

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



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12/01/2022

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 (photo attached), to facilitate Santa's visit, and the transformation of our sensory garden to a Christmas Wonderland! The P.A.'s *School Calendar 2022* (a limited number of copies available for purchase from the school office), is, once again, a great success. The pupils and staff are also to be complimented for their 'Christmas Medley' of seasonal favourites. To spread the Christmas cheer, the pupils in both 6th classes, along with their teachers, created a Christmas album which they designed, recorded and produced. It included some classics like *Snow is Falling*, as well as some newer additions such as, *Hope was Born*. Realising the importance of sharing our talents and skills with others, copies were given to *Cramer's Court Retirement & Nursing Home* which were appreciated by a captive audience.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM STAFF IN-SERVICE & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 18 January 2022)

Just a reminder, in order to facilitate staff training, pupils will finish and leave on **Tuesday, 18 January 2022** in the following order:

- 'Junior Infants' – 11.30 – 11.35
- 'Senior Infants' – 11.35 – 11.40
- 'Walkers' (1st & 2nd Classes) – 11.40 – 11.50
- 'Walkers' (3rd to 6th Classes) – 11.50 – 12.00
- School Buses – 12.00 – 12.10

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.

STAFF MEETING & EARLY CLOSURE (Tuesday, 01 February)

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave **on Tuesday, 01 February** 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 – 1.30pm
- 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.

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'CREATIVE SCHOOLS' INITIATIVE - DRUMMING WORKSHOPS (ALL CLASSES)

As part of the above-mentioned initiative, we are happy to welcome Pat Naughton, to the school this half-term. Having availed of Drama workshops during Term 3 (2020/2021), the pupils will now be afforded an opportunity to experience drumming for a number of sessions, commencing today with Third to Sixth Classes, during the months of January & February. This creative process aims to: increase knowledge and experience of drumming as an art form in a wider context; offer a drumming experience in terms of improvisation, composition and performance; present an opportunity for pupils to develop musical concepts; focus on 'music-in-the-moment' and also a focus on playing different rhythms, depending on age groups; promote drumming as a positive health strategy for increasing relaxation and general well-being; apply the lessons of a drumming circle at home, school and daily life e.g. to relax, to let go, to lead when necessary, and follow as needed, balance and harmony, to focus intensely at times and to just feel our way along at others; build scope for personal development through self-expression, problem-solving, decision-making and team work; enhance social relationships; enhance concentration levels, self-motivation and a willingness to get involved.

GAA FOOTBALL TRAINING & GUM SHIELD REMINDER

Junior & Senior infants and 5th classes will commence football training this Friday. When availing of this training, all pupils need to remember to bring in their gum shields (every Friday). The school would like to thank our local GAA Clubs for facilitating these sessions for the pupils.

RUGBY SESSIONS

Pupils in 3rd and 4th classes are 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. Thanks to Kinsale Rugby Club and Munster Community Rugby for facilitating these sessions.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022

Catholic Schools Week 2022 will be celebrated from *Sunday, 23 January to Sunday, 30 January*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2022 (CSW2022) is '***Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full***'. Some of the daily themes during the course of the week – Living Life to the Full with God/Together/in Wonder & Awe/Being Together Again/Facing the Future.

SEESAW (ALL CLASSES)

Thank you to everyone for your active engagement with *Seesaw* and, by degrees, we are all increasing our familiarity with this invaluable online learning platform.

'BUG BUSTING' NIGHT (THURSDAY 13 JANUARY)

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 13 January***. It is hoped that such a whole school approach – at the start of a new school year - 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 for tomorrow night 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.

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SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2021/2022)

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 2021/2022, we wish to remind families that we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Junior Infants, First, Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Classes – hazelnut, peanut, cashew, walnut, pecan and pistachio nut allergies) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same. We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

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.

Email: bns@sherpakids.ie

Telephone: 083-0103968

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Creative Schools* – Drumming workshops in January (3rd to 6th classes)
- *Bug Busting Night* – **Thursday, 13 January**
- *Football training* – Junior & Senior Infants and Fifth Classes. Pupils will require gum shields.
- *Rugby training* – Third & Fourth classes
- *Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme* – further to previous correspondence during Term 1, all classes will engage with the RSE Programme from January to March/April 2022
- *Primary Language Curriculum Staff In-Service* - Early closure on **Tuesday, 18 January 2022**. Please refer to page 1 for class departure times. School bus provision will operate.
- *Catholic Schools Week 2022* will be celebrated from *Sunday, 23 January to Sunday, 30 January*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2022 (CSW2022) is '**Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full**'.
- *Staff Meeting* – Early closure on **Tuesday, 01 February**. Please refer to page 1 for class departure times. School bus provision will operate.
- *Creative Schools* – Drumming workshops in February (Junior Infants to Second Classes)
- *Internet Day 2022* – **Tuesday, 08 February 2022**. Relevant details on <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>
- *School Mid-term Break* – **Thursday & Friday, 24 & 25 February (incl.)**

Yours faithfully,
 Diarmuid Hennessy
 School Principal