



# *Scoil an Tamhnaigh*

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U*

*Tel: 065-6820143*

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14<sup>th</sup> of December 2023

Dear Parent(s),

I would like to bring the following to your attention in this December newsletter.

## **Christmas Concert**

The children gave a fantastic performance on the night. We hope you enjoyed the 4 excellent plays along with the music and song finale. We were very proud of the children's performance on the night.

The Christmas Concert is a great tradition in Toonagh NS and the children gain lots of confidence from going on stage and performing for you all. We are very fortunate to have such enthusiastic and talented teachers here in the Toonagh and without them this concert would not have been possible. The teachers deserve great credit for the work they put in with the school children in the lead up to our Christmas Concert and it was a wonderful night for our school community.

## **Christmas time in the school**

Christmas is a very special time in school for the pupils. The teachers and SNAs are involving the children in Christmas events and activities such as wreath making, flower arranging, fun Advent calendars, Christmas baking, Christmas Art and Crafts. You will notice the windows of our school very nicely decorated and painted for Christmas and well done to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school from Wednesday onwards next week. As part of our Active Schools programme, we will be taking part in some healthy activities including a Santa dash/race on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> in our all-weather pitch. Thanks to all the staff in the school for making Christmas a special time for the children in Toonagh NS.

## **Enrolment to Junior Infants 2024/25**

If you know of a parent with a child who would like a place in our school in Junior Infants September 2024 or in another class, they can email Noelette to receive an Application Form for Enrolment. Application forms can also be downloaded on our website [toonaghns.com](http://toonaghns.com). Application forms can be posted, emailed or dropped into the school. Anyone that wishes to view our excellent facilities is welcome to call in and we will show them around the school. Closing date is Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Teacher Appointment**

The teacher appointed to replace Claire Cullinan while she is on maternity leave is Noel Kelly. We welcome Noel to the staff and he will be starting on January 8<sup>th</sup> in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

## **Clare FM Recording**

Colum McGrath from Clare FM visited to make a recording for his School Run segment which will feature on the Clare FM Breakfast Show next week Monday to Friday at 8.20 a.m. The children from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> played a selection of traditional Irish music and did excellent singing. Colum was very impressed with our musicians and singers and he also interviewed some pupils throughout the school. We hope you enjoy listening to the recordings next week.

## **Reading in Toonagh NS this Term**

There is great reading going on in the school and most importantly pupils are reading at their correct instructional level. Please make sure that your child practices their reading each night. We have made a lot of investment in books including a school library in our GP room, PM Levelled Readers from levels 1 to 30, Novels for Guided Reading and new books for Accelerated Reader. Improving the children's reading and literacy skills is key to their learning and wellbeing in school.

Children from 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class have been taking part in the Motivational Levelled Reading programme **Accelerated Reader (AR)** this term. The children have really taken to AR and there is great evidence of independent reading going on in the school. So far this year children in Toonagh have read an amazing 878 books and over 13 million words which is fantastic reading!

**Literacy Lift Off** is a levelled reading programme for the younger classes which gives pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. This excellent reading initiative has been going on in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> this term and the children are making great progress with their reading and writing on the programme. The children read 3 books a week at their own level, the books are from the PM Levelled Reading Scheme. Ms. Garrahy and Ms. Griffin are coordinating this and well done to all the children who are engaging greatly with this reading programme.

Ms. Browne's Senior Infants are reading **PM levelled readers** each day. The children are reading at their instructional level and they are progressing very well with their reading through achieving success and understanding.

The children in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> have been taking part in **Guided Reading** this term in school. Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves the Class Teacher and Special Education Teacher working with the students in small groups, they read a class novel at their own level and learn specific comprehension strategies daily. This small group intervention has worked very well in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> and the children really enjoyed the novels that they have read this term. In 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class the pupils read the novel *The war that saved my life* with Ms. Cullinan and Mr. Roughan. In 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class the pupils read the novels *The Wreck of the Zanibar* and *Cool* with Mr. Eustace and Mr. Roughan.

### **Heritage in Schools Scheme:**

Ms. Garrahy's class took part in this initiative for the last 6 weeks with Marina Levitina who works with the Heritage in Schools Programme. This scheme helps children learn about and appreciate their local heritage. Marina was helping the children to reconnect with nature and she shared the magic of wildflowers and trees with the children through the arts and forest school sessions. The children learned about the oak tree, hazelnut tree, whitethorn tree and they took part in nature walks around our local environment in Toonagh.

### **School Sport:**

- **Handball:** Congratulations to Ava McNerney and her team mates on the Clare team who won the Munster Primary School final in Tipperary yesterday. Well done also to her coaches in Toonagh Handball Club.
- **Hurling and Camogie Wall Ball League:** This league will start in January and February for boys and girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> that wish to take part. The league will take place at sos and lunch times in the Indoor Astro Turf facility.

### **Annual Toonagh Charity Walk:**

This takes place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. This walk is in aid of Sláinte an Chláir and there will be more details in the new year.

### **Christmas Concert Raffle Success:**

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating prizes, gifts and hampers for the very successful Christmas Concert Raffle Fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets and were so generous on the night. There was 23 hampers of great prizes given out and monies raised will be used to buy school resources and equipment for the pupils in the new year.

### **Parents Association News:**

- **Santa Visit:** Our Parents Association have organised Santa and his elves to visit the children in our school on Wednesday next week and Santa will have a Christmas present for all the children in the school!
- **Calendars, school photos and Christmas cards:** The Parents Association have put together a very nice school calendar for 2024. Christmas cards, school photos and calendars were distributed this week.
- **Christmas Concert:** Thanks so much to the Parents Association and all the parents in their working group who helped out with all the work for our concert. Much time and effort went into the hall decorations, the very successful raffle, the snacks for the pupils during the concert and organising parking.

I would very much like to thank our Parents Association and all the parents who help them for the great work they have done this term.

### **Important Dates coming up:**

- **Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>:** Santa visit to the children in Toonagh NS.
- **Wednesday – Friday (Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>):** Children can wear Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school from Wednesday onwards next week.
- **Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>:** School closes for the Christmas holidays @12.30.
- **Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>:** School reopens after the Christmas holidays.
- **Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>:** Half day closure for staff planning meeting.

*Wishing you all a happy Christmas and peaceful new year. Thanks for all your support during 2023.*

*Gearóid Roughan*

Príomhoide



# Ruan Christmas Fair 2023

Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm (after mass)

*Christmas Ornaments*      *Christmas Wreaths*

*Cake Sale, Bric a Brac,*

*Hay & Silage, Timber & Turf*

*Flower Arrangements*      *Shrubs and Plants*

*Auction*      *Raffle for Hampers*

*Art & Craft Stands*

Proceeds will be used for tidy village project and upkeep of the graveyards.

