



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

9th of October, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

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

Staff Planning & Training:

- The school will close on **Wednesday next, October 16th at 12:30p.m.** for a staff meeting to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time.
- The Department of Education have implemented a new curriculum for teaching English and Irish in all primary schools in Ireland. Toonagh NS will be closed on the **Monday December 16th** so that the teachers can attend training for this new curriculum in Clare Education Centre.

New Pedestrian Gate and Collection of Children:

Our new pedestrian gate is working well and it is a very important safety feature for our school. Only children going on the school buses will enter or exit the school through the main school gate. Thank you for cooperation with this. Please note in the evenings after school no child is allowed leave the school grounds until their parent/adult collects them from the school grounds or the children may leave if they can see their parent/adult. There is one teacher on supervision duty each evening to monitor children leaving the school in a safe manner.

Parents of Junior Infants (morning time):

We are delighted that all the Junior Infants have settled in so well at Toonagh N.S. and to further promote their independence we encourage you now to leave your son/daughter at the school door and allow them to walk into their classroom on their own in the morning. This will help develop their confidence & self-reliance.

Party Invitations (Infant Classes only):

Invitations to parties may be distributed in the Junior and Senior Infant Classes at school. However, in all other classes, we would ask that you issue invitations to children outside of school time, as it can cause upset and disappointment to some children if they don't receive an invitation. We hope you understand this situation and we appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Immunisations Junior Infants HSE:

Immunisations will take place for the Junior Infant class on Monday 21st November. Parents will be contacted by H.S.E. with their child's appointment time.

Parent Talk – Sacraments:

Talks for parents of children receiving sacraments will take place:

- First Holy Communion: Tuesday 29th of October at 7:30p.m. in Ruan Hall (beside the church).
- Confirmation: Thursday 31st of October at 7:30p.m. in Ruan Hall (beside the church).

School Attendance:

Toonagh National School had an excellent average attendance of **95.6%** for the 2018-19 school year. So far for the months of September and October this year we have a very good average attendance of **96.1%**.

As a parent, you must 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. The school must notify TUSLA – Child and Family Agency when a child is absent for 20 days or more or where the absence gives rise to concern.

School Sport:

- **Gaelic Football:** Our Girls Football team performed very well at their blitz in Doonbeg. They played really well in all matches and were a credit to their school on the day. The Boys play their blitz today. The boys and girls have made great improvement training after school throughout September and October with Mr. Eustace, Ms. Cullinan, Ms. Brosnan and Mr. Roughan.
Hurling and Camogie training will resume very soon when the Gaelic Football is finished.
- **Hurley/Helmet & Equipment Sale:** Orders made in September for the Cumann na mBunscol Sale will be collected on October 17th and will be distributed on the week beginning the 21st of October.
- **Cross Country:** The North Clare School's Cross Country Athletics will take place next Thursday 17th of October, at 11a.m. (weather permitting). All pupils from 2nd to 6th are encouraged to participate. The fee for this event is €3 and this will be collected by the class teacher. The Board of Management will cover the cost of the bus.
Please note that if the day happens to be very wet, the school will not attend. In this event, parents are invited to bring pupils who are interested in competing.
- **Interschool's show jumping:** This year's competition takes place this Friday 11th October in **Banner Equestrian Centre, Toonagh**. The road outside the school will be extra busy with cars/trailers/trucks as different schools from around Clare are participating. Please ensure that all children are carefully supervised arriving/leaving the school on this day. All children are expected to return to school after their event. Best of luck to all participating on the day.

Accelerated Reader and Literacy Lift Off Initiative's update:

The Motivational Reading programme Accelerated Reader (AR) is now up and running in Ms. Cullinan and Mr. Eustaces's Classes. It is hoped to have it running in Ms. Barry/Ms. Garrahy's class next week. All children from 3rd – 6th did the STAR Reading Assessment with Mr. Roughan and this determined the book level that the children will be reading until Christmas. 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 almost read **two million words (1,920,955)** which is fantastic reading as the programme just started one week ago!

Literacy Lift Off is an intensive reading programme for children in 1st and 2nd class and we'll have an update soon when this will be starting.

Educate.ie Christmas Annuals:

Orders may be placed for Christmas Annuals with Educate.ie. The cost of each Christmas Annual this year for the 10th Anniversary is €1 for orders placed before 25th October attached please find order form. All orders and monies need be returned to the school by Friday 25th October to avail of this offer. ***No orders can be taken after this date.***

Team Hope Operation Christmas Child:

The children of Toonagh N.S. are again supporting this worthwhile project. Many thanks for your continued generosity. The final day for donation of shoeboxes is **Wednesday 6th November**.

Attached please find leaflet with information, boy/girl sticker for box(es) and envelope for €4 fee to be enclosed in the box.

Halloween Party:

In October a Halloween Fancy Dress Party for all children, parents and friends will be held in Toonagh Hall from Face Painting, traditional Halloween games etc. spot prizes for scariest/best homemade costumes. Date/time to be confirmed later.

Assistance from parent(s) and teenagers would be greatly appreciated with this event please contact Pamela Vaughan on 087-6224698. If you can help with donations for children(s) spot prizes i.e. games, books, puzzles, sweets etc. please forward to Pamela Vaughan or items can be left in collection box outside school office door. Admission €5 per child.

On Friday, 25th of October, school children that wish to may come to school in Halloween Costume/Fancy Dress.

Cetz Yoga for kids:

The Toonagh Hall Committee would like to let you know that Yoga Classes for kids are starting on Sunday 20th October 11a.m -12pm. (3 to 6 years) 12p.m. to 1p.m. (6 to 13 years).

Please contact Colette on 086-8398008 for details.

School Twitter Page and Website:

I would encourage parents to follow us on Twitter (@toonaghns) where you may follow the weekly activities taking place in the school. If you are not a Twitter user, you may access this via our school website (www.toonaghns.com). The news feed is available to scroll through on our home page and also under the 'News' tab. Our school website is currently being updated.

Parents Association News:

- **AGM:** The AGM of the Parents' Association will take place tonight **Wednesday 9th of October** at 8.30 p.m. in Toonagh School. All parents are invited to attend. The Parents' Association does fantastic work on behalf of parents in the school throughout the year and we need new parents to come on board this year. Being part of the Parents' Association is very rewarding as any of the events organised or funds raised are for the children of the school.
- **Clothes Collection:** The Parents' Association will hold the first clothes collection of this school year on **Thursday, October 10th** to raise much needed funds for our school. Drop off times are 9-10am, 1.45 – 3p.m. and 6.30 -7.30p.m. Please support and spread the word among anyone who may be doing a clear out of old clothes. Thank you.
- **Cahercalla Coffee Morning:** The children of the school raised an amazing €560 for the Annual Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning, organised by the Parents' Association. Well done to all for the fantastic support.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Tonight, Wednesday October 9th:** Parents Association AGM @ 8.30pm.
- **Thursday October 10th:** Clothes Collection Fundraiser.
- **Wednesday October 16th:** Staff meeting, school closes at 12.30 pm.
- **Friday October 25th:** School closes for Halloween mid-term break.
- **Monday November 4th:** School reopens after Halloween mid-term break
- **Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday November 18th, 19th & 20th:** Parent Teacher Meetings. The school will close at 2:45p.m. on these days and buses will operate at this time. You will be issued with an appointment time by your child's class teacher in early November.
- **Thursday December 12th:** Christmas Concert.
- **Monday December 16th:** School closed, teachers at training day on new Language Curriculum in Clare Education Centre

Best wishes for the rest of October.

Gearóid Roughan
Príomhoide

Please sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (9th October, 2019).

Parent(s)/Guardian : _____