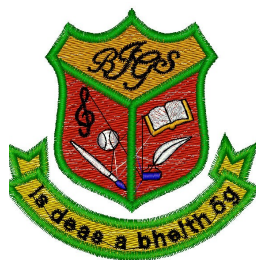


Belgrove Junior Girls' School
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Scoil Eoin Baiste Cailíní Sóisir
Bóthar Ghort na Mara
Cluain Tarbh
Baile Átha Cliath 3

Principal: Patricia O'Donoghue
Deputy Principal: Máire Duffy
Chair, Board of Management: Paul Nolan

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2012

Athbhliain faoi mhaoise dhaoibh go léir. Welcome back everyone and I hope you had a happy and restful break. We have many exciting activities planned for the term ahead and I am sure the girls are all looking forward to getting back to work.

Congratulations to all the girls on their performances of the Christmas Concert. We were especially impressed with the Junior Infants and how they were able to change costumes so promptly during the week. In line with our Social, Personal and Health Education policy we encourage you to let your junior infant come into the classroom by themselves from now on. The girls have become very self-sufficient and can be left at the outer door of the cloakrooms to walk in by themselves to the classrooms. **Buggies, bicycles and scooters should not be wheeled into the school as these pose a safety risk.** Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. If you wish to talk to the class teacher please do not hesitate to contact the school secretary and she will make an appointment for you at a mutually suitable time.

ScienceWeek

Dublin has been designated the City of Science 2012 and here in Belgrove our annual Science Week will take place on the week beginning 30 January. During the week we aim to provide extra learning activities to promote curiosity and enjoyment and to cultivate a lasting interest in science among the girls. If you work in the area of the sciences and are willing to share some of your expertise with the children you would be very welcome to come into the school on that week. The visit would involve a short presentation of about 10 minutes duration and maybe a question and answer session from the children. If you are willing to volunteer please send in your name and availability on that week to the class teacher and we will be in touch shortly.

Literacy and Numeracy

In line with Department of Education and Skills recommendations the time spent on developing literacy and numeracy skills will be increased from January 2012. We are currently in the process of reviewing the English policy in the school. One of the primary influences on literacy levels is the home environment in which the children live and where their attitudes towards reading are initially fostered. Please create a positive attitude towards reading through providing a 'book-rich' environment in your home. Children need to see their parents reading as this gives the message that reading is fun. Read to your child whenever possible – exposing your child to new vocabulary will prepare them for the difficult words they will encounter as they progress in school. Allow your child to experience the pleasure and success of sharing stories with you and this will help to develop their skills of listening and telling. Why not throw out a topic for discussion at the dinner-table? You will be surprised at some of the strong opinions held by the children.

Milk Scheme

The present milk scheme will finish on 20 January and should you wish your child to avail of milk for the rest of the school year please fill out the accompanying form.

Time-keeping and Attendance

We are all full of good intentions for the New Year and we hope you will put time-keeping and attendance at the top of your list. The school opens at 8.35am and the Junior Infant classes start with educational activities at this time. These 20 minutes give the children the chance to learn important social skills in an informal setting. They love to meet and chat with their friends. They also have to source their own activities, tidy up afterwards, share and keep rules of games and talk to their classmates before formal lessons begin. This time is also used for correcting homework and swapping library books as the girls progress through the school. Formal class begins at 8.55am.

Since the inception of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, schools are obliged to report on school attendance. The agency that collects this data is the NEWB. The school is obliged to return absences of 20 days or more to the NEWB. We propose to send out reminder letters to parents of children who are approaching the reporting limit for school attendance this year. Very often there will be good reasons for the absences. A child might be sick or there might have been a family difficulty. Please let the school know in writing if your child is absent and why. Children who are sick should not be sent to school.

To ensure the continued safety of your child Allianz Insurance has recommended that we make you aware of the following:

The official opening time of the school is 8.35am and the inside gate of the school will be unlocked each morning at this time to admit pupils to the classrooms. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before this time. Classes commence at 8.55am and end at 1.15pm.

Dates for your Diary

31 January – Closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2012.

13 to 17 February inclusive – School closed for spring break.

PATRICIA O'DONOGHUE

Principal