

Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

17th of May 2025

Dear Parent(s),

There are a number of items I would like to bring to your attention in this May Newsletter.

School Calendar 2025/26

Please see our school calendar for 2025/26 attached to this newsletter. School will reopen on Wednesday August 27th after the summer holidays.

Free School Book Scheme school year 2025/26

All school books and copybooks your child needs, will be provided free of charge for every pupil when they return to School on August 27th. We are currently organising our book lists. There is a lot of work involved in this and we will have a further update in our June newsletter.

Hot School Meals Scheme

Toonagh NS has been approved to start this scheme when we return to school in August. The Board of Management are currently undergoing a tendering process with potential school meal providers at present. Once a school meal provider has been selected and approved by our Board of Management, details of how the school meals programme will operate will be communicated. A detailed update will be included in the coming weeks.

School Tours

The teachers and Noelette have organised very nice school tours for each class.

Juniors and Seniors: Bunratty Folk Park, Wednesday June 18th.

1st and 2nd: Ailwee Caves, Wednesday June 4th.

3rd and 4th: UL Adventure Centre Killaloe, Friday June 20th.

5th and 6th: UL Adventure Centre Killaloe, Friday June 20th.

Thanks very much to the Parents Association who are making a donation towards the cost of the buses to the tours and this has helped to reduce the cost of the school tours. The cost of buses has become very expensive and with the help of the Parents Association the cost of the tours has been reduced for each child. I realise that the cost of school tours may be difficult for some families, in this case please contact me and I will give financial help in the strictest confidence. You will receive an epayment request next week for the school tour and more details about each tour will issue in due course from the class teacher.

Standardised Testing

Standardised Testing is taking place over the coming weeks in English and Maths. Your child's results in these tests will be communicated through end of year report cards which will be posted to you.

Standardised tests are only one method used by the Department of Education and teachers to assess your child. The class teacher uses a broad range of assessment tools to evaluate learning and celebrate the achievements of your children. When evaluating and monitoring progress and attainment we do not focus solely on a test score.

Summer Uniform

Summer Uniform: Children can wear plain navy shorts/or Clare coloured shorts with their uniform and hopefully the nice weather continues. During the hot weather please apply sunscreen before the children come to school. They may also bring their own sunscreen to school and are encouraged to bring a sun hat and have their own water.

Also the Board of Management will have a standard Toonagh NS school shorts in place soon and you will be able to order this for your child before we return to school in August. There will be more details about this in the coming weeks.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Congratulations to our boys and girls who made their Holy Communion on Saturday. The children were excellent throughout and they participated in readings, singing and bringing up gifts. Our school choir and musicians really added to the ceremony. Thanks to Ms. Barry, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Cullinan and Ms. Garrahy for their work in preparing our choir and musicians. After the ceremony the 3rd Class Parents and Parents Association of the school provided a beautiful spread of home baking and refreshments in Toonagh Hall.

Thanks so much to the staff in the school who helped in any way with the ceremony. Well done Ms. Garrahy for all their hard work and dedication with the preparations.

School Garden

This term the children are planting and enjoying the school garden. The school garden gives the children practical gardening skills and helps promote life-long healthy eating habits. Thanks to Maelisa, our caretaker John and Mr. Eustace for their work in developing a school garden which the children enjoy using.

Active Schools Week and Sports Day

This will take place the week of Monday June 9th – Friday June 13th. During this week the children will take part in sporting and healthy activities throughout the week. There will be visiting coaches and the children always enjoy our Active School's week. Children will wear their school tracksuit during this week.

Sports Day will take place on Friday 13th of June. Parents are invited to attend at 1.00pm. School will finish at 2.00pm on this day for all children. Our Parents Association will provide fruit to the children on the day and thanks to our Parents Association for providing this. There will be a further update closer to the date.

School Inspection Report on the teaching of English

This published report is very positive where the quality of teaching was rated very good and well done to all the teachers. The Inspector highly commended the reading interventions we have in place in all classes from Infants to 6th, these are station teaching of Reading in infants, Literacy Lift Off, Guided Reading, and Accelerated Reader and he commented very positively on the excellent culture of reading in our school. This report is now available to view online on the Department of Education website.

Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy and Parental Input

At our recent staff planning meeting we were working on our Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying policy. All schools are required to have an updated Anti-Bullying policy called Bí Cineálta. Our draft policy will be ready in the coming weeks, we will send this draft policy for you to view and we welcome any input before the final draft. This policy replaces the current Anti-Bullying policy.

Summer Stars Reading Programme

Schools have been asked to let parents know about Clare County Library's Children Summer Stars Reading Programme. This programme is a great initiative aiming to promote reading amongst children over the summer holidays. Registrations open on Monday 2 June. Children are invited to register at their nearest library. Please see the attached letter from Clare County Library for more details.

School Sport

- **Hurling and Camogie:** Our hurling and camogie teams are competing in the Cumann na mBunscol competitions at present. Our boys' team are competing in division 2 and the girls are competing in division 1. We wish them well in their competitions. Training continues each week after school on Monday for camogie and Thursday for boys' hurling. Thanks to Ms. Cullinan, Ms. Garrahy and Mr. Eustace for training our teams.
- Congratulations to Emma Brohan who was chosen to play for the Clare Primary School Camogie Team at half time in the Munster Championship match in Cusack Park.

Parents Association News

- **Holy Communion and Confirmation Gatherings:** Thanks very much to all parents who donated something and helped out. Also thanks to the 3rd class parents, 5th class parents and Parents Association members for organising the sacrament refreshments.
- **Clothes Collection:** The Parents Association have sourced a company for an old clothes collection fundraiser. Due to the company's schedule this collection will take place on September 24th and if you have old clothes ready to donate, we would appreciate if you could hold onto them until our collection in September. There will be more details closer to this date.

Important Dates coming up

- **Tuesday May 20th – Thursday May 22rd:** Standardised Testing English.
- **Tuesday May 27th – Thursday 29th:** Standardised Testing Maths.
- **Monday June 9th – Friday June 13th:** Active Schools Week
- **Friday June 13th:** Sports day. Parents can attend from 1.00pm.
- **Monday June 23rd:** 6th Class Graduation at 3.15 pm in our GP Hall.

Best wishes for the rest of the month of May and enjoy the fine weather.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide

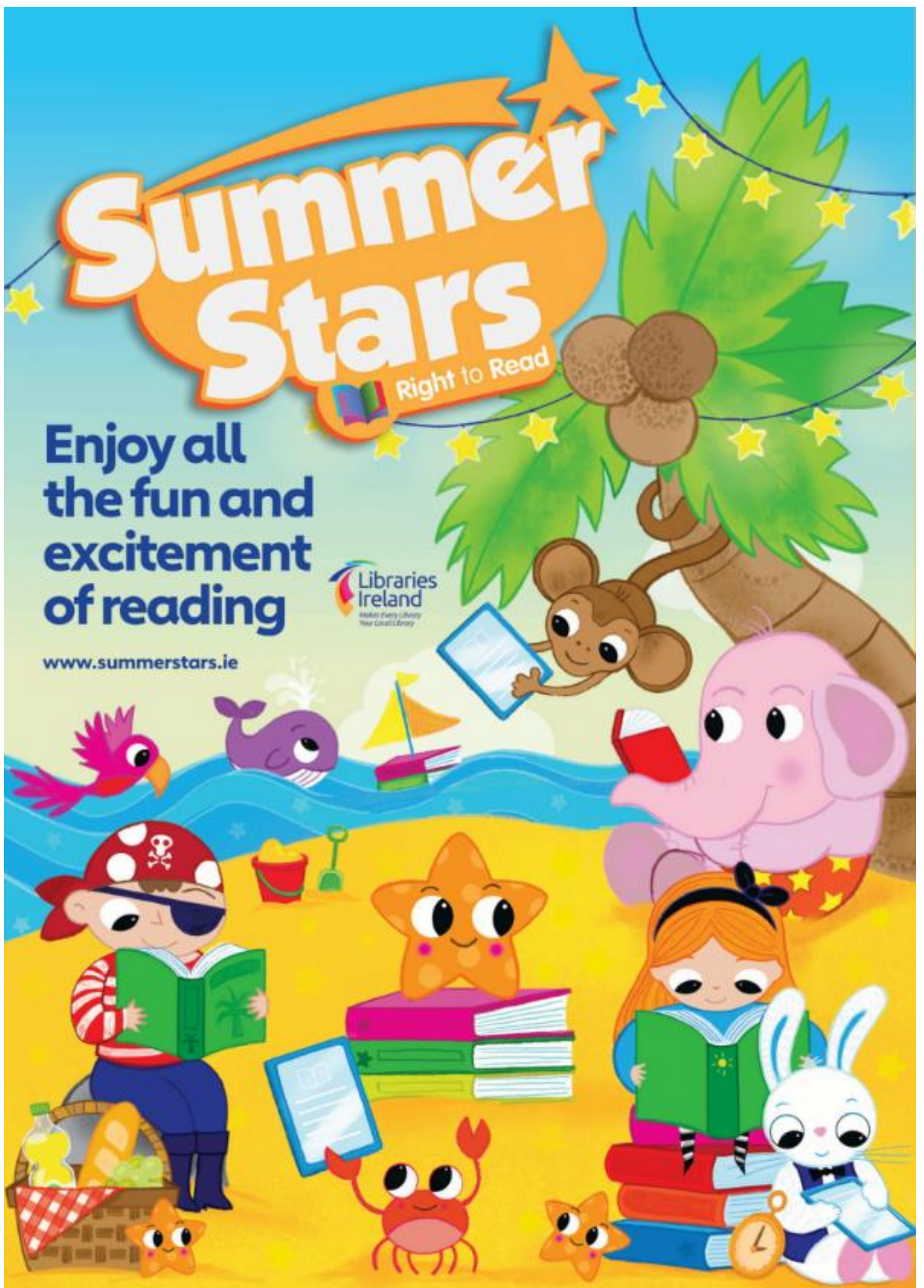
Summer Stars

Right to Read

Enjoy all
the fun and
excitement
of reading

www.summerstars.ie

Libraries
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Your Local Library





**Starts
1 June**

Clare Libraries

Summer Reading Programme

Summer Stars runs from 1st June to the end of August. Children are invited to keep reading all Summer long by signing up to the programme at the library. Every child that joins will get a free activity book and other rewards for taking part.

Libraries will also have free workshops, clubs and story times to keep children active during the holidays.

Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/e-book is regarded as having completed the programme

- ✓ Summer Stars will help your child maintain good reading levels while not at school.
- ✓ It's free to join the library and there are no penalties for late books or lost children's books!
- ✓ You can borrow lots of amazing books and get reading recommendations from the library.

Sign up at the library from 1 June



Find out what's happening at your library
by visiting www.clarelibraries.ie/events



Toonagh N.S. School Calendar 2025-2026.

July 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
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March 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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29	30	31				

April 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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May 2026						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

School starts: Wednesday 27 th August 2025.	School Closed March 16 th and 17 th 2026. St. Patrick's Day.
Mid Term Break 27 th October - 31 st October 2025.	Easter Holidays. 30 th March - 13 th April 2026.
Christmas Break: School Closes on the 19 th Dec. '25. Re-opens 5 th Jan '26.	School Closed May 1 st to 5 th 2026. School re-opens Wednesday 6 th of May.
School Closed February 2 nd 2026. February Bank Holiday.	School Closed June 1 st 2026. June Bank Holiday.
February Mid-term. 19 th and 20 th February 2026.	School Finishes on 24 th June 2026.

