

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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28/09/2022

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 2022/2023* (€50 per family). E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022
- *Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2022/2023* (All classes - €8 per/child). E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022
- *Weaving Wellbeing Pupil Workbook* (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes only - €5.00 per/pupil) - E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022
- *Spelling Made Fun Pupil Book* (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes only - €8.00 per/pupil) - E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022
- *Lifetime Lab Workshops* (3<sup>rd</sup> classes only - €5.00 per/pupil) - E-payment link sent on 14/09/2022
- *Non-Book Rental Scheme Participants 2022/2023* (€5 per child). In relation to Non-Book Rental Scheme participants, **Friday 07 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, 04 OCTOBER)**

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave **on Tuesday, 04 October** in the following order:

- Junior & Senior Infants – 1.40 – 1.50pm
- 'Walkers' (all classes) & School Buses – 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 at the relevant time in respect of school departure, as outlined above.

### **PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 2022/2023**

As previously advised, in-person Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Thursday, 17 & Tuesday, 22 November**. Pupils (First to Sixth Classes) will finish and leave school at 2.35pm on *Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>* and at the usual time of 2.50pm on *Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>*. The usual school bus provision will operate at these times. Usual 1.50pm finishing time for Junior & Senior Infants on both these dates.

During the course of next week, Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to book an appointment time(s), via Aladdin 'Connect', in the following order:

- From Tuesday, 04 October (available appointment times for families with three or more children attending the school)
- From Wednesday, 05 October (available appointment times for families with two or more children attending the school)
- From Thursday, 06 October (available appointment times for all families)

It is advisable to book early. To assist, a related *Aladdin 'Connect' Parent/Teacher Meeting* information sheet is attached.

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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.

**'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 will open doors that the best education cannot"* Clarence Thomas

**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 - [PDST RSE Resources](#) & [Belgooly School SPHE Resources](#)

**ROAD SAFETY MONTH**

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](http://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.

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 and makes the following recommendations:

- ***To observe the 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.

### ***PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2022/2023***

Thank you for attending the recent Parents' Association AGM at the school on 15/09/2022. Successive Parents' Associations have always been most supportive, resourceful and generous with their time and talents in adding to the social and educational aspects of school life. They have made significant contributions over the years to ensure that we enjoy the physical and educational infrastructure which school families and staff are so fortunate to enjoy learning and working in today.

Going forward, 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 express this interest at the link below (paper copies also available from the school office). 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'*.

***'Friend of the PA' link -***

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0lVWQw\\_cRT1m8zOE8K41ds3d3TV4up1LC9wa4HMZGMPM9Tg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0lVWQw_cRT1m8zOE8K41ds3d3TV4up1LC9wa4HMZGMPM9Tg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### ***'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2023/2024', 'OPEN EVENING' (THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER from 7.00-8.00pm) & SPECIAL CLASS FOR PUPILS WITH AUTISM (September 2023)***

Further to previous communication last week (20/09/2022), please note that *'Application for Admission (Enrolment) 2023/2024'* in respect of mainstream classes will open from **Monday, 03 October until Monday, 24 October 2022**. All further related details and application requirements will be available/accessible at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) ('Admissions' tab) from next **Monday, 03 October**. 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 2023, to check these details on the website.

Furthermore, to facilitate an opportunity for prospective school families to visit the school, *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* will host an **Open Evening on Thursday, 13 October from 7.00-8.00pm**. Should you know of any family who may wish to send their child to the school over the coming years, it would be appreciated if you could also bring this event to their attention.

Just to note, in relation to the planned establishment of a Special Class for Pupils with Autism in September 2023 (providing the resources necessary for its establishment are provided by the Department of Education and in place for September 2023), it is envisaged that the school will facilitate the admission applications process for this special class from late January 2023 (dates TBC). In this regard, further details will be available in the new year.

### ***SCHOOL ATTENDANCE***

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, the school must be informed of the reason for all school absences. Aladdin 'Connect' provides an easy facility for parents to advise the school of the duration and reason for a pupil's absence ('Attendance Note' details on next page). **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).** Good attendance benefits your child's progress and establishes good work patterns for later life. School attendance is exceptionally strong in *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* and we hope to maintain this throughout the entire school year.

**ALADDIN 'CONNECT' & 'ATTENDANCE NOTE'**

Further to previous Home/School communication (13/09/2022), 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. Regarding 'School Attendance' above, 'Attendance note' is a feature of 'Connect' that is also available to families. **Parents/Guardians may send early leaving, late arrival or an absence note ahead of time with the tap of a button.** 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 'Connect' feature, a related information sheet is also attached.

**WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS**

- *'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
- The school and Parents' Association committee (2021/2022) are most appreciative of all the support from all school families for the many activities/events throughout the past year. Thank you to all who attended the school's *Parents' Association* AGM on 15/09/2022 and we wish the new committee all the very best for 2022/2023.
- *'WOW' Walk on Wednesday (21/09/2022)* – 145 pupils, along with parents and staff, enjoyed a walk to school last Wednesday morning. Thank you to everyone for your co-operation and support and well done to all involved.
- Best of luck to our *Sciath na Scol Football Teams 2022* over the coming weeks

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing Ballygarvan) on **Wednesday, 28 September** in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 12.15pm & Boys match at 1.15pm.
- Application for *Admission (Enrolment) 2023 2024* will open for a three week period from **Monday 03 October 2022 until Monday, 24 October 2022**. All related details and application requirements available/accessible at [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) (Admissions tab) from **Monday, 03 October 2022**.
- 5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing Rathcormac) on **Monday, 03 October** in Riverstick GAA Grounds. Girls match at 11.30am & Boys match at 12.30pm
- *Staff Meeting* – all pupils will finish and leave early on **Tuesday, 04 October**. Please refer to details on page 1 of this note. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time
- *Lá na gCrann* – All classes on **Thursday, 06 October**
- 5th/6th Class Sciath na Scol Football match (playing Rochestown) on **Thursday, 06 October** in Douglas GAA Grounds. Both matches at 12 noon.
- *KYSS Mental Health Awareness Day (Sáile, Kinsale Sports & Community Centre)* – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes on **Monday, 10 October**. Further details to be advised.
- *'Open Evening 2022'* for prospective school families on **Thursday, 13 October from 7.00-8.00pm**.
- *Lifetime Lab Workshop* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes on **Friday, 14 October**
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Monday, 31 October to Friday, 04 November (incl.)**
- *In-Person Parent/Teacher Meetings* – **Thursday, 17 November (Day 1) & Tuesday, 22 November (Day 2)**. Please refer to page 1 of this note for additional information.

Yours faithfully,  
 Diarmuid Hennessy  
 School Principal