



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

15th of October, 2020

Dear Parent(s),

I would like to bring the following to your attention in this October newsletter:

COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan:

We have had a very good two months in Toonagh NS and I'm glad to report that the children have been excellent in school. Their behaviour has been exemplary and they have settled back into school very well. It has not been easy for them adapting to the many different procedures such as: remaining in their pods and classroom bubbles, physical distancing and keeping on top of the regular hand sanitising and hand washing. The children have clearly gained a very good understanding that all these new procedures are in the interest of trying to keep everyone safe and healthy in our school. You should be very proud of them, we are very proud of the pupils in Toonagh on how they have settled back to a very different school and also on how well they have got on with their school work.

I want to say a huge thank you to all the parents for your cooperation with our new procedures. We are working very hard to keep everyone safe and we appreciate all your help. Some points of note for the second half of Term 1:

- The school will be open to receive children from 9.05am each morning. Children must not come onto the school grounds/yard until the school doors are open at 9.05am, then they go straight to their classroom pod. Please do not send children into the school grounds before school doors are open at 9.05am as it is not safe to do so. We stringently have to maintain the class 'bubbles' and as per the guidelines.
- 1st & 2nd Class will leave the school at 2.55pm, 3rd & 4th Class will leave the school at 3.00pm, 5th & 6th Class will leave the school at 3.05pm. This has helped minimise any congestion of 80 children leaving the school grounds at once.
- As a temporary measure, staff will continue to park in the basketball court which has helped greatly with the flow of traffic, especially each evening. This is now much more space around the hall for cars and buses to turn and also a few more parking spaces are available on an already very narrow road and limited area outside the school. Please at all times keep the area in front of Toonagh Hall free in order for the school bus and cars to turn.

The Covid-19 Response plan for our school is working very well at present and all pupils are familiar now with accessing and departing the school safely.

What happens if there is a suspected or positive case of COVID in our school?

If a pupil in our School tests positive for Covid-19 the Public Health Department of the HSE will carry out a Public Health Risk Assessment and will decide on the appropriate actions to be taken. The School does not have a direct role in this decision-making process.

The Public Health Risk Assessment may indicate that contact tracing is necessary. To facilitate this, the school may be asked to furnish the names and contact details of pupils (and their parents/guardians) who are close contacts of a confirmed case. If this information is requested by the Public Health Department of the HSE, the school will process the information in compliance with data protection laws. The information will be given in a secure manner, only to named individuals and only the information necessary for the contact tracing will be given. It is the HSE and not the School, that will carry out any necessary contact tracing.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Schools are waiting on guidance from the Department of Education in regard to Parent Teacher Meetings. We will inform parents when this guidance arrives.

Halloween Dress-up:

On Friday, 23rd of October children may come to school in Halloween Costume/Fancy Dress. Weather permitting the children will take part in a Halloween parade in their class bubbles on our Astro Turf pitch after lunch. All children, whether in costume or not will receive Halloween treats from the school and hopefully this will be a nice end to the first half term for them.

First Holy Communion:

Well done to all the children who made their First Holy Communion in September in Ruan Church. They were a credit to themselves and their parents. We were all so proud of them on how reverently they received their First Holy Communion. A special word of thanks to Kate Brosnan for her dedication and careful preparation of the children throughout the year and in the lead up to the ceremony, and also special thanks to Seán Eustace for the work he put in preparing the class since our return to school.

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.

Parents Association News:

- **Clothes Collection:** Thank you very much for supporting the Parents Association Old Clothes collection. It was a great success and €960 was raised. This will help with the purchase of new iPads which we need to buy for each class. The Toonagh Hall committee will also be receiving a donation of €300 from the money raised. Thank you.
- **New officers urgently needed:** Both Mary Gilmore (Chairperson) and Mairéad McInerney (Secretary) are finishing up in their roles in October. We urgently need to fill these positions and hopefully there will be volunteers interested in helping out. We've always had a Parents' Association in Toonagh NS and hopefully we'll have one again for 2020/21. Please contact Noreen Cummins (086 6030005) or Mairéad McInerney (086 2142359) if you would like to find out more.
Under the current Covid-19 restrictions the Parents' Association are unable to hold an AGM, so please contact Noreen or Mairéad to find out more.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Friday October 23rd:** School closes for Halloween mid-term break.
- **Monday November 2nd:** School reopens after Halloween mid-term break

I wish you all good health and hope that you can stay safe during this very difficult period in trying to deal with the virus. Given the increase in cases both locally and nationally, I thank you for your continued support.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide