



# *Scoil an Tamhnaigh*

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U*

*Tel: 065-6820143*

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16<sup>th</sup> of December 2020

Dear Parent(s),

## **Thank you**

We are fast approaching the end of what has been a truly extraordinary year. As we do I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in our school community for your help and continued support.

To the staff of Toonagh NS, I wish to acknowledge all their efforts and hard work since our school reopened at the end of August. Through their dedication to our school and resilience, they have ensured that our school has remained a safe and welcoming place for all our children during these very difficult times. This dedication is greatly valued and appreciated. I wish to thank our Board of Management for their all their help and work during the summer months and during this term, they have been a great support to the school during these challenging times.

Thank you to our parents for your efforts in ensuring that Toonagh NS has continued to remain open and safe. Thank you for your continued co-operation with and adherence to our new routines to help minimise the risk of Covid-19 in our school. Due to everyone working together, staff, parents and pupils our Covid-19 procedures have worked well this term. Since we have returned to school our pupil attendance figure has been an astonishing 97%. This high attendance figure is down to everyone's efforts to adhere to the guidelines, however we must continue to be extra vigilant in the new year and if children have any symptoms, as per the guidelines they must be kept at home.

The children have had a great 4 months in school and settled back very well. It has not been easy for them adapting to the many different procedures in place. You should be very proud of them, we are very proud of the pupils in Toonagh on how they have adjusted to very different school routines and also on how well they have got on with their school work.

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

The main concern for our school continues to be COVID-19 and the important measures we have in place to keep our school as safe as possible. Some points of note for Term 2:

- **Ventilation:** We will make every effort to keep our school ventilated, it is necessary to have good circulation of clean air and for this reason windows will be kept ajar throughout the day. Good ventilation will be achieved by opening windows and doors before school and during breaks. During class time windows may be partially opened. Please ensure that your child is dressed in warm layers under their uniform and tracksuit if required.
- **Morning Drop off:** The school will be open to receive children from 9.05 am each morning. Children must not come onto the school grounds/yard until the school doors are open, then they go straight to their classroom pod.
- **Evening Collection:** 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 and these procedures will continue for Term 2.

The Covid-19 Response plan and safety procedures for our school have been working well and thanks for your cooperation.

### **Christmas Holidays closure**

The school will close early on the day of the Christmas holidays, Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please note the following closing/collection times will be in place to minimise congestion and to avoid classroom bubbles mixing:

**12.15 pm** for Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> class and 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

**12.25 pm** for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class.

**12.30pm** for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

The buses will collect at this time. School re-opens on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

### **Christmas Activities in school**

The teachers and SNAs are involving the children in many Christmas events and activities such as wreath making, Christmas Art & Crafts and Active Schools Christmas activities. You will notice the windows of our school very nicely decorated and painted for Christmas.

### **Active School Flag**

As part of our Active Schools programme we will be taking part in some healthy activities including athletics, dance and a santa dash/race on Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> in our all-weather pitch. Children are allowed wear santa hats, Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school on this day if they wish.

### **Enrolment for Junior Infants 2021/22**

If you have a child or know of a parent with a child, who would like a place in our school in Junior Infants September 2021, you can email Noelette to receive an Application Form for Enrolment. You can also download the application form on our website [toonaghns.com](http://toonaghns.com). While the closing date for enrolment won't be until sometime in February 2021, we are currently trying to estimate our enrolment numbers for the next school year and plan ahead. Thank you.

### **Parents Association News**

- **A Christmas Carol Show (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) and Rockin' Christmas Rhymes Show (Juniors – 2<sup>nd</sup>)**: Glór are producing two online Christmas shows for schools and our Parents Association are paying for these live shows for the pupils. We hope the children will enjoy watching these productions from Glór.
- **Santa Visit**: Our Parents Association have organised Santa to visit the children in our Astro Turf and Santa will have a special Christmas present for all the children in the school! Santa and his elves will be visiting our school on Monday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks also to members of our PA for organising our Christmas tree, crib and decorations that we have in our school reception area.
- **Clothes Collection**: The Parents Association will hold an old clothes collection fundraiser sometime in February 2021. There will be more details in the January Newsletter.

### **Important Dates coming up**

- **Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**: School closes for Christmas holidays. 12.15 pm (Juniors – 2<sup>nd</sup> class). 12.25 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>), 12.30 (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>).
- **Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup>**: School reopens after the Christmas holidays.
- **Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>**: half day closure for staff planning meeting. More details in January Newsletter.

*Wishing you all a happy Christmas and thanks for your support during 2020.*

*Gearóid Roughan*

Príomhoide