



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

Email: toonaghschool@gmail.com

26th of February 2021

Dear Parent(s),

I hear there is great excitement about school reopening!

The news of school reopening is the first glimmer of light in 2021 and hopefully the year will now continue in a positive way for us all in dealing with the virus. We must continue to be extra vigilant with our school safety procedures as we want to keep our school open and the health of our school community is of paramount importance to us all. Therefore, as was the case before Christmas we will continue to follow our Covid-19 Response Plan which contains the important measures we have in place to keep our school as safe as possible. In line with some new safety guidelines issued to schools from the Department of Education, our Covid-19 Response Plan has been updated and will be available to view on our website.

In preparation for Monday morning we would just like to bring the following important points to your attention. While most of the procedures remain the same there are some changes:

HSE Declaration Form

- Parents must fill out the pupil declaration form attached for your child before returning to school. If possible please email it back to the school email address toonaghschool@gmail.com before Monday or you may send it in with your child on Monday and Gearóid will collect the forms on Monday morning. If you are emailing it back you can type your details on the form and there is no need to sign it.

Morning Drop Off

- School start time is 9.20 am. The school doors will be open to receive children from 9.05 am. Under no circumstance is any pupil to enter the school grounds before the school doors are open each morning which will be approximately 9.05 am daily. Children can be dropped as far as the school gate and they will proceed from there to their classroom each morning.

Collection Times

- The School finish times are: Infants at 2pm and 1st/2nd class at 2.55pm.
- The recent guidelines from the Department have asked parents to avoid congregating at collection times and to wear facemasks.
- Infant parents' collection procedures at 2pm remain the same as before Christmas. For your safety please keep 2 metres (6 feet) from each other.

Parking

- In 2 weeks time we will have almost 100 children back at school and we ask if possible that parents would have cars turned in the direction of travel each day to help with flow of traffic and minimise congestion.
- Please keep the area in front of Toonagh Hall free of parked cars so our school bus can turn. At all times please leave the yellow box directly in front of the school gate and white box marked BUS in front of the school free of cars.

School Books and Resources

- Pupils are asked to bring back all school books and resources on Monday. The covers of books should be wiped down with an antibacterial spray/wipe. We would appreciate if this could be done today or Saturday, allowing for more time between books being handled at home and then at school.
- It is important that your child has all the resources and stationary that they need as they will not be able to share with their classmates. We will provide a plastic box for every pupil where they will keep their belongings at their desk and avoid sharing of common items.

Physical Distancing

- Pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class are not expected to maintain Social Distance but it will still be encouraged and pupils will be seated in Pods one metre apart where possible.
- Each class will be considered as a 'bubble' and will not mix with other class bubbles.
- Staff will wear face masks at all times.

Ventilation

- In line with updated guidelines on ventilation, windows will be open as fully as possible when classrooms are not in use (e.g. during break-times). All windows should be partially open when classrooms are in use.

Hand Hygiene and Sanitising

- Hand hygiene is crucially important. We would kindly ask that ahead of their return, you reinforce correct hand washing techniques and cough etiquette with your child. Hands have to be washed each morning before your child comes to school.
- Hand sanitation will take place routinely throughout the day. There is a plentiful supply of sanitiser throughout the school and there is no need for your child to bring in their own sanitiser. The guidelines recommend hand washing/sanitising at times such as arrival and leaving school, before eating, after using the toilet, after playing outdoors and entering and exiting vehicles.

Communication and Appointments

- In line with the Department guidelines, visitors and parents must make an appointment to enter the school building.
- You can contact the school through Noelette who is in school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. School contact details are 065-6820143 or via email at toonaghschool@gmail.com
- Outside of these days we try to check the school voicemail and school email at the start and end of the school day.
- Another option for communication is to use the homework journal note section.
- If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, please give prior notice to the school.

Uniforms and Tracksuits

- Children will wear their school uniform on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. They will wear their tracksuit on Tuesday and Friday.

Homework

- There will be very little homework, if any given the first 2 weeks apart from some reading.

Cleaning

- Throughout this closure the school has been extensively cleaned. The school will be cleaned daily.
- Before small break and big break, light switches and door handles will be cleaned in all classrooms and Special Education Rooms.

Symptoms and when to keep your child at home

1. *High Temperature*
2. *Cough*
3. *Shortness of breath*
4. *Loss of smell or taste*

- While all children will of course be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school.
- If you or your child is considered a close or casual contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, they should immediately isolate and contact both your GP and the school.
- See useful HSE information guide for parents [here](#)

We ask that you bring the procedures in this letter to the attention of anyone dropping off or collecting your child from school.

The reopening of our school is a hugely positive step and hopefully a step closer to normality for us all. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and rest assured we will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children.

I wish you all continued good health.

Yours sincerely,
Gearóid Roughan
Principal