

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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02/04/2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (TUESDAY, 29 APRIL at 1.50pm)**

To facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school on **Tuesday, 29 April 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.

### **SCIATH NA SCOL (HURLING & CAMOGIE BLITZES, SCIATH NA SCOL CHORCAÍ)**

Well done to the boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> class who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun indoor camogie and hurling blitzes in Páirc Uí Chaoimh! These were non-competitive blitzes and all forty-seven pupils showed great teamwork and skill. They also availed of a tour of the stadium, where they saw the Cork dressing rooms and also stood in the spot where the Cork captain will hopefully be lifting the League cup on Sunday, 06 April!!

As part of the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí 2025, the boys and girls in 5th/6th classes are playing in the highest division (Roinn 1). They have already played Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann, Newcestown and Riverstown. Unfortunately, the results didn't go our way, but they showed great heart and determination in all games, right to the final whistle! Best of luck to both teams in their final remaining game on **Tuesday, 29 April**. They will play **Carrigtwohill in Carrigtwohill GAA Grounds** and both games are at **11.15am**. Thank you to our wonderful supporters who have taken the time to travel and encourage the players and coaches at the various fixtures. If you are available on Tuesday, 29 April, please come along to support.

### **SCHOOL HURLING/CAMOGIE COACHING**

Pupils from First & Second Classes and the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí teams are enjoying their hurling/camogie training with Ryan Deasy (Sliabh Rua Coach & Cork Hurling U-20 Player 2025). Junior & Senior Infants and Third & Fourth Classes will commence their hurling/camogie training after the Easter break. In this regard, and further to Requisite Lists (2024/2025), pupils will need a hurley and helmet. The school would like to acknowledge the generous support of our local Sliabh Rua Clubs for this additional coaching provision.

### **FAI 5-A-SIDE SOCCER BLITZ**

FAI 5-a-side Soccer Blitz were held last month. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást was represented by four teams (2 x girls and 2 x boys). All players were superb and all four teams played very well in their rounds with the boys progressing to the semi-finals. They supported each other very well and showed some good skill. Thank you to Mrs Finn, Mr Hayes-Curtin, Ms O'Leary & Ms O'Callaghan for training all the boys and girls.

### **RUGBY SESSIONS**

Pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> classes are enjoying their rugby sessions with Munster Rugby schools coach, Santiago Gonzalez, before the Easter break. Pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> class will have an opportunity to avail of these sessions after the Easter break. Thank you to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

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**CORK PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS 2025**

Well done to all the boys and girls who raced in the Cork Primary School Sports trials last month. Congratulations to all those who qualified and will represent the school in MTU on Thursday, 29 May – boys (morning) & girls (afternoon) . For those participating, further details to follow in due course. We would like to thank our Cork City Sports Committee for organising our school's participation at this annual event.

**UCC (SCHOOL OF EDUCATION) PARTNERSHIP – (A) MOVEMENT SKILLS (B) SCIENCE EDUCATION (C) UCC TOUR**

Pupils from Senior Infants, Ms Kelleher's Third Class, Ms O'Callaghan's Fifth Class and Mr Lane's Fourth class are currently availing of a fundamental movement skills programme, a coaching initiative as part of UCC's Physical Education, Sports Studies & Arts course (B.Ed 3<sup>rd</sup> Year). As availability to participate is limited, we are grateful to UCC for considering Scoil Mhuire na nGrást.

Separately, the school also benefits from an association with UCC's B.Ed Science Education programme. As part of an eight-week science education initiative, staff and pupils welcomed a course participant, and former pupil, to our Fifth and Sixth classes.

Pupils and staff from Fourth classes enjoyed a visit and tour of UCC last week. Donning replica conferring gowns, designing their own ogham stone, learning to use a map and availing of science/physics-based activity in the Crawford Observatory all featured during this exciting excursion. The school is most grateful to parental advocacy for securing this trip and also for a significant financial contribution in respect of the related bus hire.

**OTHER RECENT EVENTS**

**First South Credit Union Quiz & Bursary** – Sponsored by *First South Credit Union*, pupils from Fifth & Sixth Classes took part in the annual Credit Union Quiz which took place in the *Cork International Hotel*. Over twenty schools from Cork city and county took part on the day. Both teams did very well and were great representatives for the school. We also wish to acknowledge a generous bursary of €500 from First South Credit Union. This will be used to purchase additional maths equipment and resources to support the implementation of the new *Primary Mathematics Curriculum*.

**Michael's Retirement** – Having worked as caretaker in *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* since August 2002, Michael Horgan retired on Friday, 14 February 2025. Visitors often remark on the well-cared for school grounds and premises and this was largely due to Michael's careful and dutiful attention to such matters. A keen musician, Michael shared this gift with the school community on many occasions over the years (e.g. teacht le chéile, school celebrations). Michael's helpful and friendly presence around the school will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and parents. Thank you Michael!

**Sacraments of First Penance & the Eucharist** – Pupils in Second Classes celebrated the Sacrament of First Penance in the Sacred Heart Church, Belgooly on Tuesday, 25 February. They are now busy preparing for the Sacrament of the Eucharist next week on Saturday, 12 April in St Joseph's Church, Riverstick.

**World Book Day Celebrations** - The school celebrated World Book Day with a number of events. The whole school took part in a *School Book Tour* where each class moved to different classrooms around the school and enjoyed various activities such as interactive read alouds, emoji quizzes, character book searches and book detective work. A number of the senior classes also took part in a live *Footy & Booky Quiz* with appearances from many famous premier league players. The *Character Parade* saw pupils and staff dressing up as characters from their favourite books.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge** - Bhí seachtain na Gaeilge againn ar scoil ón 10ú lá go dtí 14ú lá de mhí na Márta. Ghlac páistí na scoile páirt i scata eachtraí chun an Ghaeilge a spreagadh ar nós cluichí clóis, Siúlóid Scéalaíochta agus Lá na Léitheoireachta.

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place recently with classes participating in various activities to promote Gaeilge. A *Teacht le Chéile* took place on Friday, 14 March with children donning their various green outfits and performing amhráin, dánta, drámaí agus rincí gaelacha san Halla na Scoile to celebrate.

**National Tree Week** – In celebration of National Tree Week (09 -16 March 2025), Cork County Council donated some native trees to the school. Varieties include some birch, oak, hazel, alder, beech and scots pine. These will greatly add to our biodiversity promotion in the school grounds.

In association with *Belgooly Tidy Villages*, and as part of *An Taisce's 'Spring Clean Week 2025'*, our pupils in sixth class will gather litter on a section of the approach road to the school during the last week of April. First classes are engaging with the "Supervalu Let's Grow" kit programme. They have just planted seeds for cress, peas, salad leaves, sunflowers and french beans. We look forward to caring for our seeds and watching them grow.

**Sixth Class News** - We have been very busy since Christmas. We made our Confirmation on Friday, 07 March. Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare for the day! We also had a talk from Bandon/ Kinsale Community Guard, Frances Murphy, who spoke to us about internet safety, bullying, road safety and other challenges we might face as we prepare to move to post-primary school. We also had an opportunity to visit the Kinsale Community School last month and attend their COP 2025 school event. We took part in discussions on sustainability, climate, biodiversity and global citizenship; played climate-based games; investigated some of the BT Young Scientist and Young Environmentalist projects; took part in a mini junk Kouture workshop and planted a tree representing our school.

We are about to learn about 3-D printing (see below) and are hoping to design and create our own items soon. *iWish*, an organisation which encourages STEM, recently donated a 3D printer to the school in order to promote the use of STEM among girls and boys. We are grateful for parental advocacy in securing such a device and the pupils and staff look forward to using this piece of technology to further enhance their IT skillset.

**Engineers Week** - As part of [Engineers Week 2025](#), the *Cork Kinsale Greenway Engineers Team* visited our 4th Classes last month. The theme of the visit was *Engineering – Transport & Sustainable Travel Options*. Pupils had an opportunity to explore the various proposed Greenway routes, build a bridge and learn about being an engineer. In addition, *DBFL Consulting Engineers* also visited both 5<sup>th</sup> Classes and Ms. Cronin's Class. Pupils enjoyed hearing about the various engineering roles (e.g. Civil Engineers, Structural Engineers, Transportation Engineers), related activities (e.g. constructing the tallest tower), exploring some of the world's famous architectural/engineering features and a Q&A.

**Community Games (Chess Tournament)** – Congratulations to Metes Ates and Seán Kelleher on winning the Cork Championship of Community Games (Chess). Best of luck in the Munster Championships later in the month.

**Parents' Association Family Fun Bingo Evening** – With preparations having commenced last November, it was encouraging for our PA to see such significant support last Saturday evening for its main fundraiser of the year. Pupils, parents, grandparents and family friends all gathered in anticipation of winning a jackpot and some of the fantastic prizes so generously donated by many local businesses. Thank you to everyone who assisted with preparations, attended on the evening and organised this biennial community event. We are also grateful to the Riverstick Community Centre for use of the hall. To support the P.A. in their planned activities and work for the final term of 2024/2025, new members are always welcome. Should you be available to help in any way, please feel free to complete the [Parents' Association Volunteer Form 2024/2025](#). Details of committee members are also on the school website: [www.belgoolyins.ie/parents-association](http://www.belgoolyins.ie/parents-association)

## **THE ARTS**

Well done to all the pupils for participating in the recent St. Patrick's Day Kinsale Art Competition. Congratulations to our winners – Austin Dennehy, Ciara Murphy, Anna Quigley, Sophie O'Donoghue, Killian Ryan, Michael Collins, Billy O'Neill, Ryan Evillard and Daithí McCarthy. A number of pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes competed in the recent Carrigdhoun Final of *Scór na bPáistí 2025*. They represented the school in various competitions including dancing, solo singing, group singing, solo instrument, story-telling, drama and quiz. Various prizes were won on the day and well done to all our participants who represented the school excellently.

**'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2025/2026'**

Applications for next year's enrolment is now being finalised. 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 nGráist* in August 2025, to visit the school's website. All related details and application requirements available at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) ('Admissions' tab).

***As we are presently reviewing our pupil enrolment numbers for the 2025/2026 school year, please advise the school if there are any pupils currently enrolled who will not be returning in August 2025.***

**ROAD SAFETY**

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their co-operation and support in relation to the new *Safe Routes to School* infrastructure and for refraining from parking at the school gate and within the School Zone area. Just a reminder, the *rain gardens* adjoining the footpath outside the school are planted with wildflowers seeds.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Just a reminder, in addition to the main school uniform or the school tracksuit, pupils may also wear the following during the months of May, June & September:

- White polo t-shirt (as currently exists)
- An up-cycled short version of the existing school tracksuit (as some pupils currently wear in warm weather) or wine-coloured shorts (which are available to purchase from the school's uniform supplier, Cahill's Carrigaline)

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS**

- First Holy Communion Practice on **Wednesday, 09 April** at **7.30pm** in St Joseph's Church, Riverstick
- The school will close for the *Easter break* on **Friday, 11 April at 12 noon**, the usual bus provision will operate at this time. Just to note, there is **no hot lunch service on Friday, 11 April** and pupils will need to bring their own lunch for the first breaktime
- *Clontead Parish First Holy Communion* – **Saturday, 12 April 2025 at 11.00am** in **Riverstick Church**
- ***School Transport Applications for New School Entrants To Primary & Post-Primary (School Year 2025/2026)*** – Closing date – **Friday, 25 April** (see school email 18/02/2025 & related Home School Note)
- School will re-open after the Easter break on **Monday, 28 April 2025**
- *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Sciath na Scol* – The school will play Carrigtwohill in Carrigtwohill GAA Grounds on **Tuesday, 29 April**. Both games at 11.15am. If available, please come along and support
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on **Tuesday, 29 April** (see page 1 for details)
- *Rugby Skills Training* – Sixth Class (May)
- *National Spring Clean 2025 (An Taisce)* takes place from **01 to 30 April**
- *School Tours 2025* – Further to a previous school email (01/04/2025), please note, to finalise transport requirements and venue confirmations, the designated date for payment of *School Tours 2025* is **Friday, 02 May**
- *School Closure* – **Monday, 05 May 2025 (Public Holiday)**
- *National Bike Week* – **Saturday, 10 to Sunday, 18 May** (further details to follow)
- *Junior Infant School Tour* – Mardyke Arena on **Monday, 19 May 2025** (further details to follow)
- *Senior Infant School Tour* – Mardyke Arena on **Tuesday, 20 May 2025** (further details to follow)
- *First Class* – Mardyke Arena on **Wednesday, 21 May 2025** (further details to follow)

- [International Day for Biodiversity 2025 'Harmony with Nature & Sustainable Development'](#) – **Thursday, 22 May 2025**
- *Fourth Class School Tour* – Smugglers Cove, Rosscarbery on **Tuesday, 27 May 2025** (further details to follow)
- *Cork Primary School Sports* – **Thursday, 29 May 2025** in MTU (further details to follow)
- *Third Class School Tour* – Just 4 Fun, MTU on **Friday, 30 May 2025** (further details to follow)
- *Annual Belgooly Show 2025* – **Saturday, 31 May 2025**
- *School Closure* – **Monday, 02 June 2025 (Public Holiday)**
- *Fifth Class School Tour* – Smugglers Cove, Rosscarbery on **Tuesday, 03 June 2025** (further details to follow)
- *Second Class School Tour* – Just 4 Fun, MTU on **Wednesday, 04 June 2025** (further details to follow)
- *Sixth Class School Tour* – Crag Cave & Castleisland Community Centre & McDonalds (Killarney) on **Friday, 13 June 2025** (further details to follow)

Yours faithfully,  
*Diarmuid Hennessy*  
*School Principal*