

# *Scoil an Tamhnaigh*

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U*

*Tel: 065-6820143*

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17<sup>th</sup> of December 2021

Dear Parent(s),

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

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

As a school, we are greatly indebted to you as parents for keeping us informed about any illnesses your child may have and for keeping them at home if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

There has been excellent adherence to the routines we have in place in our COVID-19 Response Plan. We ask now more than ever that everyone adheres to these measures to ensure our school and classrooms remains safe and open.

Some important points:

- **Wearing of masks:** children from 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class are now required to wear face masks and well done to all the children in these classes who have all managed this change very well.  
Adults must wear face masks if entering the school yard or grounds.
- **Positive case:**
  - When there is a positive case in your child's classroom, children from the same pod will be required to take an Antigen test at home on day 1, 3 and 5.
  - A box of 5 antigen tests will then be delivered to the address provided by the parents with instructions on how and when to do the tests. A video has been developed for parents to assist with administering the test and this can viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsRrle-YI4I>
  - The children in the pod can continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic and their antigen test results show a negative result.
- **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.

## **Department of Education Inspector Visit to Toonagh NS**

Our school inspector Christina Casserly visited the school on Monday this week to review our COVID-19 procedures in the school. Areas that were reviewed included our signage, classroom layout, medical room, staff room layout, break time arrangements, our COVID-19 Response Plan Document which is on our website and a meeting was held with our COVID-19 Lead Worker Claire Cullinan. The school was found to be fully compliant in all of the inspector's checks and she complimented the school in all the efforts we have made in relation to our COVID-19 prevention procedures and the systems that we have in place. It is pleasing to get this affirmation for our efforts. Thank you to our whole school community, our pupils, staff, parents and BOM for the combined effort we are making in our school to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school. This report will be available to view on the Department of Education's Website in due course.

### **Christmas Holidays closure**

The school will close early on the day of the Christmas holidays, Wednesday 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 Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### **Christmas Activities in school**

Despite the many restrictions in schools, the teachers and SNAs are trying to make this festive season special for the pupils, involving the children in some Christmas events and activities such as wreath making, Christmas Art & Crafts, Christmas songs/music and Active Schools Christmas activities. You will notice the windows of our school very nicely decorated and painted for Christmas.

Children can wear santa hats, Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school on Monday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> for Santa's visit and on the day of the holidays Wednesday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> if they wish.

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 Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> in our all-weather pitch. Thanks to all the staff for making Christmas in school a special time for the children.

### **Reading in school and at home**

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 are also developing a new school library in our GP room and we'll have more updates on this in future newsletters.

Children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 **1036 books** and over **15 million words (15,478,606)** and which is fantastic reading! Ms. Garrahy's 2<sup>nd</sup> class have also started using AR this week.

**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. It will take place in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class in Term 2 2022.

The children in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 who demonstrate similar reading skills, they read a class novel at their own level and learn specific comprehension strategies daily. This small group intervention has worked very well in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> and the children really enjoyed the novels that they have read this term.

### **Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal:**

There was a fantastic response to this and thank you for your generosity. 70 boxes were collected from Toonagh NS. Thank you for your support.

### **Annual Toonagh Charity Walk:**

This takes place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 starting at 11am. This walk is in aid of Huntington's Disease, Motor Neurone Disease and Parkinson's Disease. See poster attached with the details.

### **Parents Association News:**

- **Santa Visit:** Our Parents Association have organised Santa to visit the children in our Astro Turf and Santa will have a Christmas present for all the children in the school! Santa and his elves will be visiting our school on Monday December 20th. Thanks also to members of our PA also for organising our Christmas tree, crib and decorations that we have in our school reception area.
- **Calendar and school photos:** The Parents Association have put together a very nice school calendar for 2022. They will be distributing these calendars and any school photos your ordered next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parents Association for the fantastic work and substantial fundraising they have done this term. Thanks also to the parents who assisted the Parents Association with the organisation of the Clothes Collection this term.

**Important Dates coming up:**

- **Monday December 20<sup>th</sup>:** Santa visit to the children in Toonagh NS! Children can wear Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school.
- **Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>:** School closes for the 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>). Children can wear Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school.
- **Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup>:** School reopens after the Christmas holidays.
- **Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Half day closure for staff planning meeting. More details in January Newsletter.

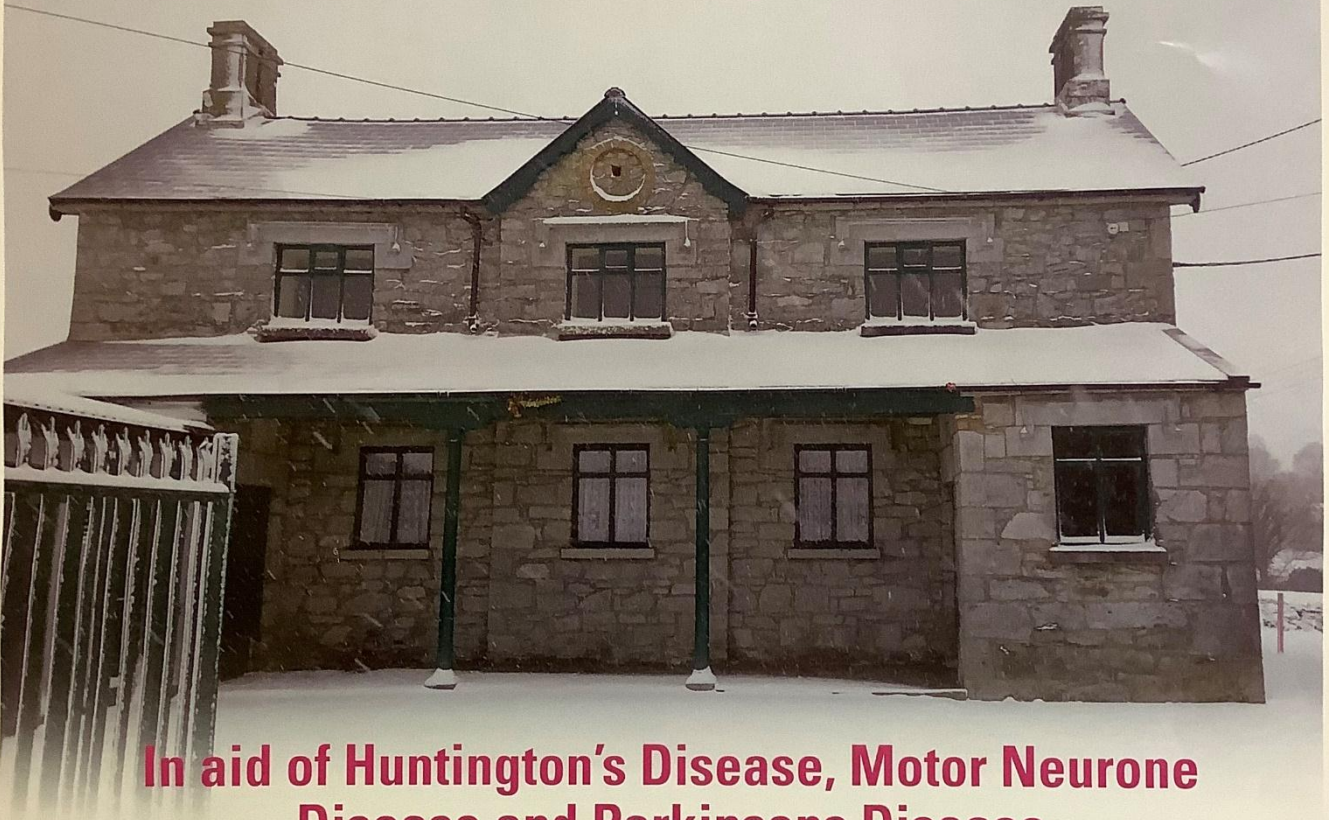
Wishing you all a happy Christmas and peaceful new year. Thanks for all your support during 2021. Stay safe.

*Gearóid Roughan*

Príomhoide

# Annual Toonagh Charity Walk

Sunday January 16th, 2022



## In aid of Huntington's Disease, Motor Neurone Disease and Parkinsons Disease

Walk registration at Toonagh Hall at 11.00am (children free). Suitable for families with various fitness levels. 3 walk routes around the roads of Toonagh Dysart: 2km / 6km / 10km.

**Participants are asked to adhere to relevant COVID-19 guidance.**

Toonagh Village, Co Clare is near The Burren, 8km from Ennis on the Corofin road.



Huntington's Disease  
Association of Ireland

[www.huntingtons.ie](http://www.huntingtons.ie)  
RCN 20025656

Irish  
Motor  
Neurone  
Disease  
Association



[www.imnda.ie](http://www.imnda.ie)  
RCN 20021009

 Parkinsons.ie  
Parkinson's Association of Ireland

[www.parkinsons.ie](http://www.parkinsons.ie)  
RCN 20028237