

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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

Telephone: 021 4770712

Email: belgoolyns@gmail.com

Website: www.belgoolyns.ie

27/09/2021

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 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
- *Non-Book Rental Scheme Participants 2020/2021* (€5 per child). In relation to Non-Book Rental Scheme participants, **Friday 01 October** is designated date for final collection of money. This may be forwarded to class teacher. Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 05 October)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave **on Tuesday, 05 October** in the following series:

- '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.

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

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

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SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)

Class teachers have been finalising details in relation to providing pupils with their Seesaw *Home Learning Codes* over the past couple of weeks. To maintain everyone's familiarity with this online learning platform, some elements of homework will be assigned via Seesaw.

/Over.....

'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2022/2023'

Further to a related email last week (23/09/2021) to school families, please note that 'Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2022/2023' will open from Monday, 04 October until Friday, 05 November 2021. All related details and application requirements will be available at www.belgoolyns.ie ('Admissions' tab) from next Monday.

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.

BIKE SHELTER & BIKE WEEK 2021

The school's Green committee managed to secure funding for the installation of a bike shelter on the school grounds over the summer. This has been a wonderful addition to further promote cycling among the pupils. Festooned with bunting together with an appropriate playlist of bicycle-themed songs ensured a fitting 'opening ceremony' for this new arrival during the school's recent 'Bike Week'. Also as part of Bike Week 2021, funded by Cork Sports Partnership, Mr Ulick O'Beirne of Bike Wizards visited the school and 3rd, 5th & 6th classes took part in bike skill and bike maintenance workshops.

The school's An Taisce Green School contact, Catherine Russell, also attended on the day. Thank you to Ms O'Sullivan & Mrs Clancy for co-ordinating these events.

ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

On a related matter, and 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. Class teachers work in this area will be supported by a series of visits, over three days, from Paul Stafford, a Road Safety Promotional Officer with Cork County Council. Paul will host a number of workshops and presentations in this important area. The main themes covered will be walking, cycling, travelling on the school bus and transport. The *Road Safety Authority* website (www.rsa.ie), also features many resources and an information leaflet entitled, *Going to School*, which may assist you in further exploring this topic with your child.

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their co-operation and support in facilitating a flow of traffic outside the school in the mornings and afternoons. In the interests of safety, and in order to accommodate bus parking, staff parking and pupil set-down/collection by parents, it is important that traffic congestion is avoided, thus ensuring available space for everyone. In the interests of safety and the consideration of all road users, it makes the following recommendations:

- ***To observe the new pedestrian pathway markings on the approach road to the school***
- ***To park on the Belgooly side of the school entrance in the morning, 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 might, therefore, endeavour to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off and collected***
- ***To park perpendicular to hedge***
- ***To observe access areas of local residents in the area***
- ***The pedestrian pathway marking on the approach road to the school is an essential safety measure for all walking to and from school on a daily basis. Please keep the pathway clear for all walkers. All families have previously received a Garda Síochána & Cork County Council 'Park Safely at School' leaflet, *Be Visible Look & Listen*, (and requested to retain same) which outlined safety measures for all road users in respect of road safety within the school environs***
- ***To be mindful of all other road users in the school environs***

Please bring these recommendations to the attention of child minders/others. The Board trusts that everyone will be mindful of these recommendations and looks forward to your continued support and co-operation.

'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 October, 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

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 - <https://pdst.ie/node/811>

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM 2021 – TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM, VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

The school's Parents' Association will hold their AGM tomorrow evening, Tuesday, 28 September 2021 at 7.30pm, via Zoom webinar. All parents/guardians are invited to attend and you will receive a related meeting link tomorrow, Tuesday, just prior to the meeting.

The Parents' Association & Friends of the Parents' Association are to be commended for their committed and resourceful efforts that have enhanced school life for all throughout the past year. Their tenacious presence and generous contribution during this challenging time has brought a sense of familiarity, fun and eager anticipation to school life for pupils, staff and parents at various times throughout the past year.

Halloween decorations, School Calendar 2021, Santa visit and treats, 3rd to 6th Class Bingo, a revamp of the Sensory Garden, 'Garden Angel' work by way of planting and replanting trees, 6th Class *School Fest 2021*, School Sports Day 2021 treat, assistance with 'Sand Sculpting' workshop at Roberts Cove and Book Rental Scheme 2021/2022 have all featured as part of their busy schedule of work and activities.

The P.A. is most generous with its time and talents. However, its very successful efforts are dependent on the continued support, co-operation and practical and positive help of all parents/guardians. They therefore welcome as many people as possible to the AGM meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, to hear about the many activities that have been undertaken over the past year, the work of the PA and what is entailed. There is always a welcome for new PA committee members to assist and share the tasks involved in organising and planning for the various events for your children for the year ahead. In this regard, a previous email (22/09/2021) contains a 'Nomination' link for anyone who may be interested in joining the committee. We have 228 school families and your support in helping the Parents' Association going forward in 2021/2022 in any way would be most welcome and appreciated.

HSE HEALTH PROMOTION & IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The HSE Health Promotion & Improvement Department has recently developed an **Information Leaflet for Parents**, with information on health topics such as mental health, healthy eating and physical activity. This leaflet outlines the key messages on each topic and details further websites where more information can be obtained. A PDF of this leaflet is attached.

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

Further to previous Home/School communication (08/09/2021), 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. 'Attendance note' is a feature of 'Connect' that is now also available to families. Parents/Guardians will be able 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.

STAFF RETIREMENT

Having given 41 years' teaching service, both in the UK and Ireland, Mrs. Breda Harrington (who joined the permanent teaching staff at *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást Belgooly* in 2000) retired at the end of August. As Special Educational Needs Teacher, the school has been fortunate to avail of Breda's extensive and dependable expertise in this area and, as part of her role as Assistant Principal, her discerning pedagogical insights in the area of mathematical education and numeracy development. Her generous efforts and a tenacious approach have helped ensure that all pupils at *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* were supported in reaching their full potential. Her selfless contribution to learning and general school life in so many areas over the years has been pivotal to the school's development and the school community is most grateful for this. Mrs. Harrington will return to the school on Friday, 15 October and we will mark this significant achievement. We wish Breda the very best of luck for the future.

WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS

- **'Red for Cork'** - To mark the Cork Senior Camogie Team playing in the All-Ireland Camogie Final earlier in the month, the school was a sea of 'Red & White' on Friday, 10 September. Well done everyone!
- **'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
- **Communions (Saturday 11th September) & Confirmations (Friday 10th & 17th September)** – it was with a sense of anticipation and excitement that the pupils, parents, staff and wider community celebrated the Clontead Parish Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies over the past couple of weeks. The boys, girls and their families enjoyed the celebration and were so fortunate to have such beautiful weather. The pupils' preparation was indeed a community effort and well done to everyone in respect of your own unique contribution

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2022 2023* will 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).
- *Staff Meeting* – all pupils will finish and leave early on Tuesday, 05 October. Please refer to details on page 1 of this note. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time
- *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
- *School Mid-term Break* – Monday, 25 October to Friday, 29 October (incl.)

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal