

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



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07/09/15

Dear Parent/Guardian,

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

During the course of the school year, your child will receive various Home/School notes 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 2015/2016, Parents' section, previous Home/School notes.

To keep parents informed of date or time changes of events or other important information, we operate a 'Text a Parent' service. **This service does not replace our traditional Home/School Note.** A text message was sent from the school office this morning bringing to your attention that your child had a Home/School note in their bag. If you did not receive this text or if there is a change to mobile phone contact details from last year, please advise the school office, using the attached form, so we can update the contact list. We would be grateful if you could complete the relevant information and return same to your eldest child's class teacher by **Friday, 11 September.**

DISCOVERY SCIENCE & MATHS AWARD

As part of Science Foundation Ireland's *Discover Primary Science & Maths* programme, the school has just received a Science & Maths Excellence plaque in recognition of its deep engagement, whole school involvement and external engagement in respect of science, maths, technology and engineering. This is a significant achievement and a testament to the on-going commitment and hard work of all past and current staff, parents, Boards of Management and Parents Associations over the years. The school would like to acknowledge everyone's role in working towards such an award and to thank Mrs Hickey, assisted by Mrs Finn, for leading the school through the worthwhile evaluation process.

DANCE PROJECT AUTUMN/WINTER 2015 (All classes)

The school is happy to welcome Nicky Hayes to the school this term. Nicky will help co-ordinate a creative dance project entitled *Dance of Life*. The project commenced last week and all classes will have an opportunity to explore how movement is used in everyday life and throughout life for a number of sessions at some stage between September and December. This creative process aims to: increase knowledge and experience of stage craft and dance as an art form and life form and the journey of same; offer a broad dance experience in terms of both improvisation, composition, performance and dance appreciation via engaging in aesthetic and artistic response expressed through music and movement; incorporate the language of *Lámh*; enhance social relationships; foster readiness for learning among the entire school community; meet the school's Special Educational Needs requirements; promote dance as a positive health strategy for increasing physical activity and general well being; encourage the practice of mindfulness through meditation with sensory movement (props etc...); build scope for personal development through self-expression, problem-solving, decision-making and team work and enhance concentration levels, self motivation and willingness to get involved.

This initiative is being part-subsidised by the *Parents' Association* and a limited arts grant from *Cork County Council*. There is a cost of **€4.00 p/child or €8.00 p/family** to cover the remaining costs. **Friday, 25 September** is designated date for final collection of money. For ease of payment and to assist with administration, the school is piloting an e-payment facility in respect of this money collection. All families will receive a text tomorrow, Tuesday, with related payment advice details. There is also the option, if you wish, of forwarding the money to your eldest child's class teacher

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The *Do This In Memory* presentation for the parents of *First Holy Communicants 2016* will take place at the school on **Monday, 14 September 2015 at 8.30pm** in Room 10.

SAVING STAMPS 'Little Savers turn into Big Savers'

The Saving Stamp scheme will recommence again this year on **Thursday, 10 September**. Pupils from senior infants to sixth classes can save €1 to €3 a week and the designated date for collection of money this year is Thursday. Each pupil will receive a *Cyril's Saving Card*, which is kept by the pupil, and the stamps will be affixed to same. A complete *Cyril's Saving Card* represents a saving of €20 and when complete it can be used to:

- Open a Post Office Saving Bank Account
- Make a deposit in an existing Post Office Savings Bank Account

'BUG BUSTING' NIGHT - THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

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 on Thursday evening, 10 September. 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 Thursday night, 10 September 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.

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.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The school is being availed of by a number of outside groups and tutors offering various activities. As families may be making preparations for the school year ahead, we wish to advise you of the contact details etc for these activities. **Any matter or queries which may emerge in respect of these activities during the course of the year need to be addressed with the individual tutor involved:**

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| • <i>Irish Dancing</i> (Marguerite Fitzpatrick – 087 6508493) | Monday (4 th - 6 th Classes)
Tuesday (Infants – 3 rd Classes) |
| • <i>Drama</i> (Maria O'Callaghan – 086 0766956) | Wednesday |
| • <i>Music</i> (Mairéad Scully, Kinsale Music Academy – 087 3579000) | Monday (Violin) &
Thursday ('Little Maestro' Beginner Music Class & Guitar) |
| • <i>Art</i> (Mary Corridan – 087 1247490) | Thursday & Friday |

SCHOOL SPORTS DAY (June 2015)/MOUTH GUARD REMINDER (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 and fun. Thanks to all staff for facilitating this enjoyable event and to Ms. Murphy for co-ordinating same.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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.

Please note we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Infant Section 2015/2016 – hazelnut and cashew nut allergy, Second & Third Classes 2015/2016 – peanut and cashew nut allergy) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing hazelnuts, peanuts and cashew nuts. We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, the school must be informed of the reason for all absences. Please ensure your child brings a note to class teacher following an absence. This note should clearly state your child's full name and address, date, duration and reason for absence. **If your child has been absent for 20 days or more, please be mindful that the school is obliged to notify the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB).** Good attendance benefits your child's progress and establishes good work patterns for later life. School attendance is strong in *Scoil Mhuire na nGrást*, and we hope to maintain this throughout the entire school year.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

Should your child have a medical condition which requires the administration of medication during the course of the school day, please contact the school office and request a copy of the ***Administration of Medicine Policy*** or you may download a copy of same from our school website. Medication in this policy refers to medicines, tablets, adrenaline, inhalers and sprays by mouth or by injection.

The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that staff members are made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date.

BUS PARKING

The school wishes to remind parents of the need for continuing vigilance by everyone at the school entrance area. ***Please park on the Belgooly side of the school entrance in the morning and afternoon (9.20am & 3.00pm), leaving the Riverstick side available for school buses. Please advise child-minders/others of same.***

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal