



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

24th of June, 2021

Dear Parent(s),

I hope you are all safe and well. Please see the following updates in our end of year newsletter:

Sixth Class

We say goodbye to 6th Class tomorrow, everyone in Toonagh NS would like to wish them all the best as they shape their futures lives. They have had a challenging year. They have shown great resilience and it was great to see them in good spirits always at school. The 6th class were a very well behaved class who have achieved numerous academic and social achievements during their time in our school. These 12 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 staff in Toonagh will continue to keep an eye out and an interest in this brilliant group of young people.

All the best to **Jack Browne, Joseph Burns, Darragh Casey, Ella Casey, Natasha Denner, Diarmuid Hastings, Tara Lucas, Isabelle McInerney, Kate Moran, Alex O'Loughlin, Amber Roche and Lauren Roche.**

They did very well with Ms. Cullinan this year and worked to the best of their ability. We are confident that their transition into secondary education will be a positive experience for the children and their families.

School reopening details

School will reopen after the Summer Break on Monday August 30th. There will be further updates and guidelines issued during the summer months from the Department of Education about how schools will reopen. As things stand with Covid-19 numbers and the new Delta Variant, it seems likely that the safety procedures and control measures which schools currently have in place will continue when we reopen. An update will be issued to you on the week of August 22nd prior to reopening the following week.

Book Rental Scheme (3rd-6th)

Our Book Rental Scheme (3rd – 6th class) offers very good value and will help alleviate some of the financial pressure of returning to school and also lessen any difficulties involved with getting books. You have received an payment request for this fee. Thank you to Mr. Eustace for organising the book rental scheme for the school.

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 or as an extra resource in the school.

School Fees (September)

Grants from the Department of Education do not cover the cost of running the school and the grants fall far short of the cost of the school expenses listed below, so we are dependant on a school fees charge to help the school alleviate the cost of these resources which are so beneficial to the children in Toonagh NS.

An epayment request for school fees will issue in September. This will include a fee for pupil insurance (24 hour, 365 day cover), and a contribution to help with the expense of the following: Art and Craft materials for the children, photocopying and printing, Aladdin message a parent system, Accelerated Reader Licences and Literacy Lift Off programme.

There will be a more detailed breakdown of the school fees charge when we return to school and the cost will be kept as low as possible and won't be extensive. Most schools are dependent on this payment to benefit our pupils' learning and to maintain the quality of the services we provide.

Summer Reading, Accelerated Reader and Literacy Lift Off

Schools have been asked to let parents know about Clare County Library's Children Summer Reading Programme. This programme is a great initiative aiming to promote reading amongst children over the summer holidays. Please see the attached letter from Clare County Library for more details.

Children can continue to use the Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme during the summer and take quizzes if they wish to. This was the second year of AR in Toonagh and the children did fantastic reading all throughout the year, an amazing 58 million words and 2610 books were read in Toonagh NS by children using AR. Last year the children read 47 million words and 2204 books! Well done to all the pupils who took part in Literacy Lift Off this term and have shown great improvement in their reading.

School Tours

The children really enjoyed their school tours recently. Juniors -2nd went to Bunratty Folk Park and Castle and 3rd-6th went to Ballyalla Lake kayaking. Thanks to the Board of Management for paying for a large coach for each classroom so that the buses were only at 50% capacity and the children sat in their pods. The tours were very positive experiences for the children and thanks to the teachers for organising these tours.

Sports Day

We had a most enjoyable sports day on Monday in great weather. The children had a great day and took part in many sporting activities in their class bubbles. I scream, you scream, we all screamed for ice cream when the van visited! The Parents Association also provided us with fruit and water throughout the day. Thanks to Seán Eustace and the teachers for organising a great day of sport for the children.

Sacraments Update

The Parish have confirmed that the date for Confirmation is Saturday July 10th @ 11am in Dysart Church. The Holy Communion and First Penance will take place in the Autumn when the children have returned to school.

Parents Association

I would like to thank the Parents' Association for the outstanding contribution they have made throughout this year and in previous years. We had some very well supported clothes collection fundraisers which have helped to pay for important school resources and equipment. Thanks also to the parents who assisted the Parents Association with the organisation of their clothes collections. I would also like all the parents, for your wholehearted support of all fundraising initiatives that have taken place throughout the year. All funds raised go towards the purchasing of essential resources, and to sponsoring a variety of activities for the

pupils of the school. This week the Parents Association also provided an ice cream van and fruit for the children during Sports Day.

The Parents' Association will have a clothes collection fundraiser in October.

Board of Management

The Board of Management have worked extremely hard this year in these very challenging Covid-19 times. They have made every effort to keep up to date with and work on all the new procedures and guidelines we had to face this year. I would like to thank them for their help throughout the year. We are very fortunate to have a Board of Management with lots of expertise and who are very generous in volunteering their time for the betterment of our school.

Thank you

This has been another very challenging year in school for pupils, parents and staff. We have all faced many challenges in our lives throughout the last 2 years. I wish to thank you for the excellent community spirit and togetherness you have shown. Thank you for the support you have given to your children and to the staff. We really appreciate your goodwill and support. Also thank you for abiding by all the new safety procedures we now have in place in our school to help prevent against the risk of Covid-19.

I wish to thank our staff who have worked extremely hard over the last year and always have the wellbeing of your child at heart. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and committed staff in the school.

Congratulations to Claire Cullinan who got married last Friday. Thank you to Kate Brosnan for all her excellent work in Toonagh NS over the last 2 years and we wish her well in the future.

I would like to wish all of you and your families continued good health and a nice summer.

Yours sincerely,

Gearóid Roughan

Principal