

21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017,

Dear Parent(s),

There are a number of important items that I would like to bring to your attention:

**Staff Planning:**

The school will close on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30p.m. to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time.

**Drop-off and Collection Arrangements:**

School commences at 9:20a.m. and finishes at 3p.m. daily (2p.m. Infants). Due to the volume of traffic and in order to create safer environs outside the school we would encourage parents to comply with the following procedures:

Junior/ Senior Infants may be collected in the school and escorted to the car by parent/ guardian at the 2p.m collection time. First to Sixth Classes shall be collected from the school gate and escorted to the car by parent/ guardian.

The school will be open to receive children from 9.10a.m. onwards. Please note that teachers accept responsibility for the children during school hours only. **Parents/Guardians who decide to leave children at school before school opening time and after school closing time do so at their own risk and the Board of Management does not accept any responsibility for ensuring the safety of such pupils.**

**Traffic Management:**

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 the flow of traffic. We request that you do not turn your car in any of our neighbours' driveways. **Under no circumstances are cars allowed to park/drop off in the yellow box directly in front of the school gates and we ask that the area in front of Toonagh Hall be kept free so that the bus and other vehicles can turn safely.**

*Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.*

**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 will 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.

### **Child Protection Procedure:**

If the collection arrangements for your child(ren) change, please inform the class teacher in writing.

### **Tracksuits**

Tuesdays and Fridays will be P.E. days and children must wear their tracksuits on these days. The regular school uniform must be worn for the remainder of the week.

### **School Payments:**

As you are aware, the school is using Aladdin ePayments for collection of larger fees payable to the school. Smaller fees (i.e: Coffee Morning, class outing, charity collection) will be collected by the class teacher. The first request was sent via email on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> of September. If you did not receive this email, please contact us as soon as possible so that we may rectify this.

*Fees requested by email:*

*Speech & Drama:                    €13 per child or €26 per family*

*Allianz Pupil Insurance:        €7 per pupil*

We would prefer to receive these fees through the use of the epayments system. However, should you wish to continue with the traditional method, please send the exact change in an envelope with your child(ren)'s name clearly marked.

Should you have any queries regarding epayments, please contact us and either Noelette or I would be happy to talk to you.

### **Pupil Insurance 2017/2018:**

All pupils in the school are covered 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year under this Policy. Please see Allianz.ie for further information on the schedule of benefits. Should you wish to make a claim, forms are available to download from the Allianz website and the school office.

### **School Website/ Twitter:**

The school website and Twitter page are at very advanced stages of development and we hope to launch these in the next fortnight. It is envisaged that both the website and Twitter page will enhance the opportunities for communication with parents and our local community.

### **Party Invitations:**

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.

### **Cross Country:**

The Kilnaboy Cross Country Athletics take place next Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11a.m. (weather permitting). All pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to participate. The fee for this event is €3 and this will be collected by the class teacher. The Board of Management will cover the cost of the bus.

Please note that if the day happens to be very wet, the school will not attend. In this event, parents are invited to bring pupils who are interested in competing.

### **Schools Training:**

Training takes place for school teams on the following days:

Football: Tuesdays - 3p.m. to 3:45p.m. (boys & girls)

Camogie: Mondays - 3p.m. to 3:45p.m. (beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October)

Hurling: Thursdays - 3p.m. to 3:45p.m. (beginning the 5<sup>th</sup> of October)

### **Toonagh Hall:**

Major work is taking place in Toonagh Hall & Alley. An astro-turf pitch has been installed to replace the indoor, tarmac area. Also, the dressing rooms and viewing areas are being refurbished. When this work is fully complete, the school will benefit greatly from this wonderful facility. I would like to thank parents and staff for their co-operation while this work is ongoing.

### **Junior Infant Parent Information Night:**

The new Junior Infants have settled very well into school. An information night for the Junior Infant parents will be held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> of September. This night will give an opportunity for parents to familiarise themselves with their child's classroom, teacher and staff.

### **Children's Book Festival @ Glór:**

Clare County Council presents 'Things that go Bump in the Night' on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> October in Glór. All pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will attend. The event is free and the Board of Management will sponsor the cost of the bus.

### **Dysart Castle Event:**

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils will participate in the 'Dysart O'Dea Castle Competition' on October 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be a fun and educational trip. The cost per pupil is €5 and the Board of Management will sponsor the cost of the bus.

### **Dogs Trust Visit:**

Aoife Murdock of 'Dogs Trust' will visit the school on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Each class will participate in a workshop on care for pets. This workshop is free of charge.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings**

Parent/teacher meetings this year are scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of November. The school will close @2:45p.m. on these days to facilitate the meetings and buses will operate at this time. At this meeting you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss his/her progress. You will be issued with an appointment time by your child's class teacher after the mid-term break.

**Cahercalla Coffee Morning:**

A very enjoyable coffee morning was held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks to all who helped out on the morning, to those who contributed and those who baked. Thanks also to the teachers, children & their parents who contributed so generously. It was a great success and the proceeds of €587 have been forwarded to Cahercalla Community Hospice.

**Cash For Clobber:**

The first clothes collection for this school term will be held on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> by the Parent's Association for our school. Contributions of any unwanted clothes, shoes and bags would be greatly appreciated. Drop off times to the hall are 9a.m. to 10a.m., 1.45p.m. to 3p.m. and 6.30p.m. to 7.30p.m.

**Parent's Association Treasurer:**

The P.A. of Toonagh N.S. are requesting a parent to fill the role of Treasurer (no experience is necessary). Please contact the school by phone or email if you would be willing to fill this role.

Le gach dea-bheannacht,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donnchadh Kelleher,  
Príomhoide.

Please Sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

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I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017).

Parent(s)/ Guardian : \_\_\_\_\_