



# *Scoil an Tamhnaigh*

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U*

*Tel: 065-6820143*

September 2022

Dear Parent(s),

Everyone has settled back well in Toonagh NS and well done to all the children.

There are a number of important items that I would like to bring to your attention in this back to school newsletter:

## **School Fees Payment 2022-23:**

We are dependant on a school fees charge to help the school alleviate the cost of some resources which are so beneficial to the children in Toonagh NS. Please see more detailed letter attached to this newsletter with the breakdown of our School Fees Collection 2022-23.

An epayment request for the school fees 2022-23 will issue in the coming days. This payment will include a fee for pupil insurance (24 hour, 365 day cover), and a contribution to help with the expense of the following: Art and Craft materials for the children, photocopying and printing, Aladdin message a parent system, Accelerated Reader Licences, Digital School book licences and Literacy Lift Off programme.

I also realise that back to school payments can be difficult for some families, in this case please contact me and I will give financial help in the strictest confidence. Also please note you can spread out the payments on the Aladdin epayments system.

Should you have any questions about ePayments, please contact Noelette.

## **Morning Drop Off and Evening Collection Arrangements:**

1. **Parking:** Due to our narrow road and limited parking we need to take precautions. Please at all times leave the area directly in front of Toonagh Hall free of parked cars. This is needed as a turning point for cars and our school buses. Please do not park/drop off in the yellow box directly in front of the school gates, this space is needed for our school buses and deliveries.

To minimise congestion, we ask that parents would have cars turned in the direction of travel each day to help with flow of traffic. We request that you do not turn your car in any of our neighbours' driveways.

2. **Morning Drop Off:** The school doors will be open from 9.05 each morning, strictly no children on the school grounds before the doors open as we there will be no supervision. The doors will be opened at approx. 9.05am and supervision will start at this time.
3. **Evening Collection:** Only children going on the school buses will enter or exit the school through the main school gate, it is not safe for children to walk out this gate onto the road. All other entry or exit from the school should be via the pedestrian gate.

If any children wish to leave the school via the back gate and steps near the Basketball Court or the main gate, parents/adults must collect them from here and be visible as we will not allow any child leave through these gates unsupervised due to cars turning here and walking directly onto the road. The safest exit point for children is our pedestrian gate.

Thanks for your cooperation and the continued safety of all our children is of utmost importance.

## **Communicating with the school:**

Please note our secretary Noelette works on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and you can contact the school on these days by phone. Outside of these days we try to check the school voicemail, at the end of the school day. Outside of these days and times the phone will rarely be answered as all staff are in class. School phone contact details are 065-6820143. You can email the school

[toonaghschool@gmail.com](mailto:toonaghschool@gmail.com) and direct the message for a teacher's attention. Alternatively, you email each teacher at the email address they have provided you.

If any parent wishes to meet their child's teacher, please arrange a prior appointment. Please contact the school if you have changed your mobile number or email address and if you are not receiving texts/emails.

### **COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan:**

The latest guidelines issued to schools at the end of August state:

- Stay at home if you are unwell. The best way to keep all viruses out of school is to stay at home if you are unwell and until your symptoms have substantially resolved for 48 hours.
- Maintain a good standard of hand hygiene
- Adhere to good respiratory etiquette
- Ensure good ventilation arrangements
- Continue to maintain good levels of cleaning

### **Absences:**

As a parent, you must let the school know if your child is absent and the reason why. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing to the class teacher. Please supply the class teacher with a written note or email explaining the reason for absence for the school's records.

The school must notify TUSLA – Child and Family Agency when a child is absent for 20 days or more or where the absences gives rise to concern.

### **Healthy Lunches:**

Our school continues to promote healthy eating with a Healthy Lunch Policy in the school. Sweets, chocolate bars, crisps and fizzy drinks are not permitted. One small treat is permitted on Friday which can be eaten at big lunch. We look forward to embracing a healthy school. Many thanks for your continued co-operation.

### **Label belongings:**

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled; Jumpers, Tracksuits, Coats etc as they can get mixed up at times.

### **Half Day Closure for Staff Planning and Training:**

The school will close on **Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>** @12.30 pm for a half day for a Staff meeting to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time.

### **Junior Infant Parent Information Session:**

The new Junior Infants have settled very well into school. An information session for the Junior Infant parents will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of October @ 2.15 pm in the Junior Infant Classroom.

### **Sacrament Dates:**

Holy Communion is Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in Dysart Church.

Confirmation is Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am in Ruan Church

### **Christmas Concert:**

Our Christmas Concert makes a welcome return this year. It will take place on Thursday night December 8<sup>th</sup> and we'll have more details in upcoming newsletters.

### **Board of Management Summer Works and Maintenance:**

The Board of Management had been busy preparing the school premises and grounds for the new school year. I would like to extend thanks especially to Seán Eustace for ensuring that the school was in pristine condition for the return of the pupils; organising landscaping work as well as a deep clean of the interior of our school building.

Agreed Reports from each Board of Management meeting will be available to view on our school website.

### **Teacher Courses:**

Under rule 58 of the Rules for Primary Schools, teachers are entitled to 3 Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days on foot of taking part in approved summer courses. Over the summer, many of the teachers in the school have taken the time to complete these invaluable courses in a variety of valuable areas. The Department of Education will not cover the cost of a substitute for one of the

three days per teacher. The Board of Management will cover the cost of a substitute for one of the three days per teacher and class will need to be split up into other classrooms for the other teacher course day absences.

### **School Twitter Page and Website:**

I would encourage parents to follow us on Twitter (@toonaghns) where the teachers will tweet activities taking place in the school. If you are not a Twitter user, you may access this via our school website (www.toonaghns.com). The Twitter feed is available to scroll through on our home page and also under the 'News' tab.

### **School Sport:**

- **Hurling:** Ann McMahon is coaching hurling, camogie and fundamental movement skills for all classes on Fridays. The children from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> are asked to bring in their own hurley and helmet every Friday. Children from Juniors to 2<sup>nd</sup> don't need to bring in any equipment for now, we provide all children from Juniors to 2<sup>nd</sup> with a hurley for this coaching session. Thanks to Ruan GAA Club for funding this excellent Physical Education initiative for the girls and boys.
- **Cross Country:** The Cross Country Running Competition for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class will take place in Lees Road on Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.30am. All children in these classes are encouraged to take part if possible. An epayment request for the entry fee (€3) and bus fee (€5) will issue soon.

### **Clothes Collection Fundraiser:**

The date for the first clothes collection fundraiser this school year will be **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of October**. Drop off times on the date will be 9-10am, 1.45 – 3pm, and 6.30 -7.30pm. Please support and spread the word among anyone who may be doing a clear out of old clothes. Thank you.

### **Parents Association News:**

- **AGM Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>:** The Annual General Meeting of the Toonagh Parents Association will take place on This coming Monday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm in our GP Hall. We would encourage as many parents as possible to attend this important meeting. Helping out with the Parents' Association is rewarding as any of the events organised or funds raised are for the children of the school.
- **Cahercalla Coffee Morning September 21<sup>st</sup>:** The children of the school have been invited to the Annual Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning, organised by the Parents' Association, on next Wednesday morning 21<sup>st</sup> of September between 9.30 and 12.00 in the hall. Donations of home baking welcome on the morning of the Coffee Morning. All parents are welcome to attend. A contribution of €2.00 per child has been suggested.
- **Clothes Collection:** Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>

### **Important Dates coming up:**

- **Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>:** Parents Association AGM @8pm.
- **Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>:** Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning 9.15am – 12.00pm.
- **Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>:** School closes for half day for staff meeting and planning.
- **Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>:** Clothes Collection Fundraiser.
- **Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2.15 pm:** Junior Infant Parents' information session.
- **November (dates TBC):** Parent Teacher Meetings.
- **Thursday night December 8<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Concert. More details to follow.

*Best wishes to everyone for the school year ahead and thanks for your support.*

*Gearóid Roughtan*

Principal