

30th August, 2017.

Dear Parent(s),

Ba mhaith liom fáilte mhór a chur roimh gach éinne, ar ais chun na scoile, don scoilbhliain '17/18.

I would like to welcome everybody back for the new school year.

In particular, I wish to extend a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants who began in Toonagh N.S. today. Céad míle fáilte romhaibh ! I hope each and every member of our school community has a fruitful, happy and productive year ahead.

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

School Staff 2017/ 2018:

Junior/ Senior Infants: Ms. Sally Nicholas (covering Ms. Considine's maternity leave)

Senior Infants/ 1st: Ms. Bernadette Browne

2nd/ 3rd Class: Ms. Mairéad Barry

4th/ 5th Class: Mr. Seán Eustace

5th/ 6th Class: Mr. Donnchadh Kelleher

Special Education Teacher: Ms. Yvonne Griffin

Special Education Teacher: Ms. Aoife Garrahy

Special Needs Assistant: Ms. Maelisa Malone

School Secretary: Ms. Noelette Corcoran

If any parent wishes to meet their child's teacher, please arrange a prior appointment. This is to facilitate the supervision of the teacher's class during the meeting. Appointments will be facilitated where possible. ***There will be a structured parent/teacher meeting during the school year.***

School Opening/ Closing Times:

School commences at 9:20a.m. and finishes at 3p.m. daily (2p.m. Infants).

Our Junior Infants will finish at 12:30p.m. until Friday, September 15th.

Drop-off and Collection Arrangements:

Due to the volume of traffic and in order to create safer environs outside the school we would encourage parents to follow the following procedures:

Junior/ Senior Infants may be collected in the school and escorted to the car by parent/ guardian at the 2p.m collection time. First to Sixth Classes shall be collected from the school gate and escorted to the car by parent/ guardian.

The school will be open to receive children from 9.10a.m. onwards. Please note that teachers accept responsibility for the children during school hours only. **Parents/Guardians who decide to leave children at school before school opening time and after school closing time do so at their own risk and the Board of Management does not accept any responsibility for ensuring the safety of such pupils.**

Traffic Management:

We earnestly request that you park in a manner that doesn't compromise our children's safety. We ask that parents would have cars turned in the direction of travel each day to help with flow of traffic. We request that you do not turn your car in any of our neighbours' driveways. **Under no circumstances are cars allowed to park/drop off in the yellow box directly in front of the school gates and we ask that the area in front of Toonagh Hall be kept free so that the bus can turn safely.**

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Child Protection Procedures

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is aware of the regular collection arrangement for your child. If there is any change to this arrangement, please inform the class teacher in writing.

Access to the School

All external access doors are fitted with electronic locks. Should you wish to access the school during school hours, please press the doorbell located near the secretary's office for assistance.

Tracksuits

Mondays and Fridays will be P.E. days and children may wear their tracksuits on these days. The regular school uniform is to be worn for the remainder of the week.

Text Messages

We regularly communicate with parents using a text messaging provider. One text message per household will be sent with notifications. Please contact the school if you are not receiving texts. I would be grateful if you inform the school of any changes to your current mobile number(s), if you have not already done so. This is crucially important as it facilitates immediate contact when urgently required.

Contact Details:

We would like to ensure that all contact details we have in school are up to date. Please fill in the attached sheet with this newsletter and return to the school by Friday, September 1st.

School Payments:

Our school is delighted to announce that we will be rolling out the Aladdin ePayments system for this school year. Please read the attached note for further information.

Speech & Drama:

Mrs Peggy O'Reilly will visit the school each Thursday (beginning 7th September). All children will participate. Payment details will follow.

School Calendar 2017-2018:

Attached please find our school calendar.

School Website/ Twitter:

We are in the process of developing a school website in order to provide an easily accessible point of information for parents and pupils alike. A school Twitter account will also be established. Both of these will be used to celebrate pupil/school achievements and to allow parents and the wider school community to keep up to date with news from the school.

In line with data protection procedures, all posts on the school website/ Twitter will be made by staff members and will be vetted prior to publication. A consent form is attached with this newsletter. Please sign and return to the school by Friday, September 1st. Should you have any questions or queries relating to this, I will be more than happy to speak to you.

iPads:

As you may be aware, money raised by the Parents' Association during the past academic year, in conjunction with an I.C.T. grant received from the Department of Education & Skills will be used to purchase a set of iPads for use throughout the school. The iPads have been ordered and should arrive during the month of September.

Summer Works:

The Board of Management has been busy preparing the school premises and grounds for the new school year. I would like to extend thanks to all members of our Board of Management for their hard work over the summer months to ensure that the school is in pristine condition for the return of the pupils. We are very fortunate to have a Board of Management who are very generous in volunteering their time for the betterment of our school.

School Email:

Please note that our school email address has changed to toonaghschool@gmail.com.

Teacher Courses:

Under rule 58 of the Rules for National Schools, teachers are entitled to 3 Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days on foot of attending approved summer courses. The Department of Education & Skills does not provide substitute cover for these days. Over the summer, many of the teachers in the school have taken the time to complete these invaluable courses in the areas of I.C.T, iPads in Schools, Numeracy, Literacy and Special Education. In order to minimise disruption to classes, the Board of Management will cover the cost of a substitute for one of the three days per teacher.

Le gach dea-bheannacht,

Donnchadh Kelleher,
Principal.

Please Sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (30st August, 2017).

Parent(s)/ Guardian : _____