



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

14th of May 2020

Dear Parent(s),

I hope you and your families are safe and well. I invite you to read our May school newsletter.

Covid-19 closure update:

The recent announcement that schools will remain closed until September has disappointed us all but we realise these measures are being taken in accordance with public health advice to keep everyone safe. These are very unprecedented times and our priority concern is that all members of our school community remain safe and healthy during this very difficult period.

We are still awaiting clarification about a reopening date (whether this can be the end of August or the start of September). We are also waiting for clear guidelines on safety measures and procedures that schools may have to put in place.

In the Government's published roadmap to ease COVID-19 restrictions and reopen Ireland, schools are in Phase 5 which has a date of August 10th for the easing of restrictions. It is hoped in the coming weeks that we will receive more clarity from the Department of Education about reopening the school.

Survey of Parents:

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent survey and for all your feedback. All teachers really appreciate your input and support during this time. We found the feedback extremely valuable to inform future planning of how best to support our pupils during this unprecedented school closure while being cognisant of the needs and demands on families at present and we are also mindful that many parents continue to work from home. We were glad that the vast majority of parents were happy with the amount of work given each week and the feedback we received from the survey was very positive.

I would like again to take the opportunity to say that none of the work/activities are compulsory. Many of you are now living and working in very different and difficult circumstances. The last thing we as a school wish to do, is to add further to the stress that families are currently under. Individual pupils and families may complete assigned work to whatever extent the family circumstances dictate.

Seesaw:

Seesaw is a secure online app and journal where pupils and parents can share the children's school work for the teacher to review (<http://seesaw.me>). In Toonagh NS during the Covid-19 closure we are trialling Seesaw in all classes. Your child will be able to add the things he/she is working on (including photos, videos, worksheets, drawings and voice recordings) to their Seesaw journal and your child's teacher can review or comment which gives feedback to your child. You don't have to use Seesaw, you may also share work completed via email if you wish to, using the email address you were given for each teacher.

Resources for home learning:

Some more very useful resources and websites which may be of help at home:

➤ **Irish language**

To help with the learning of Irish at home some very useful websites are:

- focloir.ie (An English-Irish Dictionary)
- teama.ie (An Irish-English Dictionary)
- translate.google.com (Google Translate)

➤ **Accelerated Reader**

Attached to this newsletter is a sheet with Tips for pupils and parents on using Accelerated Reader at home (2nd – 6th class).

➤ **School Twitter Page**

We will continue to add any nice ideas and resources for home learning that we come across on our school twitter page [@toonaghns](https://twitter.com/toonaghns) You can also access our Twitter page on the news section of our website toonaghns.com

Finally:

I know how disappointed the children in 2nd class and 6th class must be that they were not be able to celebrate their Holy Communion and Confirmation. They were really looking forward to these two special days. Whenever we have an update from the diocese and parish on the new dates for the sacraments we will update you.

Furthermore, I know 6th class are disappointed not to be graduating in June and they are saddened not to be at school for their final few weeks in Toonagh National School. They were a brilliant 6th class and were such leaders around our school throughout the year. We will definitely have a graduation event for them and we will explore further options on how to honour our 6th class. We will make every effort to give them a most special send off when it is safe for us to gather again.

I wish to thank all our teachers who have been extremely busy over the last few weeks preparing school work, planning and up-skilling in online teaching and communication platforms. These are very difficult and stressful times for everybody and the school staff are equally challenged with their own personal and family circumstances and are doing their very best to remotely organise distance learning and teaching.

I would like wish all of you and your families continued good health.

Gearóid Roughan

Accelerated Reader at home

FOR FAMILIES:

Supporting Students using Accelerated Reader

Dear Parents,

Students are developing their reading skills, along with their love of reading, using Accelerated Reader in Toonagh NS all year long.

Tips for families to support student learning at home:

- To take an AR quiz use the website please use this link:
<https://ukhosted11.renlearn.co.uk/2935049/>
- Use **ARbookfind.co.uk** (www.arbookfind.co.uk) to search for books which are on AR you may have at home.
- To see your child's progress, you can use the home connect section on AR. You can see their bookshelf of all the books they have read and their word count. It gives you the opportunity to praise and encourage your child when you see their progress. Log in using your child's username and password for AR and click on this link:
<https://ukhosted11.renlearn.co.uk/2935049/homeconnect/>

Three websites that have free online books currently are:

1. The Read On website: readon.myon.co.uk (it has over 1000 books on AR, see a video here of how to use this website with AR
<https://twitter.com/toonaghns/status/1246134326158340101?s=20>)
2. The Epic website has lots of digital books on AR <https://www.getepic.com/>
3. The Oxford Owl website: oxfordowl.co.uk (use the ARbookfind website to see if the book you choose is on AR).

Reminder: While it's important to share reading experiences with your student at any age, it is equally important that students complete their AR quizzes independently so we can effectively monitor their growth and identify areas of need that we can address.

Well done for all you are doing to support your child's reading.



Toonagh NS suggested daily routine for pupils during school closure

Do as many activities as possible with your brothers and sisters. Work together and be kind to each other! Tidy up after activities and meal times and help your family.

Time of day	Activity
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">8.30am to 10.45am</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wash, dress and have a healthy breakfast. Tidy up after yourself and make sure to wash your teeth and make your bed. 2. Go outside and do 20 minutes of any activity you like. 3. Complete work given by your teacher.
<p style="text-align: center;">Mid-Morning Break 10.45am to 11.00am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Have a healthy snack. Be sure to tidy up after yourself.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">11.00am to 12 noon</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">School On TV</p> <p>Turn on RTE 2 and watch the programme RTE Home School Hub. This TV programme is supported by the Department of Education.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">12.00noon to 12.45pm</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go outside and observe the changes around you in nature. Make a record of these by drawing or taking a picture. Tidy the garden. See Home Learning Activities attached here for other ideas. 2. Listen to your favourite song and sing/dance make a list of favourite songs with family members and take a turn every day playing one.
<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Lunch Break 12.45pm to 1.15pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Don't forget to look at the Food Pyramid and help make a healthy lunch. Make sure to tidy up after yourself.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">1.15pm to 2.00pm</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Daily Diary or continue school work/project work</p> <p>Write a daily diary. Draw or take a picture to go with what you write. Include illustrations, photos of the local environment etc..</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">2.00pm to 3.00pm</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Shared and Independent Reading</p> <p>Don't forget to take an Accelerated Reader (AR) Quiz if you can https://ukhosted11.renlearn.co.uk/2935049/</p> <p>You can log on https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/ find a book, check if it is on AR https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx</p> <p>Also you can log onto the Read On website https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html a digital library with 7000 books and do some extra reading. 1000 of these books are on AR. See a video here of how to use this website with AR https://twitter.com/toonaghns/status/1246134326158340101?s=20</p>