



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

24th of June, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

There are a number of items that I would like to bring to your attention in this summer newsletter:

Sixth Class

As our current sixth class prepare for the big step up to secondary education, everyone in Toonagh NS would like to wish them all the best as they shape their futures lives. We're lucky to have had a cheerful, agreeable, and very well behaved class who have achieved numerous academic and social achievements during their time in our school. These students have contributed a lot to Toonagh NS over the years and the staff here have enjoyed watching them grow into mature, confident and very capable young people. All the best to **Roze Roelants, PJ Bliss, Róisín Cotter, Christian Cummins, Emma Finucane, Róisín Finucane, Amy Gibbons, Cathal Hastings, Dara McDonagh, Cillian McInerney, Daniel McInerney, James O' Sullivan, Brian O'Gorman, Brendan O'Halloran, Aoibheann Roughan, Eilís Strand and Barry Whelan.**

We are very confident that their transition into secondary education will be an enjoyable experience for the children and their families. Can I remind those students and their families that they can keep in touch with what is happening in Toonagh NS by checking our school Twitter page!

Book Rental Scheme

Our new Book Rental Scheme (3rd – 6th class) will help alleviate some of the financial pressure of returning to school in August and also lessen any difficulties involved with getting books. For next year, classes from 3rd – 6th in the school will have books on the Book Rental list. Younger classes are not included yet as there are more workbooks required which are written in to. We are hoping to expand on our Book Rental Scheme each year and include more books on the list for the following year.

To make the Book Rental Scheme manageable, please return the form sent last week. The details of the Book Rental Scheme were attached with the booklists which were issued to parents last week.

If parents have any school books or novels that they are finished with, they can be donated to the school. This allows us build up a bank of books to be included on the Book Rental Scheme. An Aladdin ePayments system for the collection of payments for Book Rental will be set up. Please return any Book Rental forms or donations of books to Mr. Eustace.

Accelerated Reader Programme

We are hoping to get this exciting and popular reading programme started during Term 1 2019-20. This programme is used in schools for classes 3rd – 6th. Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice and motivating your children to read for pleasure. From using this programme the children will become very enthusiastic about reading. After each book that they read they

can take a quiz and it gives them a real sense of achievement. We'll have more details on it in September. In the meantime we need to increase the amount of books in our classroom libraries from 3rd – 6th to get Accelerated Reader started and if you have any used novels, fiction or non-fiction books we will take donations here at school.

School Self Evaluation

This year the school has been looking closely at the very important area of wellbeing. This is the main focus of the school's self-evaluation. To help us in that evaluation, parents and pupils filled out a short questionnaire which was returned to the school. Based on these results a plan has been put in place to address issues raised in the questionnaires.

It is very important to promote positive mental health and wellbeing among our pupils and we intend to have a wellbeing and mental health awareness week with activities and workshops during the 2019/20 school year.

STEM Education

Ms Barry's 2nd and 3rd class took part in a very interesting STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) workshop with representatives from Analogue Devices. The children learnt how to build and program different versions of electronic circuits. Science and technology is everywhere in the world around us and continuously expanding and thank you to two of our parents Brian Coffey and Mary Lavin of Analogue Devices for organising this workshop and for donating a STEM Education kit for the school.

School Tours

The pupils experienced very enjoyable school tours recently. Juniors, Seniors and 1st Class had a very enjoyable visit to Moher Hill Farm, 2nd and 3rd Classes visited Adventure World Camps UL, while 4th, 5th and 6th Classes travelled to Ben's Surf School Lahinch and St. Tola's Goat's Cheese farm. I would like to commend the pupils on their excellent behaviour and manners on each of these excursions. Thank you to all the teachers of the school on their efforts in organising such enjoyable and educational tours for their classes.

Confirmation 2019

Congratulations to all the children who made their Confirmation on Saturday, June 8th in Ruan Church. I would like to thank the children for their hard work and respectful reverence. The choir on the day was a combined effort between the schools in Toonagh and Ruan. Thank you to all of the boys and girls who participated on the day and helped to make the ceremony very special. The choir and music was very well prepared by Ms. Griffin and Ms. Cullinan in the time preceding Confirmation. The fabulous name cards were produced by Mary Marrinan. Well done to Ms. Cullinan for having 6th class so well prepared for their Confirmation day. I would also like to thank Mr. Lyons and all of the staff in Ruan NS who put such a huge effort into ensuring the day was a very special one for our Confirmation candidates.

Parents Association

I would like to thank the Parents' Association Committee of Lynda Clancy, Mairéad McInerney and Noreen Cummins for the outstanding contribution they have made throughout the year. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for your wholehearted support of all fundraising initiatives that have taken place throughout the year. Recently the Confirmation breakfast, Ice Cream Van and fruit for Sports Day were very nice experiences for all involved and we are grateful to those who organised and helped out with these events.

The Parents' Association have funded a number of initiatives in the school this year. All funds raised go towards the purchasing of essential resources, and to sponsoring a variety of activities for the pupils of the school.

Building and maintenance work update:

School maintenance

The school will undertake some minor works and important maintenance during the summer holidays, including roofing work, renovations to bathrooms, extensive deep cleaning, power washing externally and shrub trimming. Thanks to all involved including Board members and parents for overseeing and helping with this work.

New Pedestrian Gate

The Board of Management received notification that our application for an Emergency Works Grant was successful and we will now be able to proceed with constructing a new pedestrian gate for the children. The Board now has to go through a 4 week process as outlined by the Department of Education which involves working with a Consultant Engineer before the works can start. It is then hoped that this work will be done during the summer holidays or very soon after we return in August, this will depend on the Consultant Engineer getting the work started.

It is great news that this new pedestrian gate will be constructed and it will be a very important safety feature for our pupils entering and leaving the school grounds. The continued safety of all our children is of utmost importance.

Further building works

It is hoped when the pedestrian gate project is complete, the Board will then look into resurfacing our two yards which are in need of repair: the basketball court and the main yard in front of the school. These yards will be resurfaced on phased basis, with one of the yards being done first and the work will be dependent on available funding.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Sports Day

The annual Sports' Day took place on Thursday, 20th of June. There was a wide variety of fun and sporting activities for the students to partake in. The focus of our Sports' Day was on participation and enjoyment and the children along with the staff had a great day of sporting activity!

Mini-Leagues

An in school mini-league for hurling, camogie and basketball is being run over the last 2 weeks. The emphasis on this competition is participation and all children from 3rd to 6th class get an opportunity to participate. The finals will be played in the coming days.

GAA Coaching

Ann McMahan coached the pupils this year and thanks to Ruan GAA for funding this initiative. With Ann's training, the children are learning the skills of our games in very well structured coaching sessions weekly and we thank Ann for her work throughout the year.

Swimming Gala

A Swimming Gala took place on June 10th in Ennis Leisure Complex. Our school children did very well at the Gala. Thank you to Mr. Eustace and Maelisa who accompanied the participants on the day.

Toonagh's Got Talent

The pupils of 4th, 5th and 6th Classes were invited to participate in the now annual Toonagh's Got Talent. This fun event was performed by the pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th Classes for the rest of the pupils on Friday (June 14th). Peggy O'Reilly and John Forde were guest judges on the day. It was an excellent event showcasing the talent in the school. Pupils were also invited to participate in an art competition promoting the event in the school. Thank you to Ms. Griffin for organising along with great help from all the staff. Toonagh certainly has got Talent!

School Calendar School Summer Closure:

The school will close for the Summer Holidays on Wednesday, 26th June @ 12.30pm. Buses will operate at this time.

Please see School calendar attached for 2019/20 attached along with the dates for Confirmation and Communion 2020. Please note the teachers will be required by the Department of Education to attend 2 training days (during which the school will be closed) for the new language curriculum during 2019/20, when we have these dates we will notify you.

Thank you

Thank you to all the staff for making me feel very welcome in Toonagh and for the excellent work they have been doing all during the year and in the interim period since Donnchadh Kelleher took up his new post in Clonlara NS. We are lucky to have a very dedicated and committed staff in the school. Thank you also to the Parents and the Board of Management for making me feel welcome in Toonagh.

We hope that you have a lovely and safe summer, we look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday 29th August!

Yours sincerely,

Gearóid Roughan
Principal

(please detach and return to class teacher)

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (June, 2019)

Signed: _____

