



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

29th of August, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

Ba mhaith liom fáilte mhór a chur roimh gach éinne, ar ais chun na scoile, don scoil bhliain '19/20.

I would like to welcome everybody back for the new school year. In particular, I wish to extend a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants who began in Toonagh N.S. today. Céad míle fáilte romhaibh! I hope each and every member of our school community has a fruitful, happy and productive year ahead.

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

New Pedestrian Gate and Traffic Management

The Board of Management have ensured that our new pedestrian gate and all the associated works were completed in August. This involved a number of very busy weeks with paperwork for tenders, organising builders and at all times having to liaise with the Department of Education. We are delighted that all work was complete before the children returned to school and the new pedestrian gate will be a very important safety feature for our pupils entering and leaving the school grounds. Please note the following:

1. Only children going on the school buses will enter or exit the school through the main school gate.
2. All other entry or exit from the school must be via the new pedestrian gate.
3. For parents that park up the top of the school grounds near the hall, all children must enter and exit the school grounds via the steps at the back of the school by the basketball court.
4. We earnestly request that you park in a manner that doesn't compromise our children's safety. We ask that parents would have cars turned in the direction of travel each day to help with flow of traffic.
5. We request that you do not turn your car in any of our neighbours' driveways.
6. **Under no circumstances are cars allowed to park/drop off in the yellow box directly in front of the school gates and we ask that the area in front of Toonagh Hall be kept free so that the bus can turn safely.**

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter. The continued safety of all our children is of utmost importance.

Drop-off and Collection Arrangements

Due to the volume of traffic and in order to create safer environs outside the school we would encourage parents to follow the following procedures:

Junior/ Senior Infants may be collected in the school and escorted to the car by parent/ guardian at the 2p.m. collection time (12.30p.m. for Juniors until Sept 13th).

First to Sixth Classes shall be collected from at the pedestrian gate or at the bottom of the steps and escorted to the car by parent/ guardian.

The school will be open to receive children from **9.10a.m. onwards**. **Please do not send children to school before this time**. Our supervision will start at 9.10 and there will be a teacher on duty every morning.

School Staff 2019/ 2020

Junior/ Senior Infants:	Ms. Bernadette Browne
1 st / 2 nd Class	Ms. Kate Brosnan
3 rd /4 th Class	Ms. Mairéad Barry/Ms. Aoife Garrahy
4 th / 5 th Class	Mr. Seán Eustace
6 th Class:	Ms. Claire Cullinan
Special Education Teacher:	Ms. Yvonne Griffin
Special Education Teacher:	Mr. Gearóid Roughan
Special Needs Assistant:	Ms. Maelisa Malone
Special Needs Assistant:	Ms. Mary Maher
School Secretary:	Ms. Noelette Corcoran

School Opening/ Closing Times

School commences at 9:20a.m. and finishes at 3p.m. daily (2p.m. Infants). Our Junior Infants will finish at 12.30p.m. until Friday, September 13th.

Communication

You can contact the school through the secretary (Noelette) who is in school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Outside of these days we try to check the school voicemail end of the school day. 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. Appointments will be facilitated where possible. There will be a structured parent/teacher meeting during the school year.

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 are not receiving texts/emails. I would be grateful if you inform the school of any changes to your current mobile number(s) or email address(es), if you have not already done so. This is crucially important as it facilitates immediate contact when urgently required.

Accelerated Reader Programme

We are hoping to get this exciting and popular reading programme started during Term 1 2019-20. This programme is used in schools for classes 3rd - 6th. Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice and motivating your children to read for pleasure. From using this programme the children will become very enthusiastic about reading. After each book that they read they can take a quiz and it gives them a real sense of achievement. We'll have more details on it in soon. In the meantime we need to increase the amount of books in our classroom libraries from 3rd - 6th to get Accelerated Reader started and if you have any used novels, fiction or non-fiction books we will take donations here at school. There is a box left inside the main door to drop books in, thank you.

Child Protection Procedures

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is aware of the regular collection arrangement for your child. If there is any change to this arrangement, please inform the class teacher in writing.

Tracksuits

Tuesdays and Fridays will be P.E. days and children may wear their tracksuits on these days. The regular school uniform is to be worn for the remainder of the week.

School Payments

Our school uses the Aladdin ePayments system for the collection of payments. Should you have any questions, please contact the school secretary.

Sacraments

The following are the dates, times and venues for the sacraments:

- **First Holy Communion**: Saturday, May 2nd at 11a.m. in Dysart Church.
- **Confirmation**: Friday, April 24th at 11a.m. in Ruan Church

School Calendar 2019-2020

Attached please find our school calendar.

Speech & Drama

Mrs Peggy O'Reilly will visit the school each Thursday (beginning 5th September). All children will participate. An ePayment request will be made via email in the coming days.

Hurling & Camogie Coaching

Ann McMahon will start back hurling and camogie coaching for all classes on Friday September 6th. Thanks to Ruan GAA Club for funding this initiative.

Summer Works and Maintenance

The Board of Management has been busy preparing the school premises and grounds for the new school year. I would like to extend thanks to all members of our Board of Management for their hard work over the summer months to ensure that the school is in pristine condition for the return of the pupils. We are very fortunate to have a Board of Management who are very generous in volunteering their time for the betterment of our school.

Teacher Courses

Under rule 58 of the Rules for National Schools, teachers are entitled to 3 Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days on foot of attending approved summer courses. The Department of Education & Skills does not provide substitute cover for these days. 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. In order to minimise disruption to classes, the Board of Management will cover the cost of a substitute for one of the three days per teacher.

Every good wish for the 2019/20 school year

Gearóid Roughan
Principal

Please sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (29th August, 2019).

Parent(s)/Guardian : _____