



# Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

September 2025

Dear Parent(s),

Everyone has settled back well in Toonagh NS and well done to all the children. A special welcome to our new Junior Infants who have settled in so well in the school and to our new pupils who started in 2<sup>nd</sup> class and 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

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

### **Free School Book Scheme:**

On return to school, all your child's school books (covered) and copybooks were distributed. Thanks to Seán Eustace for organising the whole process of this for our school and thanks to Mary and Maelisa for assisting Seán.

### **School Fees Payment 2025-26:**

An epayment request for the school fees 2025-26 issued on Monday. The cost will be €50 per pupil and maximum of €120 per family. This payment will include a fee for pupil insurance (24-hour, 365-day cover), and a contribution to help with the expense of the following: Art and Craft materials for the children, photocopying and printing, Aladdin message a parent system, Accelerated Reader Licences, Digital licences and Literacy Lift Off programme.

Pupils will be asked this year to make a contribution of between a minimum of €5 to a maximum of €10 for a bus trip or field trip to help with the cost of the bus which is priced by the number of pupils travelling and distance. The cost of buses last year was extremely expensive on the school, we expect a similar cost this school year and a contribution towards each bus trip will help alleviate the cost. If your child is going on a bus journey to a match or a field trip and you wish them to attend, you will receive an epayment request for the bus trip. The Parents Association will also help with bus costs for our school tours and other trips.

I also realise that back to school payments can be difficult for some families, in this case please contact me and I will give financial help in the strictest confidence. Also please note you can spread out the payments on the Aladdin epayments system. Should you have any questions about ePayments, please contact Noelette.

### **Morning Drop Off and Evening Collection Arrangements:**

1. **Morning Drop Off:** The school doors will be open from 9.05 each morning, strictly no children on the school grounds before the doors open as there will be no supervision. The doors will be opened at approx. 9.05am and supervision will start at this time.
2. **Evening Collection:** Only children going on the school buses should enter or exit the school through the main school gate, it is not safe for children to walk out this gate onto the road. All other entry or exit from the school should be via the pedestrian gate.

If any children are leaving the school via the back gate and steps near Toonagh Hall or at the main school gate, **parents/adults must collect them from the top of the steps and be visible** to the class teacher or teacher on evening supervision as we will not allow any child leave through these gates unsupervised due to cars passing and turning here and due walking directly onto the road. The safest exit point for children is our pedestrian gate. Please share this information with any adults who may be collecting your child.

Thanks for your cooperation and the continued safety of all our children is of utmost importance.

### **Contacting the school:**

Please note our secretary Noelette works on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and you can contact the school on these days by phone. Outside of these days we check the school voicemail at the end of the school day. Outside of these days and times the phone will rarely be answered as all staff are in class. School phone contact details are 065-6820143. You can email each teacher at their email address below.

Alternatively, can email the school [toonaghschool@gmail.com](mailto:toonaghschool@gmail.com) and direct the message for a teacher or Noelette's attention.

Ms. Browne: [msbrownetns@gmail.com](mailto:msbrownetns@gmail.com)

Ms. Garrahy: [fordeaoife@hotmail.com](mailto:fordeaoife@hotmail.com)

Mr. Eustace: [seanieeustace@gmail.com](mailto:seanieeustace@gmail.com)

Ms. O'Halloran: [joanneohalloran882@gmail.com](mailto:joanneohalloran882@gmail.com)

Ms. Griffin: [msgriffintns@gmail.com](mailto:msgriffintns@gmail.com)

Mr. Roughan: [toonaghschool@gmail.com](mailto:toonaghschool@gmail.com)

If any parent wishes to meet with their child's teacher or principal, please arrange a prior appointment through the office or through the email address provided above.

Please contact the school if you have changed your mobile number or email address and if you are not receiving texts/emails.

### **Hot Meals update:**

There is a delay with this scheme at the moment due to a new tendering process which was introduced for all schools by the Department of Social Protection in late August. A new and updated tender was submitted by the school last week to source a supplier for our hot school meals. The Department has informed schools that this new process of tendering for hot school meals will take up to 10 weeks to complete. We will have an update of our progress in the October school newsletter and we hope to start the hot school meals in Toonagh NS as soon as we can.

For now, children are asked to bring a healthy lunch to school each day with a small treat allowed on Fridays. Our school continues to promote healthy eating with a Healthy Lunch Policy in the school. Sweets, chocolate bars, crisps and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Many thanks for your continued co-operation.

### **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. Please supply the class teacher with a written note or email explaining the reason for each absence for the school's records. 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. When your child has to go to an appointment please notify your class teacher by email/note. Thank you.

### **Mobile Phones for pupils:**

Toonagh NS has a strictly no mobile phones permitted at school policy. It is a matter for all parents to decide on allowing your child access to mobile phones and social media apps outside of school. Pupils are reminded that Class group chats and online social media groups are discouraged. Schools working together with parents must cooperate to ensure the safety of all pupils. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

### **Label belongings:**

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled; Jumpers, Tracksuits, Coats etc can get mixed up at times.

### **Staff Planning and Training Closures:**

The school will close on **Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup>** @12.30 pm for a half day for a Staff meeting to facilitate staff planning. Buses will operate as normal at this time.

### **Christmas Concert:**

Our Christmas Concert will take place on Thursday night December 11<sup>th</sup> and we'll have more details in upcoming newsletters.

### **Board of Management Summer Works and Maintenance:**

The Board of Management has been busy preparing the school premises and grounds for the new school year. I would like to extend thanks especially to Seán Eustace for ensuring that the school was in pristine condition for the return of the pupils; organising landscaping work as well as a deep clean of the interior of our school building. Agreed Reports from each Board of Management meeting will be available to view on our school website.

### Teacher Courses:

Under rule 58 of the Rules for Primary Schools, teachers are entitled to 3 Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days on foot of taking part in approved summer courses. Over the summer, the teachers in the school have taken the time to complete these invaluable courses in a variety of valuable areas. The Department of Education will not cover the cost of a substitute for the three days per teacher. The Board of Management will cover the cost of a substitute for one of the three days per teacher and the class will need to be split up into other classrooms for the other teacher course day absences.

### School Instagram Page and Website:

I would encourage parents to follow us on Instagram (toonagh\_school). Teachers will upload photos of activities taking place in their classroom and around the school. Our Instagram page will celebrate pupil/school achievements and allow parents and the wider school community to keep up to date with news from the school. Also from time to time we upload photos of years gone by in Toonagh NS which will be of interest to past pupils and friends of the school. Our school website is updated regularly and you can also find our school policies here.

### School Sport:

- **Hurling:** Anne McMahon is coaching hurling, camogie and fundamental movement skills for all classes on Fridays. The children from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> are asked to bring in their own hurley and helmet every Friday. Children from in Junior and Senior Infants don't need to bring in any equipment for now, we provide all children Juniors and Seniors with a hurley for this coaching session. Thanks to Ruan GAA Club for funding this excellent Physical Education initiative.
- **Cross Country:** The Cross Country Running Competition for children in 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class will take place in Lees Road on Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 11am. All children in these classes are encouraged to take part if possible. An epayment request for the bus fee will issue soon.
- **Gaelic Football:** Training for girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class is on Mondays from 3pm-3.45pm and for boys from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class on Thursdays from 3-3.45pm. Everyone is welcome. Mouth guard must be worn for training and matches.
- **Primary School GAA Equipment Sale:** The annual sale of GAA Equipment organised by Cumann na mBunscol an Chláir is taking place later this month. If you wish to order any GAA equipment for your child, you can fill in the order form which will be sent home later this week. Noelette and the class teachers will also have spare order forms.

### Clothes Collection Fundraiser:

This important school fundraiser takes place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. On this Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> you can drop off bags at **Toonagh Hall** from 9-9.30am, 2-3.30pm and 6-7pm. If you wish to drop off some bags before this date, we can store some here at the school. Please spread the word if you know anyone doing a clear out. The clothes collections were very well supported last year and are an important fundraiser for our school. Thanks for your support with this important fundraiser. All details on poster attached.

### Parents Association News:

- **Cahercalla Coffee Morning October 1<sup>st</sup>:** This takes place on Wednesday 1st of October, 9.30 - 12.00 in Toonagh Hall. Donations of home baking are welcome on the morning of the Coffee Morning and parents can drop off any baking donations to the hall from 9am. Parents are welcome to attend. The pupils are invited to attend and a contribution of €2.00 per child has been suggested. All details on poster attached.

### Important Dates coming up:

- **Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Clothes Collection Fundraiser.
- **Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>:** Cross Country running Lees Road starting @11.00.
- **Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Cahercalla Hospice Coffee Morning 9.30am – 12.00pm.
- **Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup>:** School closes for half day @12.30pm for staff meeting and planning.
- **Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> @7.00pm:** Information Evening our new Junior Infant Parents and Prospective Parents. More information to follow.
- **November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>:** Parent Teacher Meetings.
- **Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> @7pm:** Christmas Concert. More details to follow.

Best wishes to everyone for the school year ahead and thanks for your support.

*Gearóid Roughan*

Principal



# CLOTHING DRIVE



Toonagh N.S.



## Toonagh N.S.

are raising money through  
a Clothing reuse scheme.

**We need your unwanted...**

**Clothing, shoes, handbags, belts, curtains & bed linen.**

**Not accepted = Pillows, duvets, carpets, rugs, uniforms**

Please drop off to Toonagh Hall.

Tuesday 23rd September at drop off times

9 - 9.30am, 2 - 3.30pm & 6 - 7pm.

Donations only accepted on this date.

Donations not accepted after this date.

Thanks for your support!





*Bewley's* **BIG**  
**COFFEE**  
MORNING  
**SOCIAL**  
**FOR HOSPICE**

*Toonagh Hall*

*Wed, 1st Oct*

*9.30am - 12pm*

*for our Local*

**Home baking & donations  
greatly appreciated  
on the morning  
for our annual event.**