



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

12th of May 2021

Dear Parent(s),

I hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well. I would like to bring the following to your attention in this May Newsletter.

COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan and Procedures

Thank you to everyone for their adherence to the guidelines and following the measures in place to ensure everyone's safety at present.

- **HSE return to school form after absences:** After any school absence, the HSE return to school declaration form must be completed and returned.
- **Parking and Morning Drop off:** The school will be open to receive children from 9.05 am each morning and children are not to come onto the school grounds until the school doors are open. Reminder to keep the area directly in front of Toonagh Hall free of parked cars at all times so that cars and our school buses can turn here. We ask if possible that parents would have cars turned in the direction of travel each day to help with flow of traffic. This will help greatly to minimise congestion in the morning and evenings. Thanks for your cooperation on these important safety matters.
- **Pupils experiencing any of the following symptoms should not attend school:**
 1. Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more.
 2. Any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath.
 3. Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
 4. Been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus.

Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying Talk

The rescheduled presentation by Dr Maureen Griffin on the area of online safety for children will take place on

Wednesday June 2nd @7.30 pm via Zoom.

The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent via email closer to the time. The invitation is to all parents in the school who wish to attend. The link will be live from 7.15pm onwards on Tuesday night. Thanks to the Parents Association and Board of Management for funding this.

Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE)

Toonagh NS has a responsibility to cover the R.S.E. (Relationships and Sexuality Education) section of the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) Curriculum. This content will be taught this term in all classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class at an age appropriate level. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Active Schools Week and Active Flag Renewal

Active Schools week (May 4th to 7th) was a fantastic success and the children really enjoyed it. The children took part in many healthy activities including nature trails, relay races such as hoola hoop racing and wiggle worm racing! soccer penalty pandemonium with the principal being the goalkeeper! basketball, hurling, camogie and a run around Ireland activity daily! You can see photos of the week's events on our school Twitter page or on our website in the news section which has our Twitter feed. Thank you to the teachers for organising a great week for the children.

We are currently working on the renewal of our Active School Flag. Another healthy initiative we have introduced this term is 'walking and talking' in the class bubbles in designated areas before school starts each morning. The children are enjoying this wellbeing and exercise activity in a safe environment.

Accelerated Reader

Pupils in 2nd to 6th class have been taking part in the motivational reading programme Accelerated Reader (AR) this year. The children have really taken to AR and there is great evidence of independent reading going on in the school. Children read books at their own level and take a comprehension quiz after each book. So far this year the children in Toonagh have read an amazing **45 million words** and **2183 books** which is fantastic reading. An improvement in the children's reading skills has been very evident and there is a great culture of independent reading going on at school and at home, well done to all the children!

Literacy Lift Off

This excellent reading initiative is up and running in 1st and 2nd class since Easter and the children are making good progress with their reading on the programme. Literacy Lift Off is an intensive reading programme which gives pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. The children read new books each week at their own level, the books are from the PM Levelled Reading Scheme. All children are progressing through the levels and making good progress. Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Griffin are coordinating this programme. Well done to all the children who are engaging very well with Literacy Lift Off.

Hurling and Camogie

Ann McMahon is coaching hurling, camogie and fundamental movement skills for all classes every Friday. The coaching takes place outside in our Astro Turf and the children remain in their Pods during the coaching. Thanks to Ruan GAA Club for funding this excellent Physical Education initiative for the girls and boys.

We are also running a hurling and camogie league on Friday afternoons in our Astro turf for all the girls and boys in 3rd - 6th in their class bubbles. This fun league will run until the summer holidays and the children will also take part in some wall ball coaching and drills after their matches.

Parents Association News

While there won't be another clothes collection until some date in October, the Parents Association are going to organise a date in June where clothes can be dropped off at Toonagh hall if anyone is doing a clear out of old clothes before the summer holidays. We will have more details of this date in our June Newsletter. Thanks for your support with these important fundraisers.

Important Dates coming up

- **Tuesday May 25th and Wednesday May 26th**: Standardised Testing Maths
- **Wednesday June 2nd @7.30pm**: Dr. Maureen Griffin Internet Safety Talk for parents.
- **Friday June 4th & Monday June 7th**: School closed for June Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Gearóid Roughan

Principal