



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U
Tel: 065-6820143*

January, 2020

Dear Parent(s),

Happy New Year to you all. There are a number of items I would like to bring to your attention as we begin the second term of the school year.

Enrolment Junior Infants September 2020

Enrolment for Junior Infants (September 2020) has begun. If you have a child to enrol please contact the school office for an application form or you can download the form on our school website on our school website toonaghschool.com. If you know of another child (neighbour, relation, friend etc..), please inform them of this. The closing date for enrolment will be 28th of February.

School Times & Parking Reminder

We earnestly request that you park in a manner that doesn't compromise our children's safety. 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 or park your car in any of our neighbour's driveways.

Most importantly we ask that you keep free the space in front of Toonagh Hall at all times as this area is needed every day for the turning of the buses and cars.

Please note the following very important safety arrangements:

- 1. Only children on the school buses will enter or exit the school through the main school gate.*
- 2. All other entry or exit from the school must be via the new pedestrian gate.*
- 3. For parents that park up the top of the school grounds near the hall, all children must enter and exit the school grounds via the steps at the back of the school by the basketball court.*

The School will be open to receive children from **9.10a.m.** onwards. Our supervision will start at 9.10 a.m. and there will be a teacher on duty every morning at this time, there will also be a teacher on supervision for a brief period each evening to monitor children leaving the school in a safe manner. Please note in the evenings after school no child is allowed leave the school grounds until their parent/adult collects them from the school grounds or the children may leave if they can see their parent/adult. School starts at 9.20a.m and finishes at 3p.m.

Thanking you for your co-operation on these matters. The continued safety of all our children is of utmost importance.

Clothes Collection

The first clothes collection of 2020 will be held on Thursday 30th January by the Parents' Association. Contributions of any unwanted clothes, belts, shoes, towels, curtains and bags would be greatly appreciated. Drop off times are

- Morning: 9a.m. to 10a.m.
- Afternoon: 1.45p.m. to 3p.m.
- Evening: 6.30p.m. to 7.30p.m.

You can drop off any bags of clothes at the school reception prior to the collection date.

Your support of this important fundraiser would be greatly appreciated. The Parents Association have recently helped to fund the new reading programme 'Literacy Lift Off' which is very expensive to start in school.

Christmas in School

Christmas in Toonagh NS was a very special time of the year. While it seems a distant memory now, great compliments must go to the teachers and SNAs for involving the children in many Christmas events and celebrations such as wreath making, baking, Art & Crafts, Active schools and for the excellent Christmas shows. Also thanks to our Parents Association and the parents who helped make Christmas a very exciting time here in Toonagh. Special thanks to the Parents Association for the planning and coordinating the Christmas Concert night so well

Communicating with the school

Please note our secretary (Noelette) works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and you can contact the school on these days. Outside of these days we try to check the school voicemail end of the school day. Also outside of these times the phone will rarely be answered as all staff are in class. School contact details are 065-6820143 or via email at toonaghschool@gmail.com

Updated Mobile/Contact Telephone Numbers and E-mail

If your mobile/contact number or e-mail has changed from that on our files please inform Noelette. This is important as we often use text messages/e-mails to communicate important information to parents.

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

Please supply the class teacher with a written note explaining the reason for absence for the school's records.

Seasonal Flu

There have been a number of cases of flu in schools before and after Christmas. The HSE has set up a new Under the Weather website www.undertheweather.ie which has useful information on managing common illnesses.

Stay Safe Lessons

Toonagh NS has a responsibility to cover Stay Safe section of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Curriculum. Stay Safe is a personal safety programme which teaches children to tell a trusted adult about any problems they may have. You can familiarise yourself with the content of the Stay Safe lessons at <https://pdst.ie/StaySafeParents> This content is now being taught in Term 2 in all classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class.

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

For our SSE we are focusing on the theme of Wellbeing and we have been working on particular strategies and learning over the past year to help with our pupils' wellbeing. The children took part in a competition to come up with the wellbeing slogan for Toonagh National School. The chosen slogan was composed by Billy Marrinan 6th class which is '**Do Well By Doing Good**'. This slogan is now on display in our school and the children are learning to adapt it in their daily school lives. The area of pupils' wellbeing and our new slogan are mentioned at every school assembly. We also hope to have a Wellbeing themed week linked to our Active Schools week in 2020.

Staff Planning & Training

- The school will close on **Wednesday, February 12th at 12:30p.m.** to for a staff meeting to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time.
- The Department of Education have implemented a new curriculum for teaching English and Irish in all primary schools in Ireland. Toonagh NS will be take 2 further half day closures for planning on the new curriculum. We will notify you of these days when we have more details from the Department.

New Board of Management

I would like to thank our outgoing Board of Management for their work over the last 4 years. The outgoing board members were Marie Slattery (Chairperson), Ger Barry (Patron Nominee), Seán Eustace (Teacher Representative), Donnchadh Kelleher (Principal), Denise Whelan (Parent Representative), Philip Lucas (Parent Representative), Ita Hastings (Community Representative & Treasurer), Seán Ryan – Fountain (Community Representative). We were very fortunate to have a Board of Management who gave of their time so well for the betterment of our school and they got great work done over the 4 years.

I would like to wish our new Board very well over the next 4 years and thank them for volunteering of their time. Our new board is: Marie Slattery (Chairperson), Laura Cahir (Patron Nominee & Treasurer), Seán Eustace (Teacher Representative), Gearóid Roughan (Principal), Mairéad Culliney (Parent Representative), Brian O'Loughlin (Parent Representative), Denise Whelan (Community Representative), Seán Ryan – Dysart (Community Representative).

Dysart/Ruan First Responder Group

We are grateful to Podge Lordan from the Dysart/Ruan First Responder Group for organising very informative talks to the children on CPR and eircode awareness. Podge also organised an Ambulance visit on December 19th where the children had the chance see the ambulance up close and learn all about the amazing job our emergency services do every day. The Dysart/Ruan First Responder Group hope to be up and running very soon in the Parish.

Sacraments

Confirmation takes place on Friday, April 24th at 11a.m. in Ruan Church. The retreat to Knock for 6th Class pupils will take place on March 2nd or 3rd.

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 2nd at 11a.m. in Dysart Church.

Catholic Schools Week & Grandparents Day

Catholic Schools Week will take place on January 27th – 31st. On Friday January 31st we are inviting Grandparents to visit our school at 11 a.m. We will have mass with Fr. Pat followed by some bingo with the children and Grandparents. There will also be some refreshments for our visitors. Looking forward to seeing our Grandparents that can make it on this day.

G.A.A. Coaching

Ann McMahon will continue coaching the boys and girls in the school each week. Coaching will take place each Friday and the children are reminded to bring their hurley and helmet to school every Friday. Thanks to Ruan GAA Club for funding this initiative for all the girls and boys in the school.

Gymnastics & Tracksuit Days

All children will participate in gymnastics each week for the next 5 weeks. Magda Konezyk (gymnastics coach) will visit the school each Monday. The Parents' Association have generously agreed to sponsor the cost of these lessons. For the next 5 weeks, Mondays (note change from Tuesday) and Fridays will be P.E. days and children will wear their tracksuits on these 2 days. The regular school uniform is to be worn for the other 3 days of the week.

School Sport

- **Basketball**: Our Boys and Girls basketball team have been training for the last number of weeks before Christmas and continue to do so on Wednesdays and Thursdays at lunch times with Ms. Barry & Ms. Brosnan. They are preparing for the upcoming Marion Keane Tournament and we wish them well in this competitions.
- **Hurling & Camogie Wall Ball League**: This league continues in January for all girls and boys from 3rd-6th. The league takes place at lunch times in the excellent Indoor Astro Turf facility and it is helping the boys and girls to develop their skills. In the coming weeks there will be semi-finals and finals.
- **Handball**: Toonagh Handball club are currently running off matches to choose players for the primary school handball competitions at the end of January. There will also be a school handball league starting after our wall ball league has finished.

Parents Association News

- Upcoming fundraiser: January Clothes Collection
- Initiatives funded this term: Literacy Lift-Off books and Gymnastics programme

School Twitter Page and Website

I would encourage parents to follow us on Twitter (@toonaghns) where you may follow the weekly 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 news feed is available to scroll through on our home page and also under the 'News' tab.

Important Dates coming up

- **Thursday January 30th**: Clothes Collection Fundraiser.
- **Friday January 31st**: Grandparents day mass, bingo & refreshments. Mass starts at 11.00 a.m.
- **Wednesday February 12th**: Staff meeting, school closes at 12.30 p.m
- **Monday February 17th – Friday February 21st** : School closed for the week, February midterm break.

Wishing you a very happy and peaceful 2020

Gearóid Roughan,
Príomhoide

Please Sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter January, 2020).

Parent(s)/ Guardian: _____