

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



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15/05/2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **SCHOOL CLOSURE (Local & European Elections - Friday, 07 June 2024)**

Just a reminder, **Friday, 07 June** has been confirmed as the date for the forthcoming Local & European **Elections**. The school building has been requisitioned as a voting centre and the school will be closed on that day. Sherpa and the After-School Art Class will not operate on the day

### **GREEN FLAG UPDATE**

Following the committed endeavours of pupils, staff, parents and the local community over the past two years, the school recently received notification from *An Taisce* that we have been awarded a *Green Flag for Biodiversity*. Members of the Green Committee attended the award ceremony at The Radisson Blu Hotel in Little Island earlier today where they were presented with our sixth Green Flag. To mark this significant achievement, a flag raising ceremony celebration will be arranged on school grounds at a later date. The school wishes to acknowledge the resourceful work on the many projects undertaken by the school's Green Committee, with the assistance and support of the entire school community, and the interesting partnership links established with other relevant groups in the wider community. Thank you to Mrs Hickey for leading and managing the work of the committee.

*An Taisce National Spring Clean 2024* - On Friday, 10 May, the pupils from Mr Hayes-Curtin & Ms O'Neill's 6<sup>th</sup> classes embarked on our annual *An Taisce Spring Clean*, along the Belgooly Riverwalk and locals roads, with great enthusiasm. Special thanks to members of the *Belgooly Tidy Villages Association* for collecting the recycling and refuse bags gathered on the day.

*National Bike Week 2024 (11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024)* - As part of the school's ongoing engagement with Active Travel and Green Schools Travel Flag, some related events are taking place over the course of this week and next week: Pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes viewed the *Cork County Primary Schools Road Safety* webinar on Monday; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes will now avail of the bicycle maintenance and skills workshop with *Bike Wizards* next Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup>) and, as part of *Active Travel Day*, pupils made an attempt, where possible, to actively travel to school by walking, cycling or scooting earlier this morning. Scoil Mhuire na nGrást features in the Cork County Council & Cork Sports Partnership launch of Bike Week 2024 [Cork County Council & Cork Sports Partnership Bike Week 2024](#)

Upcoming events: *International Day for Biological Diversity 2024* 'Be part of the Plan' – Wednesday, 22 May 2024 [International Day for Biological Diversity 2024](#)

### **FREE SCHOOLBOOKS SCHEME 2024/2025**

Further to the department's announcement in March 2023, please find a school letter and a Department of Education information note attached outlining related terms and conditions pertaining to the scheme. In general, funding is being provided directly to primary schools and special schools by the Department to implement the scheme and schools will make provision for schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for all children at the start of the school year 2024/2025.

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**SCHOOL TOUR 2024**

Further to a previous school email (09/04/2024), School Tours 2024 will commence next week and emails with specific details are in the process of being issued to each class group.

To facilitate related arrangements, and for everyone's safety and enjoyment, please note the following:

- Parking facilities around the school are limited. In the interest of safety, to avoid a build-up of a large volume of traffic and to facilitate school bus set-down provision, we request that parents/guardians might endeavour to make space for other cars and buses once children are dropped off for school tours
- Pupils will be required to bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink on the day. Just to note, the Hot School Meal service will not be available to pupils on their designated school tour day
- Sun-cream application is also advisable
- So as not to compromise the list of scheduled activities for each individual school tour group, buses will depart promptly at their designated departure times
- In keeping with child protection practices, and in the interest of pupil and staff privacy, photos and videos are not permitted on the school premises/school environs
- Designated final date for school tour payment – Monday, 07 May 2024. Owing to bus and school tour capacity limitations, it will not be possible to facilitate bookings received after this date
- **Owing to financial commitments incurred by the school in respect of venue and transport bookings, it will not be possible to facilitate a refund for any reason should any pupil not travel on the day of the tour**

We would like to acknowledge Ms. Cronin's role in coordinating the various excursions.

**BUS & TRAVEL SAFETY – 'BE ALERT TO BE SAFE'**

Bus Eireann has prepared brief leaflet (attached) outlining the key safety message when using school buses. Indeed, in light of increasing public transport usage and our impending school tours, the advice is relevant for all who avail of this mode of transport. Families are requested to discuss and explore these safety tips with their child(ren).

**SCIATH NA SCOL CHORCAÍ (HURLING & CAMOGIE)**

Well done to the boys and girls in Fifth & Sixth classes who recently took part in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí League. Both teams played really well. Congratulations to the boy's team who have reached the Sciath na Scol DH1/DC1 Hurling Finals. They will now play Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin, Ballincollig in Páirc Uí Rinn on Thursday, 23 May at 11.00am. We look forward to having supporters from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes with us on the day. In this regard, further details will follow tomorrow, Thursday.

**SCIATH NA SCOL CARRIGDHOUN (HURLING & CAMOGIE)**

Best of luck to the boys and girls in Fifth & Sixth classes who will take part in the Sciath na Scol Carrigdhoun Hurling and Camogie blitzes on Monday & Tuesday respectively (further details on page 4). If you are available, please come along to support.

**SCHOOL COACHING**

Pupils from First to Third classes are enjoying their hurling and camogie training with our Sliabh Rua School Coaches, Jack Deasy and Donnacha Desmond. Pupils in the Junior Infants to Second classes will begin hurling and camogie training on Friday, 24 May. A hurley and helmet will be required for these training sessions.

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**RUGBY BLITZES**

Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> classes had an opportunity to learn some fundamental rugby skills in Term 1, 2 & 3, provided by Santiago Gonzalez (Munster Rugby Coach). Best of luck to all the pupils in the upcoming rugby blitzes which is being organised by Kinsale Rugby Club.

- Friday, 17 May - First & Second Classes
- Friday, 24 May - Third & Fourth Classes
- Friday, 31 May - Fifth & Sixth Classes
- To cover bus transport on the day (€3.00), please note that there is an e-payment link on Aladdin

**CITY SPORTS 2024 (ATHLETICS)**

Best of luck to all the children taking part in the City Sports in MTU on Thursday, 30 May (Girls – commencing at 10.00am (sprints) & 10.20am (relays) & Boys – commencing at 5.25pm (sprints) & 5.40pm (relays)). Further details have been sent to each child who is competing.

**LITERACY DEVELOPMENT**

*Published authors* - The students in Ms. O'Leary's 3rd class took part in CJ Fallon's publishing programme. Their fantastic reports and illustrations of countries around the world were compiled into a class book called 'A Trip around the World'. Please see photo attached.

**FARM SAFETY & WATER SAFETY**

To ensure that everyone stays safe over the summer months, classes will be covering water and farm safety with their class teachers over the coming weeks.

To assist parents with supporting their child's learning in this area, the following will be of help:

- HSE 'Child Safety Around the Farm' - <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/child-health/child-safety-around-the-farm.html>
- Water Safety Ireland - <https://watersafety.ie/recreation/>

**SUMMER WORKS 2024**

While the school is closed during the summer break, an extensive deep clean of the school, ground works and painting will feature as part of the programme of works. As this school year (2024/2024) concludes, your *Annual Voluntary Family Contributions* (€50 p/family) will assist in this regard. We are grateful for contributions to-date and any further contributions may be made via e-payment.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE ( [www.belgoolyns.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.ie) )**

Our school website features many of our exciting activities such as Halloween and Christmas celebrations 2023, FAI 5-aside soccer blitzes, Green team biodiversity activities, Art around the school, Math week and Wellbeing week activities and more. In addition, it includes school information and educational related links which you may also find useful (e.g. School Calendar 2023/2024, parents' section, previous home/school notes, parental complaints procedure...). We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who attends to our school website during the year. Mrs. Finn plays a pivotal role in facilitating this valuable communication medium.

**'APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION (ENROLMENT) 2024/2025'**

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 2024, 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 2024/2025 school year, please advise the school if there are any pupils currently enrolled who will not be returning in August 2024.***

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**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 2024/2025 – Music, Irish Dancing, Art & Board Games Club**

Relevant details are outlined in the school's website at [After-School Activities 2024/2025](#) . Some related flyers are also attached.

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.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Further to a previous Home/School note (10/04/2024), 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)

Further details at [Scoil Mhuire na nGrást School Uniform](#)

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS**

- Fundamental rugby skills with rugby coach, Santiago Gonzalez – First Classes (May 2024)
- *National Bike Week* – Saturday, 11 to Sunday, 19 May. See page 1 for further details
- *Hurling Coaching* - Junior Infant to First Classes (May & June 2024)
- Rugby Blitz (1st & 2nd) – Friday, 17 May (12.30pm to 2.00pm) Kinsale RFC Grounds
- *Carrighdoun 5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Hurling Blitz* on Monday, 20 May in Crosshaven GAA Grounds. Matches at 11.00am, 11.45am & 12.30pm (all details TBC)
- *Carrighdoun 5th & 6th Class Sciath na Scol Camogie Blitz* on Tuesday, 21 May in Brinny Pitch. Matches at 11.00am, 11.45am & 12.30pm (all details TBC)
- *Second Class School Tour* – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *'Bike Wizard'* with Ulick O'Beirne (3rd & 5th Classes) - Tuesday, 21 May
- *Senior Infant School Tour* – Mardyke Arena on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *International Day for Biodiversity 2024 'Be part of the Plan'* – Wednesday, 22 May 2024
- *Junior Infant School Tour* – Mardyke Arena on Thursday, 23 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Hurling Final* in Páirc Uí Rinn on Thursday, 23 May. Playing GS Uí Ríordáin at 11.00am. Further details to follow tomorrow, Thursday
- *Water Safety Talk* - An RNLI Water Safety Officer will visit 5th & 6th Classes on Friday, 24 June
- *Rugby Blitz (3rd & 4th)* – Friday, 24 May (12.30pm to 2.00pm) Kinsale RFC Grounds
- *Third Class School Tour* – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Monday, 27 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Fourth Class School Tour* – Let's Go Trabeg, Douglas on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *First Class* – Mardyke Arena on Wednesday, 29 May 2024 (further details to follow)
- *Cork Primary School Sports* – Thursday, 30 May 2024 in MTU. Girls - commencing at 10.00am (sprints) & 10.20am (relays) & Boys - commencing at 5.25pm (sprints) & 5.40pm (relays)
- *'Understanding Dyslexia'* - Thursday, 30 May from 11.00am to 12 noon at Kinsale Library

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- *Rugby Blitz (5th & 6th)* – Friday, 31 May (12.30pm to 2.00pm) Kinsale RFC Grounds
- *Annual Belgooly Show 2024* – Saturday, 01 June 2024
- *School Closure* - Monday, 03 June (Public Holiday)
- *Sixth Class School Tour* – Tralee Wetlands (MTU Kerry) & McDonalds (Killarney) on Thursday, 06 June 2024 (further details to follow)
- *School Closure* - Friday, 07 June (Local & European Elections)
- *Creative Schools Week 2024* – w/c Monday, 10 June
- *New Entrants 2024/2025 & Pupil/Parent School Visit* – Monday, 10 June (**Family surnames A to H**) in *Tír na nÓg & School Hall* from 12.45-1.30pm
- *New Entrants 2024/2025 & Pupil/Parent School Visit* – Tuesday, 11 June (**Family surnames J to Z**) in *Tír na nÓg & School Hall* from 12.45-1.30pm
- *Fifth Class School Tour* – Spike Island on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 (further details to follow)
- *6<sup>th</sup> Class Bring-and-Buy* – Thursday, 13 June
- *Active Week & School Sports Day 2024* – Monday, 17 June
- The school will close for the summer break on *Friday, 21 June at 12 noon* and will re-open on *Wednesday, 28 August*

Yours faithfully,  
Diarmuid Hennessy  
*School Principal*