

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



Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Catherine Murphy

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26/08/2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the summer break with a special greeting to all our new pupils and families.

We congratulate Mrs Farley on her permanent appointment to the school's SNA provision team.

We also welcome staff who are (re)joining us in School Year (2026/2027) – Ms Kelleher (Sixth Class A), Mr Coomey (Senior Infants A), Ms McCarthy (Sixth Class B), Mr McCarthy (Third Class/Fourth Class B), Ms Long (Junior Infants A), Ms Keohane (SET), Ms McSweeney (Third Class A), Ms Madden (SET Team) & Mr O'Callaghan (SNA).

FREE SCHOOLBOOKS SCHEME 2026/2027 & REQUISITES LIST 2026/2027

Books, workbooks and copybooks will be distributed to pupils over the coming days. Thank you to everyone, all staff and the Parents' Association, for assisting with this initiative and to Ms. O'Neill (Coordinator), supported by Mrs Clancy (Assistant Coordinator), Ms Keohane (School Office), Ms Gudauskiene (School Office) and our caretaking provision team, Michael & Pat.

In relation to requisites (i.e. pens, pencils, mathematical sets, tin whistle etc.), which are not covered by the scheme, requirements on what items parents/guardians need to supply for the year ahead are outlined in the attached '**Requisites List 2026/2027**' (v.26August2026).

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.

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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 **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 **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.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES FOR PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Board of Management recently reviewed the school's Child Safeguarding measures. The related notification and Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment are available to view on the school's website.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2026/2027)

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 2026/2027, please note we have pupils in the following classes who have particular allergies: Junior Infants (Sesame), Fourth (nuts), Sixth (nuts & shellfish), and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same.** We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

'BUG BUSTING' NIGHT (THURSDAY, 26 AUGUST)

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 tonight, **Wednesday, 26 August**. 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.

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To assist, there will be no homework assigned tonight 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.

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 *Safe Routes to School* infrastructure and for **refraining from parking at the school gate and within the School Zone area.** It is requested that this information is brought to the attention of child-minders/others who may drop or collect your child to or from school.

The initial few weeks of a new school year can be particularly busy and so commands a greater sense of road safety vigilance by everyone outside the school at all times. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLY DETAILS 2026/2027 (CAHILL'S CARRIGALINE)

Further to previous Home/School correspondence in June, the afore-mentioned link contains related details and updates. ***Please note, to assist with returning lost uniform items, please label everything clearly with your child's name.***

In the interests of supporting effective school discipline, appropriate wear and the promotion of a cohesive school environment, the Board of Management is grateful for parental support and co-operation in respect of the school's uniform policy.

HOT SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME SCHEME 2026/2027

Further to Monday's notice, there is **no hot lunch service from Wednesday to Friday, 26 to 28 August (incl.)** and pupils will need to bring their own lunch for these days. The lunch service will resume again on **Monday, 31 August** (except for Junior Infants 2026/2027). Families who have registered their children previously will need to renew their child(ren)'s menu choices for 2026/2027 as there are a number of changes to the menu for September. In this regard, please find a related flyer for families who are already registered with *Ashdale Catering*.

If your child has just commenced **Junior Infants in 2026/2027**, you will need to register and complete lunch option choices online in respect of the commencement of hot lunches for this class group on **Monday, 14 September**. To assist, a related flyer for new families is also attached.

Just to note, *Ashdale Catering* are now using new reusable cutlery. Pupils will be required to bring same to school each day (related details).

Of course, this is an optional service and pupils may wish, as heretofore, to bring their own packed lunch to school. In any case, it is advisable that pupils also bring a drink and a smaller healthy food and/or fruit snack for the earlier break-time.

The Board of Management wishes to advise that as such a service is independent of the primary function of the school, and facilitated by an independent provider, all queries, related arrangements (including, where necessary, individual pupil needs/requirements) and other contact in respect of this service is to be made directly and separately with *Ashdale Catering* and not through the school office.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 'WELCOME EVENING 2026/2027' – THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 (TEAS/COFFEES AT 7.00pm & MEETING AT 7.30pm)

The school's Parents' Association will hold their 'Welcome Evening 2026/2027' on **Thursday evening, 24 September (School Halla)**, and all parents are invited to attend.

The Parents' Association & Friends of the Parents' Association are to be commended for their committed and resourceful efforts that have enhanced school life for pupils, staff and parents at various times throughout the past school year.

'Welcome' refreshments for our 'Open Evening' in October 2025 and 'New Entrant Evening - March 2026', Halloween decorations 2025, Santa's Grotto & visit 2025, School Calendar 2026, subsidies towards school tours, bus transport, the very successful Easter 2026 Raffle, facilitating the ['Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free' in Scoil Mhuire na nGrast \(Voluntary Code\)](#), preparation for *Free Schoolbook Scheme 2025/2026 & 2026/2027*, subsidising hoodies for our departing sixth class pupils, as well as a take-away treat for their farewell celebration and the very welcome ice-cream treat on *Sports for All* day have all featured as part of their busy schedule of work and activities. In addition, the proceeds of their successful Easter Raffle 2026 is being given consideration by the Student Council in terms of potential purchases.

The P.A. is most generous with its time and support. However, its successful voluntary 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 meeting on **Tuesday evening, 24 September**, 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 terms of sustaining such invaluable parental contribution, it is essential that there are two parent representatives from each class on the Parents' Association committee 2026/2027.** We have 255 school families and your support in helping the Parents' Association going forward in 2026/2027 in any way would be most welcome and appreciated.

SHERPA KIDS (Before & After-School Childcare Programme 2026/2027)

Further to a previous communication in June, families may avail of the above-mentioned service at the school. 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

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.

[SHERPA KIDS & RECRUITMENT \(2026/2027\)](#)

Related link – [Sherpa Recruitment 2026/2027](#)

[AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 2026/2027 – Irish dancing, Music, Drama, Art & Chess](#)

Relevant details are outlined on the school's website at <https://www.belgoolyns.ie/after-school-activities>

The Board of Management wishes to advise families that these activities, facilitated by independent contractors, are 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 these activities is to be made directly and separately with the respective tutor/group and not through the school office.

CENTRE FOR TALENTED YOUTH IRELAND (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY)

The *Centre for Talented Youth Ireland* at *Dublin City University* provides specialised courses for young people with exceptional academic ability in verbal, numerical or abstract reasoning. You may be interested in visiting the website at www.dcu.ie/ctyi for information on whether these courses would be of benefit to your child. Should you have any queries, please make an appointment, through the school office, to speak with a member of the *Special Education Teaching* team.

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HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

During the course of the school year, you will receive various Home/School notes by email/Aladdin noticeboard informing you of different aspects of general school information and events. In addition, our school website hosts school information and educational links you may find useful e.g. School Calendar 2026/2027, Parents' section, previous Home/School notes, Parental Complaints Procedure, Requisites List 2026/2027, Child Safeguarding Statement, RSE Policy....

School families will be notified of any date or time changes of events or other important information via Aladdin 'Connect'.

SIXTH CLASS 2025/2026 'BRING & BUY'

Congratulations to both Sixth Classes (2025/2026), Ms O'Neill, Mr Lane and Ms C Murphy and all involved for raising €3,445. This year the proceeds will be shared between Marymount Hospice, Irish Guide Dogs & Breakthrough Cancer Research. Many thanks to everyone for your very willing and generous support, assistance and contributions.

SCHOOL SPORTS DAY/MOUTH GUARD REMINDER (Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Classes)

The school's *Sports for All Day* took place in late June and the pupils and staff enjoyed a great day of activity, fun and teamwork. Thank you to all pupils, staff, parents and Ms. C Murphy (Coordinator) for making the day such a success.

Over the course of the term, and commencing shortly, pupils in second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth class pupils will have an opportunity to avail of Gaelic Football training. Pupils are required to wear gum shields when participating in Gaelic Football. In this regard, each pupil will require a mouthguard/gum shield.

We look forward to another successful school year ahead!

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal