



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

September, 2021

Dear Parent(s),

Everyone has settled back well in Toonagh NS and well done to all the children.

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

COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan:

Please continue to refer to the Toonagh NS Return to School Guidelines you were sent in August for all the details and procedures currently in place to help minimise the risk posed by COVID-19. Our detailed COVID Response Plan is also available on our website. The number of outbreaks of COVID-19 cases in schools are still very high and we need to continue to adhere to the safety measures we have in place. Thanks for your cooperation and support.

Some important points:

1. **Morning drop off:** The school will be open to receive children from approx. 9.05am each morning. Please do not send children into the school grounds before 9.05am as it is not safe to do so. We stringently have to maintain the class 'bubbles' and as per the guidelines they cannot mix anywhere in the school. The doors will be opened at approx. 9.05am and supervision will start at this time.
2. **Entry and Exit:** Only children going on the school buses will enter or exit the school through the main school gate, it is not safe for children to walk out this gate onto the road. All other entry or exit from the school should be via the pedestrian gate.
If any children wish to leave the school via the back gate and steps near the Basketball Court, parents/adults must collect them from here and be visible as we will not allow any child leave through this gate unsupervised due to cars turning here and the building site in this area.
3. **Parking:** Please at all times keep the area in front of Toonagh Hall free of parked cars so that the school bus and cars can turn here
4. If entering the school yard/grounds please wear a face mask.
5. As per the guidelines for schools if children have any symptoms of COVID-19 do not send them to school and contact your GP.

Communicating with the school:

Please note our secretary (Noelette) works on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and you can contact the school on these days. Outside of these days we try to check the school voicemail, at the end of the school day. Outside of these days and times the phone will rarely be answered as all staff are in class. School contact details are 065-6820143 or via email at toonaghschool@gmail.com

If any parent wishes to meet their child's teacher, please arrange a prior appointment. We regularly communicate with parents using text message and email via Aladdin, our school administrative system. One text message per household will be sent with notifications. Please contact the school if you have changed your mobile number or email address and if you are not receiving texts/emails.

School Fees Payment 2021-22:

An payment request was sent for the school fees for 2021-22. Thanks to the parents who have already paid this and we request that this fee be paid by Friday October 22nd if possible.

Our school uses the Aladdin **ePayments** system for the collection of most payments. It is not possible to have money lying around the school or in classrooms and the ePayments system is the most convenient way for the collection of money. Should you have any questions about ePayments, please contact Noelette.

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 to the class teacher. Please supply the class teacher with a written note explaining the reason for absence for the school's records.

Collection Arrangements for children:

If the collection arrangements for your child(ren) change, please inform the class teacher in writing. Mobile numbers/Address changes, please inform the school of any changes to these details.

Healthy Lunches:

Again, this year we are asking children to bring healthy lunches to school. We ask that you do not include chocolate, fizzy drinks, sweets, crisps or any treats in your child's lunchbox Monday to Thursday. One small treat is permitted on Friday which can be eaten at big lunch. We look forward to embracing a healthy school. Many thanks for your continued co-operation.

School Uniform and Tracksuit days:

Tuesdays and Fridays are PE days this term and the children wear their tracksuits on these days. The school uniform is worn for the remainder of the week.

Label everything:

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled; Jumpers, Tracksuits, Coats, Lunch Boxes, Books etc. This is very important as things can get misplaced and it is also in line with the COVID-19 Guidelines for schools as sharing of belongings is not permitted.

Half Day Closure for Staff Planning and Training:

The school will close on Wednesday October 6th for a half day for a Staff meeting to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time. Collection times on this day will be as follows:

12.15 pm for Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st class and 2nd class.

12.25 pm for 3rd and 4th class.

12.30pm for 5th and 6th class.

The buses will collect at this time.

Junior Infant Parent Information Session:

The new Junior Infants have settled very well into school. An information session for the Junior Infant parents will be held on Thursday 14th of October (Junior Infant Boys) and Friday 15th of October (Junior Infant Girls) @ 2.15 pm in the Junior Infant Classroom. Due to the COVID-19 guidelines for schools we request that only one parent attend this information session.

Food Dudes Week

A 'Food Dudes' week will take place at school from October 4th -8th for all pupils in the school as part of our participation in the Food Dudes Programme. Each pupil in the school will receive a piece fruit and vegetable daily for the week. The programme is managed by An Bord Bia and is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the EU School Fruit Scheme. Thanks to Ms. Cullinan and Mr. Eustace for organising our 'Food Dudes' week.

Hurling, Camogie and Fundamental Movement Coaching:

Ann McMahon is coaching hurling, camogie and fundamental movement skills for all classes on Fridays. The children from 3rd - 6th are asked to bring in their own hurley and helmet every Friday. Children from Juniors to 2nd don't need to bring in any equipment for now, we provide all children from Juniors to 2nd with a hurley for this coaching session. The coaching takes place outside in our Astro Turf. Thanks to Ruan GAA Club for funding this excellent Physical Education initiative for the girls and boys.

First Holy Communion:

First Holy Communion takes place on Saturday October 2nd at 11:00 am in Dysart Church. We wish all the Holy Communion Children the very best and hope they have a nice day. The children did very well when receiving the sacrament of First Confession this week in Dysart Church.

Confirmation:

Congratulations to our former 6th class who made their Confirmation on Thursday Septmeber 9th in Dysart Church. It was a lovely ceremony and thanks to Ms. Cullinan for all her hard work in preparing the children for this special occasion. The Confirmation Candidates as part of their Confirmation Pledge, made a donation to Sláinte an Chláir. They chose this charity to honour the memory of Bríd Howard who was a parent in Toonagh NS and passed away in April.

Summer Works and Maintenance:

The Board of Management had been busy preparing the school premises and grounds for the new school year. I would like to extend thanks especially to Seán Eustace for ensuring that the school was in pristine condition for the return of the pupils; organising power washing, landscaping as well as a deep clean of the interior of our school building.

Teacher Courses:

Under rule 58 of the Rules for National Schools, teachers are entitled to 3 Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days on foot of taking part in approved summer courses. Over the summer, many of the teachers in the school have taken the time to complete these invaluable courses in a variety of valuable areas. For 2021/22, the Department of Education will cover the cost of a substitute for one of the three days per teacher, the Board of Management will cover the cost of a substitute for another one of the three days per teacher and the Special Education Teacher will cover the class for the third day.

School Twitter Page and Website:

I would encourage parents to follow us on Twitter (@toonaghns) where the teachers will tweet activities taking place in the school. If you are not a Twitter user, you may access this via our school website (www.toonaghns.com). The Twitter feed is available to scroll through on our home page and also under the 'News' tab.

Clothes Collection Fundraiser:

The provisional date for the first clothes collection fundraiser this school year will be during **the first week of November. Drop off times on the date will be 9-10am, 1.45 – 3pm, and 6.30 -7.30pm.** We will have more details in next month's newsletter. Please support and spread the word among anyone who may be doing a clear out of old clothes. Thank you.

Parents Association News – New Committee needed:

- The current officer(s) are finishing their term or have already finished after a number of years of excellent service on the Parents' Association. In fact we have just one officer now, Noreen. We urgently need to fill the 3 positions of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer and hopefully there will be volunteers interested in helping out. Please contact Noreen Cummins (086 6030005) if you would like to find out more. If anyone would be willing to help Noreen, you will be able to see what's involved. We've always had a Parents Association in Toonagh NS and it would be a shame if don't have one. Being part of the Parents' Association is rewarding as any of the events organised or funds raised are for the children of the school.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Wednesday October 6th:** School closes for half day for staff meeting and planning.
- **Thursday October 14th @ 2.15 pm:** Junior Infant (Boys) Parents' information session.
- **Friday October 15th @ 2.15 pm:** Junior Infant (Girls) Parents' information session.
- **Nov 1st -5th:** Clothes Collection Fundraiser.

Thanks for your support

Gearóid Roughan

Principal