

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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10/01/2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break and to wish you all a Happy New Year!

December was a busy month. Well done to our *Parents' Association* and the *Friends of the Parents Association* for creating a magical Christmas grotto, to facilitate Santa's visit. The P.A.'s *School Calendar 2024* (a limited number of copies available to purchase for €10.00 from the school office), is, once again, a great success. The pupils and staff are also to be complimented for their Christmas 2023 presentations last month.

### ***NEW PRIMARY MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM 'OIDE' STAFF IN-SERVICE & SCHOOL CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2024)***

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate staff training, organised by *Oide*, please note that the school will remain closed on **Tuesday, 16 January**. For further information on the New Primary Mathematics Curriculum, please see related details attached. Sherpa and After-School Irish Dance Classes will not operate on the day.

### ***STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2024)***

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school **on Tuesday, 30 January 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.

### ***NCSE WHOLE-SCHOOL STAFF AUTISM TRAINING DAY & SCHOOL CLOSURE (FRIDAY, 02 FEBRUARY 2024)***

In order to facilitate staff training, organised by the *National Council for Special Education (NCSE)*, please note that the school will remain closed on **Friday, 02 February**. Sherpa and After-School Art Classes will not operate on the day.

### ***NEW PUPIL FURNITURE***

Having received some related funding from the Department of Education, the school received a delivery of new pupil furniture last Friday. It has now been distributed to the designated rooms and the former pupil tables and chairs are currently being stored in 'Halla na Scoile'. Should you wish, there is an opportunity for school families **to purchase a pupil desk and two pupil chairs for €20.00 (cash)**. In this regard, please feel free to visit 'Halla na Scoile' on the following dates & times:

- Friday, 12 January 2024 (between 09.30am & 10.30am OR 1.15pm & 2.30pm)
- Monday, 15 January 2024 (between 09.30am & 10.30am OR 1.15pm & 2.30pm)
- Wednesday, 17 January 2024 (between 09.30am & 10.30am OR 1.15pm & 2.30pm)

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### **FILING CABINET REQUEST**

On another school furniture matter, and in keeping with the school's sustainable and circular economy endeavours, should any parent/guardian be aware of a filing cabinet (4-drawer with key and in full working order) which may be surplus to requirements, it would be appreciated if you could make contact with the school office, with a view to a possible donation.

### **DAILY SCHOOL TIMETABLE & ASSEMBLY/DISMISSAL**

The Board of Management wishes to remind families of the school's daily school assembly and dismissal arrangements:

- 9.00 - 9.10am - Outside assembly
- 9.10 - 9.20 – Classroom Assembly (all pupils are expected to be in school by no later than 9.20am)
- 1.50pm – Junior & Senior Infant departure (from the main school gate)
- 2.50pm – All other pupils depart (from the main school gate)

The school premises will open to receive pupils at 9.00 am. For their own health and safety, the children are not permitted to enter the school grounds any earlier than 9.00am and parents/carers and pupils are advised not to gather outside the school before 9.00am. Upon arrival at school, from 9.00am onwards, pupils should go straight to their designated class lines for outside assembly. The school will open at 9.10am and pupils will proceed to assemble in their respective classrooms. All pupils are expected to be at school by no later than 9.20am as formal instruction commences at this time.

In the afternoon, all pupils, including infant pupils, may be collected from the main school gate. Classes will end each day for all pupils at 2.50pm (with the exception of Junior & Senior Infants who finish classes and leave school each day at 1.50pm). Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate. The person to escort them should be at the school by no later than 2.50pm (or 1.50pm in the case of Junior & Senior Infants) as the school is not in a position to accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

### **SCHOOL ACCESS**

The Board of Management wishes to remind all parents and guardians that no adults, other than staff members, should enter the school building or grounds, unless by prior arrangement and/or on the express permission of the Principal or Deputy Principal, or on an established basis/arrangement with the teacher. Please note that this is in keeping with Health and Safety guidelines and also with child protection legislation. It should also be noted that if a parent/guardian wishes to meet an individual teacher, he/she should first contact the School Office to make the appropriate arrangements. Messages for teachers can be sent by (1) writing a note to the class teacher **or** (2) emailing the school at [belgoolyns@gmail.com](mailto:belgoolyns@gmail.com) **or** (3) by phoning the school office (021 4770712). The Board of Management would like to remind all parents and guardians to be aware that it is obliged to take the safety and well-being of all the pupils and staff in the school very seriously.

### **COLLECTION OF CHILDREN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

Should a parent/carer need to collect a child during the school day, he/she is asked to advise the relevant class teacher in advance by (1) Noting the early collection on Aladdin 'Connect' **or** (2) writing a note to the class teacher **or** (3) emailing the school at [belgoolyns@gmail.com](mailto:belgoolyns@gmail.com) **or** (4) by phoning the school office (021 4770712). The child will be brought from his/her class to the main school office area to meet with his/her parent/carer.

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2023/2024)**

Parents are requested to inform the Board, through the Principal, of any allergies or any *Specific Requirements* of their child. The Board will then inform all parents of a food allergy within the school. Without identifying any individual pupils, the teachers will make their pupils aware of food allergies. This, the Board hopes will provide a safe environment and invites parents, staff, pupils and school visitors for their co-operation.

Because the consequences of a child having an allergic reaction can be serious, the Board assumes that the whole school community will assist in making the school as safe as is reasonably possible for each child. **Regarding School Year 2023/2024, please note we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Senior Infants, First, Second, Third, Fourth & Sixth Classes – hazel nut, peanut and cashew nut allergies) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same.** We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024**

Catholic Schools Week 2024 will be celebrated from *Sunday, 21 January to Saturday, 27 January 2024*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2024 (CSW2024) is '**Catholic Schools: Communities of Service**'. Over the course of the week, we will explore our schools as communities of service – Service in Our Community of Friends/School Community/Family Community/Local Community/Faith Community.

### **GREEN COMMITTEE (Green Flag & Biodiversity Initiatives)**

Through the advocacy of a parent, the school was fortunate to receive ten mixed fruit trees through the *Orchards in the Community - DC for Bees* initiative ([www.orchards.ie](http://www.orchards.ie)). Six apple trees, two plum and two pear trees have been now planted on the school grounds by the *Parents' Association 'Garden Angels Group'*, as well as the very enthusiastic Senior Infants and First classes.

After successfully planting a *Wild Flower Meadow* section in the school last year (2022/2023), pupils from 3rd- 6th classes have now been invited to participate in a local social enterprise, *Patchwork Meadow Project*, to plant some wildflower seeds in their garden in March. By way of introduction to the project, Raffaella Valenti, from [www.regenerateourecosystem.ie](http://www.regenerateourecosystem.ie), shared related details with pupils from these classes.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Sciath na Scol** - Well done to the pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol indoor football blitz. The pupils displayed some great teamwork and skills while having lots of fun. Thank you to Ms. O'Leary, Ms. Kelleher, Ms. O'Driscoll, Ms. O'Donovan and Mrs. Sugrue for training the pupils and accompanying them to the blitz in Riverstick.

The pupils in 4<sup>th</sup> class will take part in the upcoming Sciath na Scol Chorcaí indoor hurling blitzes this month. In this regard, please note some details below:

- **4<sup>th</sup> Class Camogie** on today, Wednesday, 10 January at 12 noon in Bishopstown GAA Grounds
- **4<sup>th</sup> Class Hurling** on Wednesday, 17 January at 12 noon in Nemo Rangers GAA Club

Pupils in these classes will need their hurleys and helmets in January. Sciath na Scol Hurling training for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will commence next month and these pupils will also require hurleys and helmets.

Best of luck to sixth class pupils who will take part in the **Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz on Monday, 15 January at 4.00pm in the Rochestown Park Hotel.**

**City Sports** – Just to note, this year's **City Sports** will take place on **Thursday, 30 May** in MTU. Further details in due course

**Rugby** - Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. It is planned that pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will have an opportunity to avail of these sessions later next month. Thank you to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

### **GAEILGE & BUA NA CAINTE (Parent App)**

To complement the teaching of *Bua na Cainte* in the school, *Edco* has developed a free app for parents. It is accessible on all devices - laptop, mobile-phone and tablet. Conversations, songs, poems, rhymes and stories on the familiar themes - Mé Féin, An Scoil, Bia, Caitheamh Aimsire, An Aimsir, Éadaí, Sa Bhaile, An Teilifís, Ag Siopadóireacht & Ócáidí Speisialta can be viewed. You may access the *Bua na Cainte* themes on <https://buaathome.ie/> Go n-eirí libh!

### ***SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & ‘BUG BUSTING NIGHT (THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY)***

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.

While the prevalence of head lice is a community dilemma, the school, for its part, requests that all parents/guardians engage with a ‘Bug Busting’ night at home tomorrow evening, ***Thursday 11 January***. It is hoped that such a whole school approach – at the start of a new school term - will assist detection and, should the need arise, provide families with the opportunity to engage with head louse treatment measures over the coming weekend. To assist, there will be no homework assigned tomorrow evening and please find attached a HSE information sheet on the matter. Your local pharmacist will also be in a position to advise. It is important that all families co-operate and support this initiative and engage with frequent checks throughout the school year in this regard.

### ***SHERPA - BEFORE & AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDCARE PROVISION***

Should you wish to avail of this service, Sherpa has requested that, in the first instance, contact be made via email at [bns@sherpakids.ie](mailto:bns@sherpakids.ie)

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that this activity, facilitated by an independent contractor, is independent of the primary function of the school. Therefore, all queries, related arrangements (including, where necessary, individual pupil needs/requirements) and other contact in respect of this facility is to be made directly and separately with Sherpa and not through the school office.

### ***WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS***

- Following the *6th Class Sciath na Scol Football Final 2023* in November, well done to the pupils, staff, school families, community supporters and local Sliabh Rua coaches for all their support and assistance. For facilitating training and attendance at matches, thank you to Ms. O’Leary, Ms. O’Driscoll, Ms. O’Donovan, Mr. Lane, Mr Hayes-Curtin and Ms C Murphy
- During *Science Week* in November, the pupils had an opportunity to experience some related events. An engineer’s visit to 4<sup>th</sup> Class, a number of 6<sup>th</sup> class students represented the school in *The Lifetime Labs Science Quiz* in UCC and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils enjoyed a *PepsiCo Science* workshop. In respect of the latter, the school is grateful for parental advocacy in this regard and to all staff for organising related events
- *Parent/Teacher Meeting*: We would like to thank parents/guardians for your co-operation and support with related arrangements in November
- Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Riverstick Festival Committee’s *Christmas Market 2023* colouring/Art competition last month

### ***SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS***

- *Maths Stations* – Given the success of literacy station teaching over the past number of years, the school continues to expand this same practice in relation to the teaching of mathematics. For the next number of weeks, pupils in various classes will continue to engage with station teaching in this curricular area
- *4<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol In-door Camogie* on today, ***Wednesday, 10 January at 12 noon*** in Bishopstown GAA Grounds
- *Rugby Skills Training* – Third Classes (January/February) & Second Classes (February/March)
- *Bug Busting Night* – ***Thursday, 11 January***
- *School Furniture Sale (desk x1 & chair x2 - €20 cash)* - ***Friday, 12 January 2024*** (between 09.30am & 10.30am OR 1.15pm & 2.30pm)
- *School Furniture Sale (desk x1 & chair x2 - €20 cash)* - ***Monday, 15 January 2024*** (between 09.30am & 10.30am OR 1.15pm & 2.30pm)
- *Sciath na Scol Sports Quiz* on ***Monday, 15 January at 4.00pm*** in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

- *Primary Mathematics Curriculum 'Oide' Staff In-Service* – School Closure on **Tuesday, 16 January 2024**. Please refer to page 1 for further details
- *School Furniture Sale (desk x1 & chair x2 - €20 cash) - Wednesday, 17 January 2024* (between 09.30am & 10.30am OR 1.15pm & 2.30pm)
- *4th Class Sciath na Scol In-door Hurling* on **Wednesday, 17 January at 12 noon** in Nemo Rangers GAA Club
- *Catholic Schools Week 2024* will be celebrated from **Sunday, 21 January to Saturday, 27 January 2024**. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2024 (CSW2024) is '*Catholic Schools: Communities of Service*'. Please refer to page 3 for further details.
- *RSE Programme* – Further to recent correspondence (09/01/2024), all classes will engage with the RSE Programme from week commencing **Monday, 22 January until April 2024 (incl.)**.
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on **Tuesday, 30 January at 1.50pm**. Please refer to page 1 for further details. School bus provision will operate at this earlier time.
- *NCSE Whole-School Staff Autism Training Day* – School Closure on **Friday, 02 February 2024**. Please refer to page 1 for further details
- **Monday, 05 February (Public Holiday)** – School Closure
- *Safer Internet Day 2024* – **Tuesday, 06 February 2024**. Information pertaining to *Safer Internet Day 2024* is available for parents on <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/> . Please be mindful that parental monitoring of your child's internet and mobile device usage on a regular basis is necessary and essential.
- *Clontead Parish First Penance* – **Wednesday, 07 February 2024 (Belgooly Church – Mr. Cotter's Class at 6.00pm & Ms. O'Driscoll's Class at 7.30pm)**
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Thursday & Friday, 15 & 16 February (incl.)**
- *Clontead Parish Confirmation Day* – **Thursday, 29 February 2024**

Yours faithfully,  
Diarmuid Hennessy+