



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

13th of December 2024

Dear Parent(s),

I would like to bring the following to your attention in this December newsletter.

Christmas Concert

The children gave a wonderful performance on the night. We hope you enjoyed the 4 excellent plays along with a brilliant music and song finale. We were very proud of the children's performance on the night. It was a fantastic production from all involved.

Our Christmas Concert is a great tradition in Toonagh NS and the children gain lots of confidence from going on stage and performing for you all. We are very fortunate to have such enthusiastic and talented teachers here in the Toonagh and without them this concert would not have been possible. The teachers deserve great credit for the work they put in with the school children in the lead up to our Christmas Concert and it was a wonderful night for our school community.

Christmas time in the school

Christmas is a very special time in school for the pupils. The teachers and SNAs are involving the children in Christmas events and activities such as fun Advent calendars, Christmas baking, wreath making, flower arranging, Christmas Art and Crafts. You will notice the windows of our school very nicely decorated and painted for Christmas and well done to 5th and 6th class.

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school from Wednesday onwards next week. As part of our Active Schools programme, we will be taking part in some healthy activities including a Santa dash/run on Friday 20th in our all-weather pitch. Thanks to all the staff in the school for making Christmas a special time for the children in Toonagh NS.

Liam McCarthy Cup Visit!

We are delighted that the Liam McCarthy Cup will be visiting our school on Tuesday next. Robin Mounsey and some of his Clare team mates will be visiting the school. All the pupils can wear blue and yellow on this day of celebration.

Enrolment to Junior Infants 2025/26

If you know of a parent with a child who would like a place in our school in Junior Infants September 2025 or in another class, they can email Noelette to receive an Application Form for Enrolment. Application forms can also be downloaded on our website toonaghns.com. Application forms can be posted, emailed or dropped into the school. Anyone that wishes to view our excellent facilities is welcome to call in and we will show them around the school. Closing date is Friday February 21st 2025.

Reading in Toonagh NS this Term

There is great reading going on in the school and most importantly pupils are reading at their correct instructional level. Please make sure that your child practices their reading each night. We have made a lot of investment in books including a school library in our GP room, PM Levelled Readers from levels 1 to 30, Novels for Guided Reading and new books for Accelerated Reader. Improving the children's reading and literacy skills is key to their learning and wellbeing in school.

Children from 2nd-6th class have been taking part in the Motivational Levelled Reading programme **Accelerated Reader (AR)** this term. The children have really taken to AR and there is great evidence of independent reading going on in the school. So far this year children in Toonagh have read an amazing 1187 books and 11 million words which is fantastic reading!

Literacy Lift Off is a levelled reading programme for the younger classes which gives pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. This excellent reading initiative has been going on in 1st and 2nd this term and the children are making great progress with their reading and writing on the programme. The children read 3 books a week at

their own level, the books are from the PM Levelled Reading Scheme. Ms. Garrahy and Ms. Griffin are coordinating this and well done to all the children who are engaging greatly with this reading programme.

Ms. Browne's Senior Infants are reading **PM levelled readers** each day. The children are reading at their instructional level and they are progressing very well with their reading through achieving success and understanding.

The children in 3rd-6th have been taking part in **Guided Reading** this term in school. Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves the Class Teacher and Special Education Teacher working with the students in small groups, they read a class novel at their own level and learn specific comprehension strategies daily. This small group intervention has worked very well in 3rd – 6th and the children really enjoyed the novels that they have read this term with Ms. Cullinan, Mr. Eustace and Mr. Roughan.

Garda Tractor Visit:

Co. Clare based Garda sergeant Edel Burke Curtin drove the tractor to our school on Tuesday November to help engage with the children about farm safety. Edel spoke with all the classes and the children enjoyed having the tractor visit. Members of the student council had their photo taken with the tractor by Clare Champion Photographer John Kelly. Thanks to Gráinne Barry for organising the Garda Tractor to visit Toonagh NS.

School Sport:

- **Handball:** Congratulations to Samatha Vaughan and Kate Flanagan along with their team mates on the Clare team who did very well in the Munster Primary School final which took place last week. Well done also to her coaches in Toonagh Handball Club.
- **Hurling and Camogie Wall Ball League:** This league will take place in January and February for boys and girls from 3rd – 6th that wish to take part. The league will take place at sos and lunch times in the Indoor Astro Turf facility.

Annual Toonagh Charity Walk:

This takes place on Sunday 12th of January 2025. This walk is in aid of Clarecastle Day Care Centre. See poster attached with more details.

Christmas Concert Raffle Success:

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating prizes, gifts and hampers for the very successful Christmas Concert Raffle Fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets and were so generous on the night. There was over 20 hampers of great prizes given out and monies raised will be used to buy school resources and equipment for the pupils in the new year.

Parents Association News:

- **Santa Visit:** Our Parents Association have organised Santa and his elves to visit the children in our school on Wednesday next week and Santa will have a Christmas present for all the children in the school!
- **Calendars, school photos and Christmas cards:** The Parents Association have put together a very nice school calendar for 2025. The Christmas cards were distributed this week.
- **Christmas Concert:** Thanks so much to the Parents Association and all the parents in their working group who helped out with all the work for our concert. Much time and effort went into the hall decorations, the very successful raffle, the snacks for the pupils during the concert and organising parking.
- **Toy Show treat boxes:** The Parents Association delivered very nice treat boxes on Friday for the Toy Show. A lot of work went into making these and the boxes were very well presented.

I would very much like to thank our Parents Association and all the parents who help them for the great work they have done this term.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Tuesday December 17th:** Liam McCarthy Cup visit. Children can wear blue and yellow coming to school on this day.
- **Wednesday December 18th:** Santa visit to the children in Toonagh NS.
- **Wednesday – Friday (Dec 18th – 20th):** Children can wear Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school from Wednesday onwards next week.
- **Friday December 20th:** School closes for the Christmas holidays @12.30.
- **Monday January 6th:** School reopens after the Christmas holidays.
- **Wednesday February 5th:** Half day closure for staff planning meeting.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and peaceful new year. Thanks for all your support during 2024.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide

Annual Toonagh Charity Walk

Sunday, 12th January, 2025



Walk registration 10 Euro at Toonagh Hall at 11am.

Suitable for families with various fitness levels.

3 walk routes around the roads of Toonagh Dysart. 2Km / 5Km / 10Km.

Monster Raffle with all proceeds in aid of



Clarecastle
Day Care Centre

**Toonagh Village , Co. Clare is near the Burren,
8Km from Ennis on the Corofin road. (V95 DF88)**