



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

4th of May 2022

Dear Parent(s),

There are a number of items I would like to bring to your attention in this May Newsletter.

COVID-19 Situation:

For now please note:

1. When a parent receives a positive Antigen test on their child or a positive PCR COVID-19 test result on their child, they should notify the school. The principal will inform the parents of the other children in the class and they will have the option to receive free antigen tests for their child.
2. If a pupil is attending school from a household where there is a positive case of COVID-19 and can't isolate, we recommend that the pupil wear a mask at school until the restricted movement period has passed. Classrooms are crowded environments.
3. School will close at 3.00 pm for 1st/2nd class, 3rd/4th class and 5th/6th this Term.

Please at all times keep the area directly in front of Toonagh Hall free of parked cars so this can be used a turning point at drop off and collection times.

Enrolment Junior Infants and other classes September 2022:

Application forms can be downloaded on our school website toonaghschool.com or one can contact the school to receive a form.

If you know of another child (neighbour, relation, friend etc.), please inform them of this.

Standardised Testing Dates:

English Standardised Testing for classes 1st – 6th will take place in May during the week of May 16th – 20th. Maths Standardised Testing will take place during the week of May 23rd – 27th. The Early Literacy and Numeracy Test for Senior Infants will take place on these dates also.

Staff Planning and School Self Evaluation – half day closure:

In term 3 there will be a half day closure for a staff planning meeting and New Language Curriculum Training on Wednesday May 11th. School will close at 12.30 pm on this day.

School Swimming Programme:

We are delighted to have swimming organised again for the children 3rd-6th. We hope that they great benefit from taking part in this important life skill which is part of our PE programme. Swimming started back on Friday April 29th and continues for 5 weeks.

Buses to Matches:

The cost of Buses has become very expensive for the school due to rising fuel costs. The school simply cannot afford to pay for the full amount of all our bus trips to matches. For matches that children are attending this term, we will need to charge €2 a child for this term and this will help provide a small contribution towards the very big expense of buses currently. Thank you.

Uniform and Tracksuit:

This term the tracksuit days are Tuesday and Friday. The school uniform is worn the other 3 days.

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. Also outside of these days, the phone will rarely be answered as all staff are in class. School contact details are 065-6820143 or via email at toonagschool@gmail.com

School Tours:

The teachers and Noelette are currently organising very nice school tours for each class in June.

Juniors and Seniors: Moher Hill Farm.

1st and 2nd: Shannon Leisure Centre.

3rd – 6th: Baysports Athlone and the Planet Athlone Bowling.

We hope that the children will really enjoy their tours and it will be a very positive experience for them after what has been another challenging year at school. Every effort will be made to keep the cost of each tour as low as possible. You will receive more details about each tour in due course and an Aladdin epayment request will be sent.

Accelerated Reader and Literacy Lift Off:

Pupils in 2nd to 6th class have been taking part in the motivational reading programme Accelerated Reader (AR) this year. So far this year the children in Toonagh have read an amazing 36 million words and 2267 books which is fantastic reading. An improvement in the children's reading skills has been very evident and there is a great culture of independent reading going on at school and at home, well done to all the children!

1st and 2nd Class completed Literacy Lift Off before Easter. This is an intensive language programme aimed at boosting reading fluency, comprehension, writing and phonics skills with 3 staff members working together in stations in the classroom. This excellent levelled reading programme was coordinated by Ms. Griffin and Ms. Garrahy.

Change to School Calendar:

School closes for the summer on Tuesday June 28th at 12.30pm (originally Wednesday June 29th at 12.30). This is due to a day in lieu following the Government decision to award a new public holiday this year (March 18) and reduce the school year by a day.

Sporting Activities:

Well done to our **hand ball** players, Colm Whelan, Cillian Cummins and Conor Coffey, who recently represented the school at the Clare Primary School finals. The three boys performed very well. Cillian and Conor progressed on to represent Clare in Munster and they won the Munster Title, they then had a great day out at the All-Ireland representation handball event in Cavan. Well done to Toonagh Handball Club and their coaches for the work they are putting in with handball coaching of our school children.

Hurling and Camogie Training and coaching (3rd – 6th) has been taking place since February midterm, each Monday and Thursday after school in our Astro Turf. This term Camogie training will take place in Ruan GAA pitch on Mondays and Hurling Training will take place in Ruan GAA pitch on Thursdays. Children are to leave school at 2.40pm and parents are to make arrangements to bring the children to Ruan. Hurling and Camogie matches for the older children will be taking place this term. Also for 3rd and 4th class we have organised some hurling and camogie blitzes with other schools which hopefully the children will enjoy and the focus is on taking part. Thanks to our teachers who are coaching these teams after school.

Congratulations to Eryn Moroney who played for Clare in Thurles at half time during the Clare v Tipperary match. Well done Eryn.

Parents Association News:

- **Book Fair:** There will be a book fair in the school from 25th of May – 1st of June. There will be more details about this soon.
- **Final Clothes Collection this year:** The date for the final clothes collection fundraiser is *Thursday June 9th*. Drop off times on the date will be **9-10am, 1.45 – 3pm, and 6.30 -7.30pm**. Please spread the word among anyone who may be doing a clear out of old clothes. Thank you.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Wednesday 11th of May:** Schools half day closure at 12.30 for Staff Planning and Training.
- **Saturday 14th of May:** Holy Communion in Dysart Church at 11am.
- **Week of May 16th:** Standardised Testing English.
- **Week of May 23rd:** Standardised Testing Maths.
- **Saturday 28th of May:** Confirmation in Dysart Church at 11am.
- **May 25th – June 1st:** Parents' Association Book Fair.
- **Friday June 3rd & Monday June 6th:** School closed for June Bank Holiday weekend.
- **Thursday June 9th:** Parents Association Clothes Collection.
- **Tuesday June 28th @ 12.30pm:** School Closes for Summer.

Every good wish to you all for the month of May.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide