

Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

5th of June 2026

Dear Parent(s),

There are a number of items I would like to bring to your attention in this June Newsletter as we approach the final few weeks of the school year.

Free School Book Scheme school year 2026/27

Please see letter attached from Mr. Eustace about this. All school books and copybooks your child needs, will be provided free of charge for every pupil when they return to School on August 26th. Mr. Eustace, Mary and Lourda are putting a lot of work into this, especially to get our orders in with the book companies.

School Uniform 2026/27

McCannon's Clothes shop in Ennis has closed, therefore Mannix Clothes Shop, Market Street Ennis has taken over keeping the stock of our crested jumper and crested school tracksuit. Pyne's Clothes shop on Abbey Street Ennis also keeps stock of school jumpers but they don't stock the tracksuit.

Our crested school shorts can be bought from Cobi Sports online shop. This online shop is open all year round and please allow 4-5 weeks for delivery. <https://cobisports.com/product-category/school-shop/toonagh-national-school/>

Standardised Testing

Standardised testing took place recently in Maths and English. Your child's results in these tests will be communicated through end of year report cards which will be posted to you. Standardised tests are not intelligence tests and they are only one of a number of ways that we monitor and measure a child's progress. Please see attached an important letter about the Standardised Testing.

Sports Day and Bake Sale

Sports Day will take place on Friday 19th of June. Parents are invited to attend at 1.00pm. School will finish at 2.15pm on this day for all children. Our Parents Association will provide fruit to the children. Thanks to our Parents Association for providing this.

Also, on this day our student council are holding a bake sale to help fund new works on our astro turf pitch and school garden. The bake sale will be on in our GP hall. Donations of home baking or treats are welcome on the morning/day of Sports Day. Small contribution only please, maximum €5. More details to follow.

School Swimming Programme

The swimming programme concluded on Friday May 29th. The pupils got great benefit from taking part in this important life skill which is part of our PE programme.

School Tour ePayments

An ePayment request for the school tours was sent out last week. Thanks to the Parents Association for making a contribution towards the cost of the school tour buses which has helped to reduce the cost of each school tour and we hope the children enjoy their school tours.

School Planning and School Self Evaluation

At our half in half out staff planning meeting in May, the curriculum subjects that we are planning for at present and reviewing are English and Maths.

School Self Evaluation is where we have to review one specific area of our teaching and learning in Toonagh NS. At present we are focusing on developing the children's comprehension skills and we have implemented a new programme called the Building Bridges of Understanding. Building Bridges of Understanding is a widely used programme and the main aim is to help students become strategic, independent readers by actively engaging with text through nine comprehension strategies from the Building Bridges programme. Thanks to Christina McDonnell (Senior Infant parent) and Genius Juniors Book Shop who have provided us with books to support this programme in Toonagh NS.

Fleadh Nua Performance

The Toonagh National school band and music group performed at the Fleadh Nua Street sessions in Ennis. The pupils gave a wonderful performance of traditional music, song and dance in front of a large crowd with a wide array of musical instruments being played by the children. Well done to Ms. Griffin, Ms. Browne, Ms. McGinley and Ms. Garrahy for preparing the children so well for this event. There is a great tradition of music in Toonagh National School and the pupils put on an excellent performance for all present at the Fleadh Nua street sessions.

Fr. Pat 50-year Jubilee Celebration

The celebration of Fr. Pat's special jubilee mass takes place in Ruan church on Friday 19 June 2026 at 7pm and the school community are welcome to attend. Musicians from the school will be playing at the mass. On Wednesday June 17th the school children and staff will be inviting Fr. Pat to visit and to congratulate him on his 50-year celebration.

Donation of Library Books and return of School Library Books

Whenever you are clearing out any books that would be suitable for our school library (especially our Accelerated Reader Library 2nd – 6th) we would gladly accept donations of used books here at school. If you are doing a clear out before the school year finishes in June, we will accept books for our school library.

Also if you have any Accelerated Reader books or Literacy Lift Off Books which belong to the school at home, can they please be returned in the next two weeks, thank you.

Sporting Activities

- **Hurling Final:** Our hurling team have qualified for the primary school final in Cusack Park on Wednesday next week, June 10th at 10.15am and we wish them well. All children in the school will attend the final and we hope they enjoy their experience in Cusack Park. Children can wear blue and yellow coming to school on Wednesday. An epayment request for the bus will issue next week. Thank you
- **Hurling and Camogie Training this Term:** Camogie training after school has now concluded and hurling training will conclude next week. Well done to our girls and boys who did very well in the 3rd/4th class blitzes and to our camogie team who performed very well in their competition. Thanks to our teachers Ms. Garrahy, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Eustace, Mr. Barry, Mr. Barrett and Mr. O'Neill who gave their time after school to coach the girls and boys and help them improve with their skills.
- **Fun School Leagues:** Children in 3rd – 6th class will take part in fun school leagues in basketball, hurling and camogie in the final two weeks of June and we hope they enjoy these fun leagues.
- **Réaltaí an Chláir:** Well done to Luke O'Brien, Alfie McInerney and Patrick Óg Keegan who took part in the Réaltaí an Chláir (Inclusive Games Day) in Cusack Park. Over 200 children took part, our boys had a great day enjoying many different sporting activities and they were chosen as one of the top 3 schools for participation. The boys were presented with the Réaltaí an Chláir cup in Cusack Park. Congratulations to Luke, Alfie and Patrick Óg and thanks to Mary and Lourda for giving the boys the opportunity to attend this event.

Ruan Summer Camp

The Ruan hurling and camogie summer camp will take place from Monday August 10th – Thursday August 13th. This is a fun camp for children in the two primary schools in the parish. More details about registration for this camp will follow next week. Children can drop the registration forms into school if they wish to take part and the forms will be collected here.

Ruan Family Fun Day

The organisers of the Ruan Summer Festival wish to let you know of an exciting Family Fun Day on Sunday 2nd August. All details can be found on <https://ruansummerfest.ie/>



Parents Association News

- **Re-turn logo drinks containers:** So far this year, this scheme has raised €171 for school resources, thank you. If you have any containers to clear out before the summer holidays you can deposit the Re-turn logo drinks containers here at school if you wish. Parents or children can deposit them to our Re-Turn Orange Bin here at school which is left in the laneway beside Ms. Garrahy's room. Each time the bin is full our Parents Association will return the containers to a central depot. The school will raise 15 cent from every drink container between 150ml – 500ml. We'll raise 25 cent from every drink container over 500ml – 3 Litres. Thanks to our Parents Association for organising this and funds raised will go towards important school resources.
- **School Tour Buses:** Thanks very much to the Parents Association who have helped with the cost of the buses to the tours.

Important Dates coming up

- **Friday June 19th Sports Day:** Parents attend at 1.00 pm.
- **Tuesday June 23rd:** 6th Class Graduation at 3.15 pm in our GP Hall.
- **Wednesday June 24th:** School closes for summer holidays.

June is a very busy month at school and it promises to be an enjoyable one for the children with many different events. We hope that children enjoy their final month of this school year.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide

Standardised Testing

Dear Parents,

Standardised tests are not intelligence tests and they are only one of a number of ways used by the Department of Education and teachers to assess your child. The class teacher uses a broad range of assessment tools to evaluate learning and celebrate the achievements of your children.

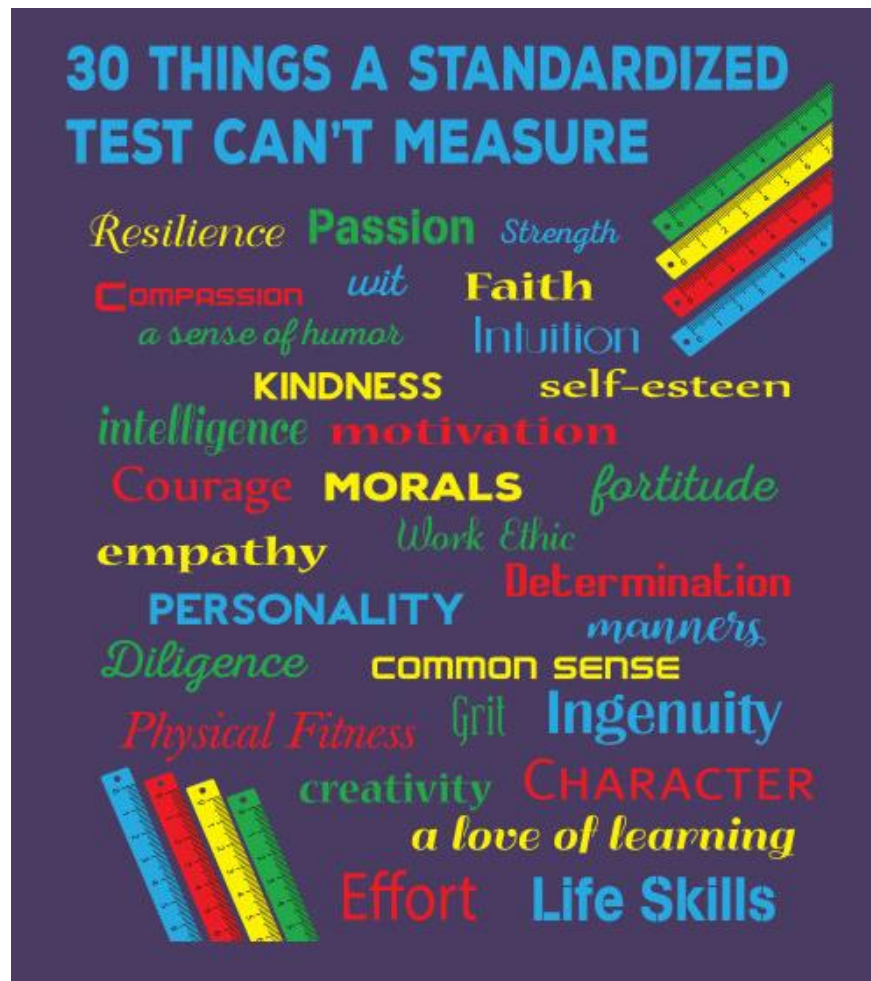
When evaluating and monitoring progress and attainment we do not focus solely on this test score.

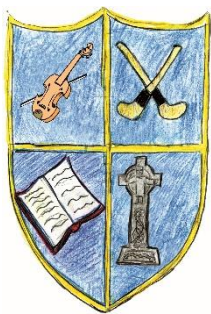
It is important to bear in mind all the other achievements and accomplishments of our children. There are many things a standardised test can't measure. The children in our school are always enthusiastic and positive about their school life and well done to each and every pupil in our school.

Yours sincerely,

Gearóid Roughan

Principal





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Free School Book Scheme 2026-27

Dear Parents,

The Department of Education and Skills has recently announced the free-book scheme will be extended to the school year 2026-27. This letter is to outline how the scheme will operate in Toonagh N.S. for the school year 2026-27.

We will be purchasing all text books, workbooks and copy books for all students from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. All books supplied by the school will be covered and ready for students when they return to school on the 26th August '26. Please be aware some books will be new and others will be second hand from our book rental scheme. All textbooks, workbooks and copies given by the school remain the property of the school. Textbooks and workbooks either lost or damaged will need to be replaced. We understand workbooks and copies cannot be reused the following year and these books and copies can be kept at the end of the school year at the discretion of the class teacher.

We will however be asking parents to purchase certain materials for your child/children. We will require all children to purchase or re-use their own stationery and pencil cases including any colouring materials and folders. We feel children appreciate choosing their own materials and also, it's impractical to purchase pencils and colours to everyone's liking. It's also important for pupils to purchase their own stationery as it gives them a greater appreciation of owning them and they will take greater care of them. Items such as mathematical sets, dictionaries and sketch pads will need to be purchased for certain classes. It will be made clear to parents and students what they will need for the next academic year when you receive your child's end of year report. We also ask parents to have name labels for all stationery and spare name labels will be needed upon return to school for the books being given to students on the 26th August.

We also remind parents to please label all items of their child's school uniform and tracksuit along with lunch boxes and coats etc. to ensure lost items are kept to a minimum.

The book grant will also cover the following:

- Cost of a personalised school homework diary for all students from 1st to 6th class.
- Dabbleddo Music Licence for each child.
- Bua na Cainte- Gaeilge Programme Licence. (Junior Infants - 2nd Class)
- Purchase of English novels throughout the year. (3rd to 6th class.)
- Purchase of graded readers throughout the year. (Junior Infants to 2nd Class.)
- Purchase of Tin Whistle for students (1st class).
- STEM Kits for all classes.
- Mathematical sets.
- Dictionaries.
- Replacement of damaged or lost books from our book rental scheme.

If you have any questions or are unsure about anything please don't hesitate to contact me at toonaghschool@gmail.com

Kind Regards,

Séan Eustace