRTS Team* on [SURVEY](#) by no later than **Thursday, 31 October 2024**
- *Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free* - families are encouraged to complete the related [survey](#) by no later than **Friday, 01 November**
- *Lifetime Lab Primary Science Quiz* – **Wednesday, 13 November** Devere Hall, UCC
- *Third Class Carrigdhoun Football Blitzes* – **November/December 2024**
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings* – **Thursday, 21 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 26 November (Day 2)**. Please refer to pages 2 & 3 of this note for additional information.

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal