



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

24th of November 2021

Dear Parent(s),

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

COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan and Antigen Testing:

The main concern for our school and all schools at present is COVID-19.

The Department of Education have confirmed arrangements for a new system of antigen testing of asymptomatic close contacts in primary schools from Monday November 29th.

How this will work:

- When a parent receives a positive PCR COVID-19 test result on their child, they should notify the school.
- The school principal will inform the parents of the other children in the pod of a confirmed case, that they are close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case. No personal details of the child will be shared.
- Parents will be provided with the option to receive free antigen tests from the distribution company for their child, which they will be able to order for delivery to their home.
- Parents carry out the antigen test on the day that they receive it and every second day until three tests have been done.
- 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.
- Where two or more cases arise in a class, within a seven-day period, outside of a single pod, antigen testing will be offered to the full class.

If a child's antigen test indicates a positive result:

- If an antigen test is positive, the child isolates at home and the child's parent/guardian logs onto the HSE to request a PCR COVID-19 test.
- The antigen test distribution company will record the numbers of antigen tests distributed, batch numbers and the names of the relevant schools.

If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19:

- If at any stage a child becomes symptomatic they should isolate at home and organise a PCR COVID-19 test. A negative antigen test holds no value in the situation of a symptomatic child.

Ventilation:

With the season of winter upon us, heating will be on in the school. It is necessary however, to have good circulation of clean air and for this reason windows will be kept open throughout the day. Good ventilation will be achieved by opening windows and doors before school and during breaks. During class time windows may be partially opened. Please ensure that your child is dressed in warm layers under their uniform and tracksuit if required.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher meetings have taken place by phone recently due to current restrictions and thanks for your understanding on this.

Active School Flag Award

Our new Active Flag which we earned over the last 2 years for healthy and sporting activity was raised on Friday last by Councillor Mary Howard and her niece Tegan from second class. The 'walking and talking' initiative continues each morning in designated areas before school starts for each class bubble. The children are enjoying this wellbeing and exercise activity in a safe environment. The children take part in PE each Tuesday and Friday, every Friday all children in the school take part in hurling and camogie with GAA coach Anne McMahon. Children from 3rd – 6th are asked to bring in their hurley and helmet every Friday while we provide hurleys for all the boys and girls from Juniors - 2nd. Thanks to Mr. Eustace and all the teachers for coordinating our Active Schools and PE programme. Well done to all the pupils for achieving our new Active School Flag. See photos of the flag raising on our school Twitter page.

Maths Week (18/10-22/10) and Science Week (8/11-12/11):

For Maths and Science week the children and their teachers took part in many interactive maths activities, games, maths trails around the school and Science experiments. The children really enjoyed these activities and our Twitter page was very popular during Maths and Science week with tweets and pictures from the teachers of the different activities and experiments taking place in the classes. Well done to all the children and teachers.

Secondary School Applications and Open Nights for Parent(s) & Sixth Class Pupils:

Application forms and details of open nights for the local secondary schools have been sent home. If details of more open nights become available, we will share them with the 6th class parents and pupils. The closing date for the application forms for the Ennis Secondary Schools is Friday January 14th 2022.

Halloween Fun:

The children had great enjoyment and fun during our Halloween dress-up and parade in our Astroturf pitch in each class bubble. Each child received treats from the school and it was a happy end to the first half-term for the children.

Parents Association News:

- **Calendar and school photos:** The Parents Association have been busy taking photos for the 2022 school calendar. Order forms are being sent home today. The order form for the calendars and class/individual photos are also attached to this newsletter.
- **Clothes Collection:** Thank you very much for supporting the Parents Association Old Clothes collection. It was a great success and €1200 was raised. This will help with the purchase of important school resources which we need to buy for each class. We are currently investing in more novels and levelled readers for our school library along with new iPads for our iPad Trolley which the classes use regularly. The Toonagh Hall committee will also be receiving a donation of €300 from the money raised. Thank you.
- **New Committee:** We welcome Lourda Flanagan (Chairperson) and Laura Cahir (Treasurer) onto the Parents Association along with Noreen and we thank them for volunteering of their time and helping to organise the Parents Association events which are of great benefit to the children in the school. The PA are currently updating a list of volunteers willing to offer assistance with some events.
- **Christmas Tree and decorations before the Toy Show!**: Members of our PA will be in school this Friday to put up our Christmas Tree and decorations in our school reception area.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Wednesday Dec 1st:** Return order forms for Parents Association School Calendar and school photos by this date.

Thanks for your continued support,

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide