



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

December, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

Christmas Show:

The Christmas Show is on in Toonagh Hall @ 7.00p.m. this Thursday (12th December). Children are asked to be at the school at 6:45p.m. Children in Juniors, Seniors, 1st and 2nd Classes can be collected from the school immediately after the show. The children in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th can be taken home directly from the hall.

The Parents' Association are doing great work behind the scenes in preparation for our show. Much time and effort has gone into planning for parking, hall decorations, seating, raffle and much more. All funds collected by the Parents' Association on the night will go towards the school. We are extremely grateful to all parents and members of our community who are helping out in any way.

In previous years, the noise level caused by some young children in the hall made it difficult for the performers. It was unfair to the boys and girls who were doing their very best. We understand that it is very difficult for very small children to remain seated for the entire concert but this must be balanced with the courtesy that must be shown to the performing children.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Christmas Presents for Staff:

Traditionally some parents have given gifts to school staff at Christmas. While we appreciate this generosity, we recognise that it may put extra pressure on parents at this busy time. Therefore, we would encourage you not to spend money on Christmas presents for staff.

Santa Dash!:

As part of our Active Schools programme we will be taking part in some healthy activities including athletics, dance and a santa dash/race on Friday December 20th in our all-weather pitch. Children are allowed wear santa hats, Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school on this day if they wish.

School Holidays:

The school will close on Friday, December 20th at 12.30pm (buses will collect at this time) and will re-open on Monday, January 6th 2020.

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2020/21:

If you have a child or know of a parent with a child, who would like a place in our school in Junior Infants September 2020, you can call into Noelette to receive an Application form for Enrolment during December. You can also download the application form on our website toonaghns.com . While the closing date for enrolment won't be until sometime in February 2020, we are currently trying to estimate our enrolment numbers for the next school year and plan ahead. Thank you.

School Attendance:

Toonagh National School has a very good average attendance of **96.0%** so far this term. Last year at this time the average attendance was **95.6%**.

Please let the school know if your child is absent and the reason why. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing to the class teacher.

School Self Evaluation (SSE):

At our half in half out staff meeting in October, one of the areas we planned for was our SSE. We are continuing with the theme of Wellbeing. We have been focusing on particular strategies and learning over the past year to help with our pupils' wellbeing. The children are currently taking part in a competition to come up with a wellbeing motto for Toonagh National School and we will have details of the chosen motto in our next newsletter. We also hope to have a Wellbeing themed week linked to our Active Schools week in 2020.

Science week (11/11-15/11):

For Science week the children and their teachers took part in many science activities that focused on science technology, engineering and mathematics. Our Twitter page was very popular during Science week with many tweets from the school of the very exciting activities and science experiments taking place in all the classes. Well done to all the children and staff.

Accelerated Reader and Literacy Lift Off Initiative's update:

The Motivational Reading programme Accelerated Reader (AR) began in October and all children from 3rd – 6th take part. The children have really taken to AR and there is great evidence of independent reading going on in the school. So far the children in Toonagh have read an amazing **13 million words (13,194,358)** and **575 books** which is fantastic reading. You can view your child's progress through the *Home Connect* link which you received at the parent teacher meeting. There is a great culture of independent reading going on at school and at home, well done to all the children!

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. Pupils on the programme will progress up through the levels at their own rate. It will take place in 1st and 2nd class this year and we'll have an update and more details soon when this will be starting during Term 2 2020.

Primary School Debating:

Our school debating team were in action on November 27th in the second round (having previously won the first round vs Holy Family NS) when they opposed the motion 'Homework is a waste of time for all primary school pupils' vs Clondrinagh NS. The debate was very keenly contested between two excellently prepared teams. Again the Toonagh team were victorious and will now go forward to the third round, where we meet Barefield NS. 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, Balithín Barry, Tara Moroney and Cathal Noonan who have presented excellent debates. 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 next round!

Classroom Library Books:

Some classroom library books have gone missing. We would greatly appreciate if parent(s) and student(s) would please check at home and return any books to the school so other students can use.

Preparation for Sacraments:

Do this in Memory – First Holy Communion Preparation Masses

All of the masses will take place on Saturday evenings at the scheduled weekend masses in Imeall Boirne.

- 14th of December, 2019
- 15th of February, 2019
- 14th of March, 2020

First Confession:

Toonagh/Ruan schools will have First Confession on 10th March in Ruan Church, at 7p.m.

Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony:

- The Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony for all schools in the Imeall Boirne Parishes takes place in Ruan on Friday December 13th at 7:30p.m.

You Shall be my Witnesses Programme:

This will take place in St Patricks Hall, Corofin from 7pm to 8pm on the following Sundays in 2020. All Confirmation candidates must attend every evening.

- 12th January
- 19th January
- 26th January
- 2nd February

Confirmation Retreat:

The students from Toonagh /Ruan parish will attend Confirmation retreat on 2nd/3rd March 2020 in Knock, Co. Mayo

Speech & Drama:

The second term of Speech & Drama will begin in January. An epayment request will be emailed in January.

Gymnastics Coaching:

A gymnastics coach will visit the school for a 5 week period beginning in January. All pupils in the school will receive gymnastics coaching.

Santa's Fairy Tale Christmas Show:

The pupils in Junior/Senior/1st/2nd classes will attend this show in Dánlann An Chláir on Friday, 13th of December. The cost per pupil is €14. This covers the cost of entry and also the cost of the bus. An epayment request was sent out in November.

Donations of Books/Toys:

Some families do a clear-out of toys and books around this time of year. We would welcome donations of intact, undamaged and suitable jigsaws, lego, toys and books.

School Sport:

- Handball: A number of pupils from the school were selected by Toonagh Handball Club to attend Clare Primary School handball trials and competition recently. Congratulations to Cathal Noonan (6th class) who was part of the Clare primary school team to win Munster Championship honours on Sunday last in Tulla where they defeated Tipperary, Waterford and Cork to become Munster Champions. Great credit must go to Toonagh Handball club who have huge numbers playing, girls and boys in the school who are members are really enjoying their handball. Recently Toonagh Handball Club won national recognition for being in the top 20 clubs in Ireland with large playing and participation numbers.
- Wall ball hurling & camogie league: This league is up and running with a few weeks and all girls and boys from 3rd-6th who wish to take part are involved. It is a doubles league, run until the Christmas holidays. The league takes place at lunch times in the excellent Indoor Astro Turf facility and it is proving to be a great way for the boys and girls to develop their skills in a fun environment. Thanks to 6th class who are helping to organise it daily.

Parents Association News:

- **Christmas Show Prize Donations:**

The Parent's Association are requesting your help with donations for Christmas hampers & spot prizes for the Christmas Concert i.e. vouchers, games, sweets & treats, selection boxes, wine etc. If you have any unwanted baskets/hampers please recycle and drop off to the school office. Spot prizes can also be left in the collection boxes outside the main office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and thanks to those who have donated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parents Association for the fantastic work and substantial fundraising they have done throughout the year. Monies raised have helped to pay for important Educational Programmes and resources. In the new year I would encourage more parents to come on board and help with the committee. If you are willing to help out or offer assistance occasionally with PA events please contact any of the PA officers directly (Noreen, Mairéad and Mary) to give your name and contact details.

Wishing you all a great Christmas and thanks for your support during my first few months as principal.

Yours sincerely,

Gearóid Roughan,
Príomhoide.

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (December, 2019)

Parent(s)/ Guardian: _____