

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



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*12/06/2024*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### ***SUMMER BREAK***

The school will close for the Summer break on **Friday, 21 June at 12 noon**. 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.

The school will re-open after the Summer break on **Wednesday, 28 August 2024**.

### ***PIETA AMBER FLAG AWARD 2023/2024***

Following on from our recent *Green Flag Biodiversity Award* (see page 2), the school is delighted to announce that we have just been awarded the *Pieta Amber Flag 2023/2024*!

The Amber Flag is an initiative run by Pieta House, which recognises the individual efforts of schools and other institutions to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental health. The school's *Amber Flag Committee* showed great commitment in promoting positive mental health by encouraging teamwork and contributions from peers. Some of the goals achieved as part of this initiative included our *Affirmation Station*, hosting a *Wellbeing Week*, a *Wellbeing Walk* fundraiser for Pieta, creating a *Friendship Tree* and, with the generous support of the Parents' Association, promoting *Buddy Benches* (see photos attached). Thank you to Ms Walsh for coordinating these efforts and congratulations to everyone involved.

### ***SCIATH NA SCOL CARRIGDHOUN BLITZES***

Well done to the boys and girls in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class who recently took part in the South East Sciath na Scol hurling blitzes. Both teams played really well. The boys won the Roinn A blitz after beating Crosshaven, Holywell and Gaelscoil Carraig Uí Leighin. We wish our 6<sup>th</sup> class all the best for the future and we look forward to seeing them line out on the GAA pitch for their secondary schools and club. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh!

### ***SCIATH NA SCOL SUCCESS***

Hard luck to our Sciath na Scol 2024 hurling team who lost out to Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin by a single point after an epic final. It was a spectacle of hurling from start to finish. This is a hurling team with a bright future ahead on the field of play and we wish them the best of luck. Thank you to all our wonderful supporters from the school and the community who came to cheer along this wonderful team!

Of course, behind such success lies the interest, commitment, dedication and efforts of the coaches and mentors involved. In this regard, thank you to Ms C. Murphy, Mr Lane, Mr Hayes-Curtin, Ms. O Donovan, Ms. O Callaghan and Ms. O Leary.

The school also wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support provided by our local GAA clubs (Belgooly, Ballymartle, Sliabh Rua & Sliabh Rua Camogie). Our school GAA trainers, Jack Deasy and Donnacha Desmond's coaching was very much appreciated.

*/Over.....*

**NATIONAL BIKE WEEK & CYCLE TO SCHOOL EVENT (MAY 2024)**

As part of *National Bike Week 2024 (11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May)*, the school availed of a number of related activities. Classes from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> availed of a *Road Safety Webinar* presented by *Cork County Council*, which will be very beneficial for our young road users. Focusing on bike maintenance and cycle skills, the students in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> classes also participated in a *Bike Wizards* workshop. On Wednesday, 15 May, the school community were invited to take part in *An Active Travel* morning and many of the pupils, parents and staff walked, scooted and cycled from Aghafantaun Bridge to the school, availing of the new *Safe Routes to School* infrastructure. A special word of thanks to our local Gardaí for their support on the day.

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2024 (17<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> MAY) & BIODIVERSITY FLAG CEREMONY**

*International Day for Biological Diversity* was marked on Wednesday, 22 May with some 'Outdoor Classroom' activities that included quizzes on minibeasts and native Irish mammals, bug hunts, nature walks and creative art activities themed on animals, plants and birds.

In celebration of being awarded our sixth *Green Flag*, the most recent for *Biodiversity*, the school held a flag raising ceremony last Wednesday and the date fittingly coincided with *World Environment Day*. *An Taisce* Green Schools Global Citizenship Education Officer, Siobhán Hughes, and Christopher O'Sullivan T.D., spokesperson for Environment, Climate Action and Biodiversity, attended as well as representatives from the Parents' Association, former Green Schools Co-ordinator, Siobhán Moynihan, and the Chairperson of the Board of Management, James O'Mahony. We were delighted to also welcome some of our past pupils, who were members of the 2022/2023 Green Committee. On the day, our present committee members presented an acrostic poem titled *BIODIVERSITY*, the school's new Green Code *Truth to be told, biodiversity is worth more than gold!*, composed by 4<sup>th</sup> class student, Weronika Przybecka, was read and Ms.O'Sullivan's and Mrs.Clancy's first classes enthusiastically entertained with their rendition of *The Ugly Bug Ball*.

As part of a wider community initiative, *Patchwork Meadow Project*, photos from our 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes are currently featuring in a related Art Exhibition in Kinsale Library from Monday, 04 to Wednesday, 12 June. In this regard, further details at [www.regenerateourecosystem.ie](http://www.regenerateourecosystem.ie)

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2024/2025**

The Parents' Association & Friends of the Parents' Association are to be commended for their committed and resourceful efforts which have enhanced school life for all throughout this past year in terms of their educational and social contributions: 'Welcome' refreshments for our 'Open Evening' in October 2023 and 'New Entrant Evening - March 2024', Halloween decorations, Santa's Grotto & visit 2023, School Calendar 2024, subsidies towards athletics development coaching, school tours, bus transport, the very successful 'Easter Raffle', preparation for *Free Schoolbook Scheme 2024/2025*, sensory equipment for our new sensory area (new extension lobby area), three buddy benches for the school garden, ice-cream van (see above) and subsidising hoodies for our departing sixth class pupils, as well as a take-away treat for their farewell celebration. Of course, this would not have been feasible without the support the PA has received throughout the year from school families, the wider community and the local business community. The Parents' Association are most appreciative of such help and assistance. We have 227 school families and your support in helping the Parents' Association going forward in 2024/2025 in any way would be most welcome. Many parents continue to advocate most generously on the school's behalf in terms of potentially beneficial educational related activities, resources, projects or initiatives (e.g. website, excursion venues, various expertise). Such opportunities complement and continue to add to the pupils' learning and general school experience. Should you wish to bring such a possibility to our attention for consideration, please feel free to contact the school.

**SPORTS FOR ALL DAY 2024**

Next week is our final week of school year 2023/2024 and, as usual, this time of year involves lots of exercise and fun activities as part of the school's '*Sports For All Week*'. '*Sports for All Day*' will be held on Monday, 17 June, weather permitting. Each class will be participating. Children need only bring their pencil case, a snack, lunch and plenty to drink on the day. Sun-cream application is advisable.

The *Parents' Association* have kindly organised a complimentary ice-cream for each child on the day.

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Our visitor numbers to our school website, which features a vast range of activities and events, continue to rise. In addition, it includes school information and educational related links you may find useful e.g. parents' section, previous Home/School notes 2023/2024, Requisites List 2024/2025, School Calendar 2024/2025.... We would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs. Finn, Assistant Principal, who plays a pivotal role in organising the school website during the year.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

As families may be making preparations for the next school year, we wish to remind you of the following school requirements regarding the school uniform. The uniform consists of wine jumper/cardigan with school crest, grey trousers/pinafore/skirt, wine tie, blue shirt and regular school shoes. Pupils wear tracksuits for sporting and PE related activities, class teachers will inform you of these days in September. A white polo shirt is to be worn under tracksuit and pupils may wear runners with tracksuit.

During the months of May, June & September, in addition to the main school uniform or the school tracksuit on designated days (as above), pupils may also wear a white polo t-shirt, an up-cycled short version of the existing school tracksuit or wine-coloured shorts (the latter being available from the school's uniform supplier – *Cahill's Clothing Carrigaline*). **To assist with returning lost uniform items, please label clothing.**

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2024/2025)**

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 2024/2025, please note we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Second, Fourth & Fifth Classes – hazel nut, peanut and cashew nut allergies) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same.** We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

### **SHERPA KIDS & RECRUITMENT (2024/2025)**

Please see a related notice from *Sherpa Kids* attached.

### **END OF SCHOOL YEAR**

As we approach the end of the summer term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their combined endeavours in ensuring a successful school year. The staff, for their dedicated, caring and professional approach, the committed and resourceful efforts of the Parents' Association, the wider school community for their practical support and co-operation, the Board of Management for overseeing improvements to the school's physical environment and the pupils for their enthusiastic application to school and their excellent behaviour. We also wish our 6<sup>th</sup> class the very best of luck in their new secondary schools and we look forward to welcoming our new enrolments at the start of the next school term.

***The school will close for the summer break on Friday, 21 June and will re-open on Wednesday, 28 August.*** Meanwhile, wishing you and your families a pleasant, enjoyable and safe summer.

Yours faithfully,  
*Diarmuid Hennessy*  
School Principal