



# *Scoil an Tamhnaigh*

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U*

*Tel: 065-6820143*

26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023

Dear Parent(s),

As we reach the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help, support and interest this year. We have had another busy year in the school and you as partners in your child's education deserve great acknowledgement for that.

**I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the staff of Toonagh NS during this school year. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated, caring and hardworking teachers in our school who did fantastic work this year with the children. Our teachers and SNAs deserve great credit for the excellent rounded education and outstanding care that they give to our pupils in Toonagh.**

## **Sixth Class**

We say goodbye to 6<sup>th</sup> Class, everyone in Toonagh NS would like to wish them all the best as they shape their future lives. The 6<sup>th</sup> class had numerous achievements during their time in our school. These 14 students have contributed a lot to Toonagh NS over the years and the staff here have enjoyed watching them grow into mature, confident and very capable young people.

All the best to **Fionn Bane, Tomás Barry, Cathal Brohan, Adam Casey, Fionn Casey, Liam Clancy, Luke Flanagan, Luke Gibbons, Danny Griffin, Gavin Hassett, Cillian Lynch, Síofra Moran, Adam Pegg and Shauna Vaughan.**

They did very well with Ms. Cullinan this year and worked to the best of their ability. We look forward to their graduation ceremony today where we will honour them.

## **New Buddy Bench**

Our new Buddy Bench was unveiled after Sports Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>. A buddy bench or friendship bench is a seat in a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to or if they have nobody to play with. Another child will then approach them and ask them if they would like to join it with them. Our buddy bench is aimed at not having anyone alone at break times and boosting friendships. The Student Council designed our very colourful Buddy Bench and it is in loving memory of Bríd Howard and Brian Meere.

## **Sports Day**

We had a most enjoyable sports day on Wednesday last in great weather. The children had a great day and took part in many sporting activities. We concluded the day with our fun obstacle course. The Parents Association provided us with fruit and water throughout the day. The children also enjoyed the visit from the Ice Cream Van. Thanks to Mr. Eustace and the teachers for organising a great day of sport for the children.

## **Mini-Leagues**

An in school mini-league for hurling and basketball has been run over the last week and this week. The emphasis on this competition is participation and all children from 3rd to 6th class get an opportunity to participate. Thanks to Seán Eustace and Claire Cullinan for organising these leagues.

## **Free School Book Scheme**

All school books and copybooks your child needs, will be provided free of charge for every pupil when they return to School on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Seán Eustace for organising the whole process of this for our school and thanks to Mary and Maelisa for assisting Seán.

### **Summer Reading and Accelerated Reader**

Schools have been asked to let parents know about Clare County Library's Children Summer Stars Reading Programme. This programme is a great initiative aiming to promote reading amongst children over the summer holidays. Please see the attached letter from Clare County Library for more details.

Children can continue to use the Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme during the summer and take quizzes if they wish to. This was the fourth year of AR in Toonagh and the children did fantastic reading all throughout the year, an amazing **38 million words and 2363 books** were read by the children in Toonagh NS this year!

### **County Champions**

Well done to our school hurlers who won the Division 3 title vs Crusheen NS in Cusack Park. There was great excitement after the match and the boys were delighted with the huge support they received on the day. Afterwards all the panel were treated to a meal at Supermacs. The boys and girls hurlers put in a great effort this year and thanks to the teachers who put in a huge amount of time and effort to train the the boys and girls after school throughout the year. The coaches were Mikey O'Neill, Claire Cullinan, Seán Eustace, Gearóid Roughan, Alan Baker and Jonathan Barry.

### **GAA Coaching**

Anne McMahon coached the pupils this year and thanks to Ruan GAA for funding this initiative. With Anne's training, the children are learning the skills of our games in very well structured coaching sessions weekly and we thank Anne for her work throughout the year.

### **Donation of School Uniforms**

We will take second hand school uniforms here at school if anyone no longer has use for them. It is always useful for us to have some spare uniforms here at school. Thank you.

### **Parents Association (PA)**

The Parents' Association did a huge amount of work this year. Recently they organised a very nice Confirmation Breakfast for the families present. A lot of fundraising was done this year and this helped to fund many new school resources for the children including new sports equipment, library books, PM readers, iPads and Science equipment. The Parents' Association also covered the cost of all the school tour buses.

Thanks to the Parents' Association, Lourda Flanagan Chairperson, Laura Cahir Treasurer and the hard working committee of parents, for the contribution they have made throughout this year. Thanks to the parents who assisted the Parents Association with the organisation of their events. I would also like to thank all the parents, for your wholehearted support of all fundraising initiatives and PA events that have taken place throughout the year.

### **Board of Management**

I would like to thank our Board for their help throughout the year. We are lucky to have a Board of Management with lots of expertise and who are very generous in volunteering their time for the betterment of our school.

### **New Primary School Curriculum**

Please see attached to this newsletter, information for parents from the Department of Education about the new Primary School Curriculum. We will have further updates in the new school year about staff training.

### **School reopening date**

School will reopen after the Summer Break on Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer. Thanks for your support throughout the year.*

Yours sincerely,

*Gearóid Roughan*  
Principal



**Join the Summer Stars Green Team at Your Local Library**

**Clare Libraries invite children to join the annual Summer Stars Reading Adventure and become a Climate Awareness Champion.**

Summer Stars, the annual summer reading programme for children runs from the 12<sup>th</sup> of June to the end of August 2023. Libraries all over Ireland extend an invitation to children to join the adventure and enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading. Summer Stars is a non-competitive reading promotion initiative. Every child who reads even one book/ebook is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free!

Children can sign up for Summer Stars at any of one of the fifteen library branches in Clare. They will get their own Summer Stars Reading card and other rewards to encourage continued reading during school summer holidays.

**When your child signs up for Summer Stars 2023 they will automatically enter a draw to win a FREE event for their school in the Autumn. Award winning author Judi Curtin will visit the prize winner's school, compliments of Clare Libraries.**

Clare libraries are focusing on Climate Awareness during Summer 2023. Many Summer Stars events will celebrate the wonderful wildlife, flora and fauna of our county. Clare artists will facilitate workshops on climate awareness, biodiversity, sustainability, and the environment in libraries during July and August with a view to fostering increased awareness among children and families of our responsibilities to the environment. Library branches will actively promote a greener Clare by displaying a wide variety of related books for children and adults.

Storytimes, book clubs, craft sessions, nature and wildlife talks and environmental awareness workshops, creative writing, illustration and chess classes are only some of the activities your children can participate in.

Check out our Library website [www.clarelibrary.ie](http://www.clarelibrary.ie)

Stay tuned to our social media for more information and visit [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie) where you can download fun printable activities and colouring pages for Summer Stars 2023.

Research shows that children who read over the summer months maintain or improve their reading level and are better prepared for the new school year when they return in September.

Reading and sharing stories from early childhood onwards

- helps your child get to know sounds, words and language, and develop early literacy skills.
- helps show children to value books and stories.
- helps spark your child's imagination and stimulate curiosity.
- helps develop your child's brain, ability to focus, concentration, social and communication skills.

Clare library branches offer fiction and information books on all areas of interest for children including annuals, comics and graphic novels.

Books on CD are also available as well as audio books and e books downloadable on the BorrowBox App through the library website.



# The new primary curriculum:

## What you need to know as a parent or guardian

the new primary curriculum,

when changes are happening, and

where you can find out more.

### The new primary curriculum

A curriculum sets out what children should learn and how they can learn it in school.

The curriculum that is used in our primary and special schools is 24 years old and is now changing. Here are some examples of what the new curriculum will do:

- build on the successes and strengths of the current curriculum
- make connections with what and how children learn in preschool, primary, special, and post-primary schools

- include new areas of learning, such as Technology and Engineering, a broader Arts Education and Modern Foreign Languages which will begin when children reach third class



- provide new suggested time allocations for each curriculum area/subject



- provide more flexibility for teachers in deciding how best to use class time
- emphasise the importance of play and playfulness in learning for every child from junior infants right through to sixth class.





The new primary curriculum will include the following five areas and subjects: -

**Language**

English, Irish and Modern Foreign Languages from third class.

**STEM Education**

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

**Wellbeing**

Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Physical Education (PE).

**Arts Education**

Drama, Art and Music.

**Social and Environmental Education**

History and Geography.

In addition to the five areas set out above, the Patron's Programme forms part of your child's learning experience in primary and special schools. The patron, the body that establishes and operates the school, has a legal right under the 1998

Education Act to design and implement its own programme (patron's programme) in accordance with the ethos of their school. In the majority of patron's programmes, the area of religious education is addressed.

**When is the primary curriculum changing?**

A new Primary Language Curriculum for English and Irish is already being taught in our primary and special schools since September 2019. A new mathematics curriculum will be introduced to schools in September 2023. Teachers will have a year to become familiar with it before they start teaching it in class from August/September 2024. Teachers will continue to teach the current mathematics curriculum until that time.

The changes to the other areas and subjects of the curriculum will be introduced in the school year beginning in August/September 2025.

**Parents/Guardians and the new curriculum**

Parents and guardians continue to play a key role in their child's education. The new curriculum promotes a partnership approach which will encourage increased communication between schools and parents. This aims to keep you informed about your child's progress in school and the school informed about your child's learning at home.

Parents and guardians have had input to the curriculum to date through public and targeted consultation.



1 Scan the QR code or [click here](#) for the results of the consultation.

Parents and guardians will continue to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft curriculum areas and subjects through public consultations in 2024. These consultations will be widely advertised.

**Where can I find more information?**

Scan the QR code or click the link below



2

click



3

click



4

click

- 1. NCCA.ie
- 2. Gov.ie
- 3. Curriculumonline.ie
- 4. NCSE.ie