



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

25th of January 2024

Dear Parent(s),

Best wishes and good health to you all for 2024. There are a number of items I would like to bring to your attention as we begin the second term of the school year.

Enrolment to Toonagh NS 2024/25

If you know of a parent with a child who would like a place in our school in Junior Infants or in another class for September 2024, they can email Noelette to receive an Application Form for Enrolment. Application forms can also be downloaded on our website toonaghns.com. The closing date for enrolment is 23rd of February 2024. Thank you.

New School Brochure

We've developed a new school Brochure and there is one attached to this newsletter. We would ask that if you know anyone that would like some information about our school, you can give them a brochure. More brochures are available at school. Thank you.

Board of Management

I would like to thank our outgoing Board of Management for their work over the last 4 years. We were very fortunate to have a Board of Management who gave of their time so well for the betterment of our school and they got great work done over the 4 years including helping to steer the school through the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to wish our new Board very well over the next 4 years and thank them for volunteering of their time. Our new board is: Marie Slattery (Chairperson), Laura Cahir (Treasurer), Gearóid Roughan (Principal), Aoife Garrahy (Teacher Nominee), Paul Dinan (Parent Nominee), Mairéad Culliney (Parent Nominee), Michael O'Loughlin (Community Nominee) and Denise Whelan (Community Nominee).

Stay Safe Lessons

Toonagh NS has a responsibility to cover Stay Safe section of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Curriculum. Stay Safe is a personal safety programme which teaches children to tell a trusted adult about any problems they may have. You can familiarise yourself with the content of the Stay Safe lessons at <https://pdst.ie/StaySafeParents>. This content will be taught this term in all classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class. If you have any questions, please speak with your child's teacher.

Digital Learning Plan

Each year we update our Digital Learning Plan and focus on a specific area of IT. We have 32 iPads in the school on a trolley and every child in their classroom has access to an iPad. This year we are focussing on the Duolingo App. This App helps the children with their oral Irish. Children will be using this app throughout the year on the school iPads.

Donation of Books

We are trying to increase our stock of Accelerated Reader (AR) books for our library. If you are doing a clear out of books at any stage that are on AR we will use them for our library. Thank you.

Pupil Attendance

Since we returned on August 30th, the average attendance has been 94%. It is very important to let the school know if your child is absent and the reason why as we have to record this on our daily school attendance records. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing/email to the class teacher for school records.

Healthy Lunches

Our school continues to promote healthy eating with a Healthy Lunch Policy in the school. Sweets, chocolate bars, crisps and fizzy drinks are not permitted. One small treat is permitted on Friday. We look forward to embracing a healthy school. Many thanks for your continued co-operation.

Communicating with the School

Please contact the school if you have changed your mobile number or email address and if you are not receiving texts/emails.

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 end of the school day. Also outside of these 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

Grandparents Day Mass

Catholic Schools Week is taking place this week. On Wednesday February 14th we are inviting Grandparents to visit at 11.30am. Fr. Pat will celebrate mass at 11.30am with some music and song from the children. The mass will be followed by a game of bingo. There will also be some refreshments served after mass for our visitors.

School Planning half day closure

The school will close on Wednesday January 31st @12.30 pm for a half day for a Staff meeting to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time.

School Sport

- **Hurling & Camogie Wall Ball League:** This league is up and running for boys and girls from 3rd – 6th. The league takes place at sos and lunch times in the excellent Indoor Astro Turf facility and it is helping the children to develop their skills.
- **Handball:** Well done to Michael Cahir, Sophia Treacy, Kate Flanagan, Emily Culliney, Paraic Keane, Jack Casey, Ava McInerney, Amelia McInerney and Laura Coffey who represented our school in the Clare Primary School Handball competition this week. Congratulations to Laura and Amelia who have qualified to represent Clare in the Munster Finals. Many of the boys and girls in the school are taking part in handball with Toonagh Handball Club and well done to the club coaches for the work they are putting in.

Parents Association News:

- **Clothes Collection:** The first clothes collection of 2024 will be held on Thursday February 1st. Contributions of any unwanted clothes, belts, shoes, towels, curtains and bags would be greatly appreciated. Drop off times are Morning: 9a.m. to 10a.m., Afternoon: 1.45p.m. to 3p.m. Evening: 6.30p.m. to 7.30p.m. Please spread the word and thanks for your support.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Wednesday January 31st:** School Closes @12.30pm for staff planning meeting.
- **Thursday February 1st:** Clothes Collection Day.
- **Monday February 5th:** School closed for February Public Holiday.
- **Wednesday February 14th:** Grandparents mass @11.30am in Toonagh Hall.
- **Thursday February 15th and Friday February 16th:** School closed these two days for February midterm break.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful 2024.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide