



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

October, 2021

Dear Parent(s),

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

COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan and Guidelines:

While the majority of restrictions are being lifted nationwide very soon, there hasn't been any further guidance issued to schools. It is unlikely that there will be much change for schools in the immediate future in relation to our COVID-19 Response Plan and safety procedures in place. We will await further guidance from the Department of Education. Please continue to adhere to our COVID-19 Response Plan and safety measures.

Some points of note:

1. As per the guidelines for schools if children have any symptoms of COVID-19 do not send them to school and contact your GP.
2. If entering the school yard/grounds please wear a face mask.
3. Please do not send children into the school grounds until the school doors are open at approx. 9.05 am each morning.

School belongings and requisites:

Please ensure that your child has all their own belongings and requisites needed for school. The school has provided plastic boxes with lids for all children in which they keep their belongings at school. While we have always encouraged children to share and have shared resources between children and classes in the past, presently however we can't do this. Children from 3rd - 6th class need to have their own headphones at school for the Spellings for Me Programme which they complete on our iPads.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent/teacher meetings this year are scheduled for November 15th, 16th and 17th. We are hoping that these meetings will be face to face however we are awaiting guidelines on this. If face to face isn't possible again this year, the meetings will take place by phone. Details and times of your meeting will be sent home in early November.

Halloween Dress-up Day:

On Friday, 22nd 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.

Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal:

The children of Toonagh N.S. are again supporting this worthwhile project. Many thanks for your continued generosity. You received the details recently and labels for the shoeboxes were sent home. We have a small supply of some empty shoeboxes here at school if anyone needs one.

The final day for donation of shoeboxes will be Wednesday 3rd of November.

Christmas Annuals:

Orders may be placed for Christmas Annuals. The order forms will be sent home this week. The cost of each Christmas Annual is €2 and orders must be back by Tuesday November 9th. Please send back the order form and €2 only to your child's teacher. Each sibling that wants an annual must send back their own form and €2 to their own teacher. No orders can be taken after this date as the annuals need to be ordered then.

School Planning and School Self Evaluation:

Each year, schools have to review one area of our teaching and learning for School Self Evaluation (SSE). At our recent staff meeting we planned for our SSE and we are continuing with the area of Wellbeing. We believe that this area is particularly important, especially in light of what's going on in the world around us with the pandemic. We are focusing on particular lessons to help with our pupil's wellbeing and also strategies such as movement breaks, relaxation techniques, mindfulness and breathing exercises during the school day.

The school subject area we are focussing on this term is Science and we currently updating our Science Plan.

Active Schools Programme:

As part of our Active School's Programme and our Active Flag, we have organised 'walking and talking' in designated areas before school starts each morning for each class bubble. The children are enjoying this wellbeing and exercise activity in a safe environment. Thanks to Mr. Eustace and the staff for coordinating this enjoyable healthy activity each morning. Our new Active Flag which we earned over the last 2 years for healthy and sporting activity will be raised soon.

Food Dudes Week:

The 'Food Dudes' week was a great success at school recently and the children tried many different fruits and vegetables. The aim of 'Food Dudes' is to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables both in school and at home. We promote healthy eating in school and we ask that children bring healthy lunches to school, they are allowed bring a small treat on Fridays. Thanks to Ms. Cullinan and the staff for organising and encouraging the children to take part in our 'Food Dudes' week.

First Holy Communion:

Congratulations to Emma Brohan, Ellie Carroll, Jack Casey, Orlaith Flanagan, Maria Hurley, Isobel O'Leary, Rachael Pegg, Sophia Treacy and Samantha Vaughan who made their First Holy Communion in October in Dysart 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 all the work he put in preparing the class since our return to school and for having the church looking so well on the day.

Party Invitations (Infant Classes only):

Invitations to parties may be distributed in the Junior and Senior Infant Classes at school. However, in all other classes, we would ask that you issue invitations to children outside of school time, as it can cause upset and disappointment to some children if they don't receive an invitation. We hope you understand this situation and we appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Clothes Collection Fundraiser:

The date for the first clothes collection fundraiser this school year **has been fixed for Thursday November 18th. Drop off times on the date will be 9-10am, 1.45 – 3pm, and 6.30 -7.30pm.** Due to the building work taking place in Toonagh hall, the clothes collection is a little later this year than normal. This is always an important fundraiser and it is a great help when buying important school resources. Please support and spread the word among anyone who may be doing a clear out of old clothes. Thank you.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Friday October 22nd:** School closes for Halloween mid-term break.
- **Monday November 1st:** School reopens after Halloween mid-term break.
- **Monday Nov 15th, Tuesday Nov 16th and Wednesday Nov 17th:** Parent Teacher Meetings.
- **Thursday November 18th:** Clothes Collection Fundraiser.

I wish you all good health and an enjoyable midterm break.

Gearóid Roughan

Principal