



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

16th of September, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

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

Principal Presentation, Junior Infant Information night & Job Share meeting:

All parents are invited to our school on Thursday next 26th of September @ 7pm. I, being the new principal in Toonagh would like to give a presentation and talk, to formally introduce myself to parents and to give an overview of important school events.

Also on this night we will have an Information session for the new Junior Infant Parents. The new Junior Infants have settled in very well into school and this night will give an opportunity for parents to familiarise themselves with their child's classroom, teacher and staff.

Ms Barry and Ms Garrahy will also hold a brief meeting and information session for parents whose children are in the Job Share class.

The format of the night is as follows:

6.45 pm	Job Share Information meeting in Ms Barry & Ms Garrahy's room (only for parents whose child is in Ms Barry's/Ms Garrahy's classroom)
7.00 pm	Tea/Coffee and refreshments for all parents
7.15	Principal's presentation from Mr. Roughan in the GP room (for all parents in the school, after this, parents who are not in Junior Infants will leave)
7.30	Junior Infant Parents Information session in Ms Browne's classroom.

Hopefully see you Thursday next 26th of September.

School Payments:

Our school uses the Aladdin **ePayments** system for the collection of most payments. It is not possible to have money lying around the school or in classrooms and the ePayments system is the most convenient way for the collection of money.

September is always a busy month for school expenses and we are aware that there are a number of ePayment requests at this time. Please note you can spread out the payments in September and you don't have to pay all the ePayment requests together.

I also realise that back to school payments can be extremely difficult for some families, in this case please contact me and I will give financial help in the strictest confidence.

Should you have any questions about ePayments, please contact the school secretary.

Pupil Insurance:

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance is now being collected for the 2019-20 school year. An ePayment request for the fee of €7 per pupil has been sent out. This fee offers very good value and it is important to get this paid this week, accidents unfortunately do happen.

All pupils in the school will be covered 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year under this Policy. Please see Allianz.ie for further information on the schedule of benefits. Should you wish to make a claim, forms are available to download from the Allianz website and the school office.

Absences:

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 absences gives rise to concern.

Please supply the class teacher with a written note explaining the reason for absence for the school's records.

Collection Arrangements for children:

If the collection arrangements for your child(ren) change, please inform the class teacher in writing.

Healthy Lunches:

Again, this year we are encouraging children to bring healthy lunches to school. We ask that you do not include chocolate, sweets, crisps or any treats in your child's lunchbox Monday to Thursday. One small treat is permitted on Friday. We look forward to embracing a healthier school. Many thanks for your continued co-operation.

Accelerated Reader Programme Update:

This popular reading programme will be introduced in the coming weeks to classes 3rd – 6th. Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer-based program that schools use to monitor children's reading practice and progress.

With this programme children pick books at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, the child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that the child understood what was read.) AR gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher uses to help set reading targets for your child and direct ongoing reading practice.

We'll have more details on AR soon. Thanks to those who have donated books and if any of you still have any used novels, fiction or non-fiction books that you no longer have use for, we will take donations here at school. There are boxes left inside the main doors to drop books into, thank you.

School Uniform and Tracksuits:

Tuesdays and Fridays will be P.E. days and children must wear their tracksuits on these days. The regular school uniform must be worn for the remainder of the week. Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled.

School Sport:

- **Gaelic Football:** Training takes place for Football on Mondays @ 3p.m. to 3:45p.m. (boys & girls from 3rd – 6th class invited)
Hurling and Camogie training will resume in October.
- **Cross Country:** The North Clare School's Cross Country Athletics will take place on Wednesday 3rd of October, at 11a.m. (weather permitting). All pupils from 3rd 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.

Communicating with the school:

Please note our secretary (Noelette) works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and you can contact the school on these days. Outside of these days we try to check the school voicemail end of the school day. Also outside of these times the phone will rarely be answered as all staff are in class. School contact details are 065-6820143 or via email at

toonaghschool@gmail.com

Parent/Teacher Meetings:

Parent/teacher meetings this year are scheduled for November 18th, 19th and 20th. The school will close @2:45p.m. on the days of the Parent/Teacher Meetings to facilitate the meetings and buses will operate at this time. There will be more specific details of times at later date.

Staff Planning & Training:

- The school will close on **Wednesday, October 16th at 12:30p.m.** to 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.

Parents' Association News:

- Cahercalla Coffee Morning: The children of the school have been invited to the Annual Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning, organised by the Parents' Association, on this **Thursday morning 19th September** between 9.15 and 12.00 in the hall. Donations of home baking welcome. All parents are welcome to attend. A contribution of €2.00 per child has been suggested.
- 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 – 3pm, and 6.30 -7.30pm. Beside the stage in the hall has been made available if you wish to drop off bags before the above date. You can leave bags into school any day and we will bring them up to the hall. Please contact Lynda Clancy or Noreen Cummins if you wish to arrange to leave bags prior to the 10th of October after school hours. Please support and spread the word among anyone who may be doing a clear out of old clothes. Thank you.
- AGM: The AGM of the Parents' Association will take place **Wednesday 2nd 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.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Thursday September 19th:** Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning 9.15am – 12.00pm.
- **Thursday September 26th:** Principal presentation, Job Share meeting & Junior Infant information session for parents.
- **Wednesday October 2nd:** Parents Association AGM @ 8.30pm.
- **Thursday October 10th:** Clothes Collection Fundraiser.
- **Wednesday October 16th:** Staff meeting, school closes at 12.30 pm.
- **Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday November 18th, 19th & 20th:** Parent Teacher Meetings.
- **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 September.

Gearóid Roughan
Principal

Please sign, detach and return to the class teacher:

I acknowledge receipt of newsletter (29th August, 2019).

Parent(s)/Guardian : _____

