



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

2nd of March 2020

Dear Parent(s),

There are a number of items that I would like to bring to your attention in the March Newsletter:

Literacy Lift Off Initiative:

This excellent reading initiative is up and running in 1st and 2nd class since January and the children are making great progress with their reading and writing on the programme. The children were pre tested in December to identify their reading level and they will be post tested later in the year to determine progress made.

The children read 3 books a week at their own level, the books are from the PM Levelled Reading Scheme. So far each pupil in 1st and 2nd class have read 18 new books and a class total of 414 new books. All children are progressing through the levels and making progress with their reading and writing. Literacy Lift Off is an intensive reading and writing programme which gives pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency.

Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Griffin are coordinating this programme and Maelisa works with the familiar reading group each day. The staff have put great effort into planning for this new programme which runs 3 days a week in 1st and 2nd class. Well done to all the children who are engaging greatly with this intensive reading programme.

Incredible Years Programme:

Incredible Years is a programme used to address the social, emotional and behavioural needs of children. The training is given over 6 workshops in Clare Education Centre by Psychologists from the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS).

The programme promotes children's use of self-control strategies such as effective problem-solving steps and effective anger management strategies. It also increases emotional awareness by labelling feelings, recognising the differing views of oneself and others.

Ms. Griffin has been trained up in the programme this year and this expertise will be of great benefit to the school. We hope that more teachers will be offered the chance to do the training in the next school year.

Primary School Debating County Final:

Our school debating team have qualified for the County Final which takes place on March 12th @11am in Clare Education centre. This is a fantastic achievement for the children and Ms. Cullinan. The semi-final took place on February 10th when Toonagh proposed the motion 'Social Media is a force for good in the world' vs St. Conaires Shannon. The debate was very keenly contested between two excellently prepared teams. Again the Toonagh team were victorious and will now go forward to the county final, where we will meet St.

Senan's Kilrush. Ms Cullinan and the children have put in a lot of preparation for this event. On any given day only 3 children can be selected to take part and well done to Sara Browne, Blaithín Barry, Cathal Noonan and Tara Moroney who have presented excellent debates so far. All the children in 6th are involved and part of all of their own debate writing helps with our overall debate. Well done so far to 6th class and to Ms. Cullinan for preparing the children for this excellent competition. Good luck in the County Final!

Preparation for Sacraments:

- **First Confession:**

First Confession takes place on Tuesday, March 10th at 7p.m. in Ruan Church for the girls and boys in 2nd Class.

- **Confirmation Retreat:**

The 6th Class pupils will travel to Knock for their Confirmation Retreat on Tuesday 3rd March leaving Toonagh school at 8.15 a.m.

Swimming:

Swimming is part of the P.E. curriculum and all children are expected to participate with the exception of extreme medical circumstances. Swimming lessons have been organised for children in 3rd to 6th Class starting on **Friday 1st May** and finishing on **Friday 5th June (6 sessions)**. It is important to remember that teachers have a supervisory role only, outside the pool and in the changing area. Students who are brought to the swimming pool should be able to dress/undress, shower and dry themselves. If this is not the case then parents will have to arrange help for their child. (We encourage children to come to school with swimwear already on under their clothes).

An ePayment request will be sent to you with the cost per student. Payment must be made prior to lessons commencing on the 1st May.

Speech and Drama Exams:

Exams for Speech and Drama will take place at the end of May. Mrs. O'Reilly has written the cost of the exams into your child's homework journal. These exams are optional and should you wish for your child to participate, please send in the payment (exact change only) in a clearly marked envelope to Mrs. O'Reilly all cheques are payable to the Leinster School of Speech/Drama. Payments need be to the school by Thursday, March 5th.

Allianz Pupil Insurance:

All pupils in the school are covered under the 'Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance' for the 2019/2020 year. Your child is covered 24/7, 365 days a year under this scheme. Terms and conditions may be found online at Allianz.ie. Should you wish to make a claim, forms are available to download from Allianz <https://www.allianz.ie/schools/pupil-personal-accident/how-to-claim/> or can be obtained from the school office.

World Down Syndrome Day 2020:

On Friday, 20th March we will celebrate '**World Down Syndrome Day 2019**'. We will have more details about this charity event in the coming weeks.

School Sport:

- **Marion Keane Basketball Tournament:** The boys' and girls' basketball teams participated in the group stages of the Marion Keane basketball competition recently. Both teams acquitted themselves very well, and can be very proud of their performances. Our boys' team have qualified for the next stage of the competition. I wish to thank Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Barry for the work that they have done in preparing both our teams for the competition.
- **Primary Schools' Handball:** 6 children (Cillian Cummins, Conor Coffey, Ella Casey, Tara Lucas, Clarissa Gilmore & Aoife Cummins) represented the school and handball club at the Munster Primary School Handball competition. All the children did very well against players from other counties and congratulations to Ella and Tara who became Munster Under 11 Doubles champions. Again well done to Toonagh Handball Club and all of the coaches who give their time voluntarily to coach the girls and boys in handball. We have a large number of boys and girls in the school taking part in handball during the week.

- **Hurling & Camogie training:** Coaching/Training takes (3rd - 6th class pupils) on the following days on the all-weather pitch/Indoor Astro Turf at Toonagh:
Camogie: Mondays - 3p.m. to 3:45p.m. Hurling: Thursdays - 3p.m. to 3:45p.m. Lunch time training is on every Friday for girls and boys 3rd – 6th.

Toonagh Hall & Complex Tractor Run:

This takes place on Sunday March 8th, registering at 11.30 and departing at 1pm.

Bake Sale, refreshments, raffle, local produce stalls, bric – a – brac, poster competition, games and much much more will also be on offer. Children are invited to bring their own pedal tractors, cars and diggers to have a ride around and take part in races. Any donations of second hand toys, books or board games etc towards their bric-a-brac on this day can be left in our school reception. See note sent home previously.

The school gets great use out of the wonderful indoor astro turf, along with the handball alley, hall with stage and kitchen area, we are so grateful to the committees for having these facilities in such great condition which our school children get great benefit from. This fundraiser is very important to help upgrade the facilities further and maintain them.

Parents Association News:

- **First Holy Communion Photographer:** Professional Photographer, Natasha Barton has been booked to take photos at the First Holy Communion. Her rates are: Three 5 X 7 prints for €30; One 8 X10 print plus two 5 X 7 prints for €35; or three 8 X10 prints for €40. Please contact Carmel McInerney on 087-6212550 if you interested in booking a slot, so she can forward names/numbers to Natasha.
- **Communion and Confirmation breakfasts:** As decided the format for the Communion breakfast is that the parents of 3rd class organise this in Toonagh Hall on the Saturday morning of the communion. For the Confirmation breakfast 5th class parents are asked to assist with the Ruan parents in Ruan School hall.
A meeting will be held by Parents' Association in due course for parents in relation to the Communion and Confirmation Breakfasts.
- The school community was very saddened to hear of the sudden passing of our regular photographer Niall Cosgrave. Niall was used many times by the Parents Association to photograph school events and most recently the photos on our 2020 school calendar were all taken by Niall. Sympathies to Niall's family at this sad time.

Dates for Your Diary:

- **Tuesday 17th of March:** School closed - St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday.
- **Friday 3rd of April Easter Break:** Close at 12:30p.m., re-open on Monday, April 20th.
- **Friday 24th of April:** Confirmation Day @ 11pm in Ruan church.
- **Saturday 2nd of May:** First Holy Communion @ 11am in Dysart church.
- **Week of May 5th – 8th:** Active Schools and Wellbeing Week.
- **Wednesday May 6th:** Half day closure for Term 3 Staff Planning meeting - close at 12.30 (buses will operate at this time).
- **Week of May 18th – 22nd:** Standardised Testing English
- **Week of May 25th – 29th:** Standardised Testing Maths

Le gach dea-bheannacht,

Gearóid Roughan,
Príomhoide

Please Sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (March, 2020).

Parent(s)/ Guardian: _____