

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



*Principal: Diarmuid Hennessy  
Deputy Principal: Gerardine O'Connor*

Belgooly Central School,  
Belgooly, Co. Cork.  
Roll No:19672H

Telephone: 021 4770712

Email: [belgoolyns@gmail.com](mailto:belgoolyns@gmail.com)

Website: [www.belgoolyns.scoilnet.ie](http://www.belgoolyns.scoilnet.ie)

06/01/16

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break and wish you all a Happy New Year!

Well done to our *Parents' Association* for facilitating *Santa's Visit* and for organising *School Calendar 2016*. Your support is most welcome. Last summer's *Cleaning Contribution* (€10 per family) collection is now being finalised. Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated.

#### **STAFF MEETING**

In order to facilitate a staff meeting, pupils will finish and leave school at **1.30pm on Tuesday, 26 January**. The usual school bus provision will operate at this time.

#### **DEFIBRILLATOR & BIOMARIN**

Through the successful advocacy of the Parents' Association, BioMarin (a local Cork-based pharmaceutical company), has kindly donated a new defibrillator to the school. A presentation was made by Mary O'Connor (BioMarin) to the school just prior to the Christmas holidays. The school is grateful to BioMarin for its consideration and such a generous gesture and also to the Parents' Association for its continuing efforts to add to the pupils' school experience in so many areas.

#### **GYMNASTICS WORKSHOPS (Junior Infant to Sixth Classes)**

The school is happy to welcome *Gymnastic Inc, Carrigaline* to the school this term. The pupils have an opportunity to avail of a six week gymnastics workshop each Thursday for *Third to Sixth Classes (January & February)* and *Junior Infants to Second Classes (February, March & April)* commencing tomorrow, **Thursday 07 January**.

Gymnastics in education is concerned with the use of movement in a creative way in response to set tasks, both individually and with others. Children will explore movement on the floor and when negotiating gymnastic equipment. This initiative is being part-subsidised by the *Parents' Association*. There is a cost of **€4.00 p/child or €8.00 p/family** to cover the remaining costs. **Friday, 05 February** is designated date for final collection of money.

For ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school will operate an e-payment facility in respect of this money collection. All families will receive a text tomorrow, Thursday, with related payment advice details.

#### **IRELAND 2016 CENTENARY PROGRAMME (Commemorative textbook – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes)**

As Ireland's 2016 Centenary Programme approaches, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will have an opportunity to purchase a commemorative textbook 'Remembering 1916', published by CJ Fallon for primary school pupils, over the next couple of weeks. This is an engaging and structured programme covering the main events, facts and evidence from 1916. The cost of the book is **€5.00 per pupil**. **Friday, 29 January** is designated date for final collection of money.

For ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is operating an e-payment facility in respect of this money collection. Families in third to sixth classes will receive a text tomorrow, Thursday, with related payment advice details.

/Over.....



**STARDOME (Infants, First, Fifth & Sixth classes)**

CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory's portable planetarium, *StarDome*, will visit the school on Monday & Tuesday, 01 & 02 February. Pupils in infants, first, fifth & sixth classes will have an opportunity to experience the night sky in the school hall. The cost of the session is **€3.00 per pupil**. **Friday, 29 January** is designated date for final collection of money. Second, third and fourth classes enjoyed this same visit earlier in November.

For ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is operating an e-payment facility in respect of this money collection. Families in infants, first and fifth & sixth classes will receive a text tomorrow, Thursday, with related payment advice details.

**LITERACY LIFT OFF (Senior Infants)**

Senior infant pupils in Mrs. Ryan's class will commence this six week project on **Monday, 18 January**. A related information session for senior infant parents (Mrs. Ryan's class) will take place on **Monday, 11 January at 1.45pm** at the school. This literacy initiative involves a dedicated team working with the senior infants four days each week for an hour. It entails reading four new books each week, re-reading familiar material, writing stories and developing word study skills. It aims to develop literacy related problem solving strategies to facilitate pupils to become independent readers and writers. Senior infant pupils in Ms. L Collins' class will avail of the scheme in April.

This initiative has been very generously supported by the school's Parents' Association and Board of Management. We are also grateful to the school's literacy co-ordinator, Mrs O'Connor, and Mrs. Miyazaki, SEN, for playing a pivotal role in all the related planning, organisation and preparation for such a worthwhile educational activity.

**FIRST CONFESSION, HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2016 DATES:**

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
<i>First Confession</i>	<b>Tuesday 02/02/16</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Church, Belgooly</b>
<i>Confirmation</i>	<b>Wednesday 06/04/16</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Church, Belgooly</b>
<i>First Holy Communion</i>	<b>Saturday 21/05/16</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Church, Belgooly</b>

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2016**

*Catholic Schools Week* will be celebrated from *Sunday 31 January to Saturday 06 February*. The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2016 (CSW2016) is ***Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's mercy.*** Listening to bible stories, celebrating the lives of the saints and making *St. Bridget's Crosses* will feature during the week.

**ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY**

Good school attendance and punctuality benefits your child's progress and establishes good work patterns for later life. The pupils are to be complimented for their excellent school attendance. Classes commence at 9.20am and all pupils should be in attendance at this time.



**SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

The pupils are to be complimented for their neat and tidy appearance at school and we thank you for your cooperation regarding school uniform. Just a reminder to all families of the following requirements regarding the school uniform.

*The uniform consists of:*

- wine jumper/cardigan with school crest
- grey trousers/pinafore/skirt
- wine tie
- blue shirt
- regular school shoes

Pupils wear tracksuits for sporting and PE related activities, class teachers will inform you of these days. A white polo shirt is to be worn under tracksuit and pupils may wear runners with tracksuit.

To assist with returning lost uniform items, please label all clothing.

**SOCIAL PERSONAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE) – GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICE, RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE & 'BUG BUSTING' NIGHT (THURSDAY 07 JANUARY)**

Further to a 'Bug Busting' Night in September, there will be no homework tomorrow night, **Thursday 07 January**, in order to facilitate same again. It is hoped that such a whole school approach – at the start of a new school term - will assist detection and, should the need arise, provide families with the opportunity to engage with head louse treatment measures over the coming weekend. Related details were distributed earlier in the school year and 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 for the remainder of 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. If your child is unwell, it is recommended to remain at home until recovered. Given the time of year, respiratory etiquette will also be explored with classes over the coming week.

**ENROLMENT 2016 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS**

Enrolments are currently being finalised at *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást, Belgooly* for September 2016. Should you require an enrolment form for 2016 or subsequent years, please contact the school office – 4770712.

In order to assist with school planning, should any pupil have younger pre-school age siblings not already enrolled in school, please contact the office as soon as possible for an Enrolment Request Form for completion and return. In addition, we would be grateful if you could advise any neighbours/relatives who live in the parish and who may intend sending their pre-school children to *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást* to contact the school for an Enrolment Request Form.

**PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION**

Having successfully secured planning permission for two new classrooms and two new resource rooms just prior to Christmas, Consultants, Mulcahy Ralphs Architects, are preparing to advance the school's permanent building project to tender stage and it is hoped to initiate related works in March/April. This is an encouraging and welcome development which will further enhance the physical educational environment for the pupils and staff over the years ahead. The monitor in the main school lobby will feature a visual display of the development over the coming weeks.

It will also present an opportunity to generally upgrade other school areas, subject to available funds. Your *Annual Voluntary Family Contributions 2015/2016* (€50 per family) will assist in this regard. The school is very grateful for your contributions to-date and further contributions can be given to class teachers or via e-payment facility.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The school's new Board of Management (2015-2019) is wished every success as it commences its four year term - Seán Scully (Chairman), Pat O'Connor, Pat O'Regan, Macaire Adams, Gerry Geary, Margaret O'Mahony, Diarmuid Hennessy & Catherine Murphy.

The school community wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of the out-going Board (2011-2015) and to express its appreciation for their invaluable input over the past four years – Dónal Kelly (Chairman), Bridget O'Brien, Pat O'Regan, Susan Collins/Bernadette Horgan, Seán Scully, Frances Corkery, Diarmuid Hennessy & Josephine Hickey.

**DRONE SAFETY**

Legislation concerning the use of drones has changed recently and the *Irish Aviation Authority's* website ([www.iaa.ie/drones](http://www.iaa.ie/drones)) features a related safety flyer.

**WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS**

- *Irish Naval Service School Visit* – As part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, the Irish Naval Service visited the school on 01 December and this special occasion was celebrated with song, music, literature and dance. Well done to all involved and to Mrs. Hickey for co-ordinating this event.
- *Sciath na Scol* Football blitzes – Congratulations to the Boys & Girls Carrigdhoun Sciath na Scol Football teams and their coaches on their recent successes. The girl's team defeated Ballygarvan NS in the final and the boy's team just narrowly lost to Crosshaven BNS in their final. It was great to see so many pupils taking part in this event and they now look forward to participating in the hurling blitz later in the month. Thanks to all the families for supporting the pupils at the matches.
- *Christmas Celebrations* - Well done to all staff and pupils for their wonderful celebrations before Christmas which added to the spirit of the festive season
- Having written to many semi-state bodies and various embassies, fifth & sixth class pupils are receiving some interesting replies and invitations e.g. invitation to Naval base in Haulbowline, ESB... It is encouraging to see that your initiative is being rewarded – well done to all involved.

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *African Drumming Workshop (Junior infant to Second Classes)* – Monday, 11 January
- *Do This In Memory Mass (First Holy Communion)* – Sunday, 24 January at 11.30am, St Joseph's Church, Riverstick

Yours faithfully,  
Diarmuid Hennessy  
School Principal