



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

10th of November 2020

Dear Parent(s),

I hope you and your families had a nice break over Halloween. We are delighted that schools have remained open. I would like to bring the following to your attention in this November newsletter.

COVID-19 Toonagh NS Response Plan:

The main concern for our school, and indeed all schools this year is COVID-19 and the important measures we have in place to keep our school as safe as possible. Some points of note:

- **Sanitising products:** You may have read and heard reports in the media regarding the recall of sanitising products by the Department. I can reassure you all that the hand sanitisers and associated products we are using are not affected by this. We put in a big effort to make sure we sourced a child friendly sanitiser and the product we have which is called 'Nilaqua' is user friendly for children. We also have the certification on file here in school to prove that this sanitiser kills Covid-19. We do not use any of the 52 products that the Department of Education recalled recently.
- **Ventilation:** With the season of winter upon us, heating will be on in the school. It is necessary however, to have good circulation of clean air and for this reason windows will be kept ajar throughout the day. Good ventilation will be achieved by opening windows and doors before school and during breaks. During class time windows may be partially opened. Please ensure that your child is dressed in warm layers under their uniform and tracksuit if required.
- **Sharing belongings:** While we have always encouraged children to share and have shared resources between children and classes in the past, presently however we are doing the very opposite. Please ensure that your child has all their own belongings and requisites needed for school. The school has provided plastic boxes with lids for all children in which they keep their belongings at school.
- **Visiting Teachers:** Due to Covid-19, the BOM have decided in the interest of the health and safety of the entire school community, that currently there is no visiting teachers working indoors and going into the different classroom bubbles in Toonagh NS. Therefore, Speech and Drama with Peggy O'Reilly and Gymnastics with Magda which have taken place each year are not currently taking place.
- **Morning Drop off:** The school will be open to receive children from 9.05 am each morning. Children must not come onto the school grounds/yard until the school doors are open, then they go straight to their classroom pod.

The Covid-19 Response plan and safety procedures for our school are working well at present and thanks for your cooperation.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher meetings will take place by phone this year due to current restrictions and in line with the recent guidelines from the Department on Parent Teacher meetings. These phone meetings will take place during the final week of November and it will give you the opportunity to receive an update on your child's progress. Details and times of your meeting will be sent home this week. Also on the slip to be sent home with your time, you will be asked to please provide the phone number you wish to hold the meeting on and send this back into your child's teacher. The phone meetings will be for maximum duration of 10 minutes.

School Self Evaluation:

School Self Evaluation is where we have to review one area of our teaching and learning in Toonagh NS over a two year period. We are continuing with the area of **Wellbeing** with a particular emphasis on improving the resilience of our pupils. We believe that this area is particularly important in light of what's going on in the world around us with the Covid-19 pandemic and also as school is a very different to what it was before March 12th. We are focusing on particular lessons to help with our pupil's wellbeing and also strategies such as movement breaks, relaxation techniques, mindfulness and breathing exercises during the school day.

Maths Week (12/10-16/10):

For Maths week the children and their teachers took part in many interactive maths activities, games and maths trails around the school. Our Twitter page was very popular during Maths week with many tweets from the school of the different fun math activities taking place in the classes. Well done to all the children and teachers.

Halloween Fun:

The children had great enjoyment and fun during our Halloween parade in our Astroturf pitch in each class bubble. Each child received treats from the school and it was a happy end to the first half-term for the children.

Secondary School Applications and Open Nights for Parent(s) & Sixth Class Pupils:

- **St Flannan's College:** Application forms will be available to download on the school website from November 16th <https://www.stflannanscollege.ie/>. A virtual presentation of the school will be made available on the website.
- **Colaiste Muire:** Application forms will be available to download on the school website from November 19th <https://www.colaistemuire.ie/>. A virtual open night presentation will be made available on the school website from November 19th.
- **Ennis Community College and Gaelcholáiste an Chláir:** Application forms will be available to download on the school website from November 16th. Also on their website from this date, they will have a virtual open night and a series of short videos about both schools.

When the details of the other secondary schools become available we will share them with the 6th class parents and pupils.

Parents Association News:

- **Voluntary Contribution:** The Parents Association asks each family at the school to consider making a voluntary contribution to help assist with the running costs of the Parents Association events and also to help with extensive school costs throughout this year. While this contribution is usually collected every second year, it is necessary again this year as the school has had a very significant amount of spending since we have returned to support our pupils learning which is not covered by grants or contributions. This contribution will help pay for a new iPad trolley and charging station for the new iPads recently purchased for all classes, the Accelerated Reader programme (2nd – 6th), Literacy Lift Off books for the younger classes, Art and Craft supplies for all classes and the Parents Association Christmas treats for all children. The suggested contribution for this year is €30 euro per family. Envelopes will be sent home next week with details of this collection. This contribution is voluntary. Thank you.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Week of November 23rd:** Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th Parent Teacher meeting phone calls.

Kind regards,

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide