

Belgrove Senior Girls' School

Seafield Road West

Clontarf

Dublin 3

D03 T803

Telephone: 01 833 1888

Roll No. 17148D

Príomhoide: Mrs. Anne McCarthy



Scoil Eoin Baiste Cailíní Sinsear

Bóthar Ghort na Mara Thiar

Cluain Tarbh

Baile Átha Cliath 3

D03 T803

Guthán: 01 833 1888

Uimhir Rolla 17148D

Leas Príomhoide: Mrs. Katie Stokes

www.belgroveseniorgirls.ie • info@belgroveseniorgirls.ie

Márta 2021

A thuismitheoirí / a chaomhnóirí,

Tá súil agam go mbéadh an aimsir go breá agus go mbeidh sos deas agaibhse agus ag na cailíní. I hope you all enjoy the Easter break. We have all survived the period of remote learning and have, I feel, learnt a lot from the process with regard to technology –especially the Zoom parent teacher meetings! The best part was the amount of parents who normally wouldn't have been able to attend due to work commitments, were able to take some time during their work day to attend the meeting. A lovely experience.



As mentioned in previous correspondence, the Inspectorate is developing a model of Evaluation for Emergency Remote Teaching and Learning (ERTEL). The school participated in the pilot evaluation with the Department of Education. Míle buíochas to the parents and pupils who completed the surveys as requested. As of now, I have not received the written report from the Inspector but it will be available to you when we do receive it.

COVID-19

The school received the following correspondence from Dr Abigail Collins, HSE Public Health Schools Response Lead, & Dr Kevin Kelleher, Assistant National Director, Public Health and Child Health on 23rd March 2021:

Public Health Messages: The Public Health Schools teams would like to thank you for communicating important messages to your school community. It is important to regularly reinforce these messages for your school communities to help keep everybody safe

1) Before attending school:

- *Symptoms - Please make sure all staff and families are aware not to attend your facility if they have any symptoms of Covid-19 infection.*
- *Symptomatic household members - Please remind all staff and children that no-one should be attending school if they have any household member who has signs or symptoms of Covid-19; they should be restricting their movements until it is clear whether the household member has Covid-19 infection or not.*
- *Close contacts - Please remind all staff and children that they need to restrict their movements and undergo testing if they have been told by their doctor / HSE services*

that they are a close contact of a case of Covid-19; they should not be attending any school.

• **Re-enforcing general public health messages** - Please ensure all staff and children attending your facilities are reminded of the importance of keeping your facilities safe by abiding by the national public health measures currently in place at all times e.g. **restricting movements and social contacts**, social distancing, use of facial coverings and hand hygiene.

For more information on Covid-19 and the education sector please see the HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/>

For education specific guidance, please see usual website <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/>

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

EPIC explorers virtual workshop was attended by the 5th and 6th classes on Tuesday 16th March. It was an interesting experience via an online platform! Parent Association Funds were used to pay for it. Buíochas.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

Bhí lá deas ag na caílíní ar an 16ú Márta! The winning posters and names of the girls are on the school website. The following tweet is also on the school website.



Author online visits Shane Hegarty and Jackie Burke

- (see school website for relevant tweets!)



Shane Hegarty @shanehegarty · 30m
Yesterday, I had 2 school "visits" with 80 kids in each, separated from each other across 4 Zoom screens of faces, all keen to get involved. It really shouldn't work at all, and yet it was hugely enjoyable. Brilliant engagement, ideas, laughs and questions. Thanks @BelgroveSGNS.

Belgrove SGNS @BelgroveSGNS · 20h
Míle buíochas to Shane Hegarty, author, who spoke to our 3rd and 4th classes this morning! The girls had lots of questions for him!



Shane Hegarty @shanehegarty · 10h
Hugely enjoyed meeting the girls and teachers at @belgroveSGNS. Great ideas, stories, art and questions. Thanks to @UnaMcCaffrey for linking us up.

Belgrove SGNS @BelgroveSGNS · 1d
Maidin eile iontach! Another great morning with Shane Hegarty, author, who spoke to our 5th and 6th classes. Míle buíochas Shane! And great interaction from the girls.



Belgrove SGNS
@BelgroveSGNS

Míle buíochas to Jackie Burke author who spoke to our 3rd & 4th classes today about her series "The Secrets of Grindlewood" her new book "Harp Maiden" a great morning for the girls!



18:02 · 03 Mar 21 · Twitter for Android



Jackie Burke @Grindlewood · 5m
A wonderful morning indeed! Thank you so much to all the Belgrove girls and teachers!

Department of Education Circular 18/2021

Standardised Tests

While standardised tests were not administered during the 2019/20 school year due to school closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, these tests should be administered as normal for the 2020/21 school year. The results can help schools to evaluate progress in literacy and numeracy, can help to pinpoint areas for improvement and will support teachers in ensuring that literacy numeracy learning experiences meet pupils' needs. The Department acknowledges that the school closures have had a significant impact on teaching and learning, which may be reflected in the standardised test results for primary schools this year. In the interpretation of results, teachers should bear in mind the impact that the school closures may have on pupils' test scores. Results should be communicated carefully to parents and explained in that context.

Section 12: Public Libraries

Public Libraries Support for Schools Membership of the public library is free, there are no fines for overdue books and there are no replacement charges for children's books which have been lost or damaged.

*The growth and development of the collaborative approach for educational and leisure reading support and materials between schools and public libraries is an objective of the Public Library Strategy 2018–2022, *Our Public Libraries 2022*.*

*Libraries provide ongoing library programmes and initiatives throughout the year, including the **Spring into Storytime** initiative, the national **Summer Stars reading programme**, the **Children's Book Festival** and **Family Time at Your Library**, all of which support the continuing development of children's literacy and numeracy skills (see www.librariesireland.ie).*

- ***Spring into Storytime provides story time and reading activities in branches during April.***
- *The Summer Stars Reading Adventure runs throughout the summer and is a fun reading programme open to all children who register for it at their local library.*
- *The Children's Book Festival takes place in October and celebrates children's books and family reading.*
- *Family Time at Your Library offers fun events in local branches in December.*

Section 13: Literacy Support for Parents - NALA

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) offers help and advice for parents who have difficulty reading, writing, spelling or doing mathematics. They have a Freephone number parents can call 1800 20 20 65 or a website www.takethefirststep.ie – parents can learn with their local ETB Adult Education Service or over the phone and online through NALA's Distance Learning Service. All services are free.

NALA also has a website www.helpmykidlearn.ie that provides some suggestions for activities that parents can do with their children to develop their literacy and

numeracy. It includes general information, fun activities and useful tips that can be integrated into any part of their day.

In addition, NALA has produced promotional posters and bookmarks with information about the website *Help My Kid Learn*, and how parents can support their children's learning over the summer.



Cycle Training Programme

We hope to be able to offer the Cycle Training programme as usual to the 5th classes in the final school term.

Please note

- School re-opens Tuesday 31st August 2021 for the next academic year
- See school website for the full list of school holidays 2021/22 (It is under the current year holiday list).

Buíochas mór daoibh as ucht na tacaíochta a thugann sibh don scoil - Thank you all for your continued support of the school. It is much appreciated.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne McCarthy".

Mrs. Anne McCarthy,
Príomhoide



School website www.belgroveseniorgirls.ie

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