



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountáin, Ennís,
Co. Clare*

*Roll No. 03898U
Tel: 065-6820143*

26th of June, 2020

Dear Parent(s),

I hope you are all safe and well. Please see our end of year newsletter:

School reopening details

There still hasn't been any clarity or update from the Department of Education about how schools will reopen. As things stand right now, one would have to be optimistic about our chances of returning to a regular school day come August 27th but one never knows what is in store. When we have more details we will notify you.

Hand sanitiser

We have sourced a sanitiser for the school with a certification that it kills Covid-19. The sanitiser we have sourced is non-flammable and it won't cause skin irritation for children or adults. Therefore, it is user friendly for children. It has been extensively tested and it is certified to kill Covid-19. This sanitiser is effective for 6 hours on your hands. The sanitiser we have purchased is used widely by organisations such as Clare Co. Council, Dublin Bus, Tallaght Hospital and the NHS.

There will be sanitiser dispensers in every classroom, entry and exit doors, staffroom and other necessary areas in the school. Children will be shown how to use the dispensers and given guidelines when to use them.

The Board of Management will await further guidance from the Department on other items we need to source.

Sixth Class

We said goodbye to 6th Class today, everyone in Toonagh NS would like to wish them all the best as they shape their futures lives. They were an excellent and very well behaved class who have achieved numerous academic and social achievements during their time in our school. These students have contributed a lot to Toonagh NS over the years and the staff here have enjoyed watching them grow into mature, confident and very capable young people. All the staff in Toonagh will continue to keep an eye out and an interest in this brilliant group of young people.

All the best to **Bláithín Barry, Ronan Barry, Sara Browne, Daniel Clancy, Grace Corcoran, James Cullinan, Aoife Cummins, Clarissa Gilmore, Leah Griffin, Daniel Guinnane, Sean Healy, Ethan Lucas, Billy Marrinan, Tara Moroney, Cathal Noonan, Ellen O'Leary, Lennon Rushton and Jamie Ryan.**

They did very well with Ms. Cullinan this year and while their year didn't finish in normal circumstances, we are confident that their transition into secondary education will be a positive experience for the children and their families.

Book Rental Scheme

Our Book Rental Scheme (3rd – 6th class) will help alleviate some of the financial pressure of returning to school in August and also lessen any difficulties involved with getting books. For next year, classes from 3rd – 6th in the school have books on the Book Rental list. Younger classes are not included yet as there are more workbooks required which are written in to. We are hoping to expand on our Book Rental Scheme each year and include more books on the list for the following year.

The details of the Book Rental Scheme were issued by Mr. Eustace to parents two weeks ago.

If parents have any school books or novels that they are finished with, they can be donated to the school. This allows us build up a bank of books to be included on the Book Rental Scheme.

An Aladdin ePayments system for the collection of payments for Book Rental will be set up.

Summer Reading and Accelerated Reader Programme

Schools have been asked to let parents know about Clare County Library's Children Summer Reading Programme. This programme is a great initiative aiming to promote reading amongst children over the summer holidays. Please see the attached letter from Clare County Library for more details.

Children can continue to use the Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme during the summer and take quizzes. This was the first year of AR in Toonagh and the children did fantastic reading all throughout the year, an amazing 47 million words and 2204 books were read in Toonagh NS by children using AR.

Confirmation and Holy Communion 2020

The Parish have confirmed that the dates for the postponed sacraments are:

Confirmation: Saturday 8th of August at 2pm in Ruan Church

Communion: Saturday 12th of September at 11am in Ruan Church.

Parents Association

I would like to thank the Parents' Association of Mary Gilmore, Mairéad McInerney and Noreen Cummins for the outstanding contribution they have made throughout this year. We had some very well supported fundraisers which have helped to pay for new school resources and equipment. Thanks also to the parents who assisted the Parents Association with the organisation of their events and those who assisted on a committee. I would also like all the parents, for your wholehearted support of all fundraising initiatives that have taken place throughout the year. All funds raised go towards the purchasing of essential resources, and to sponsoring a variety of activities for the pupils of the school.

In relation to the postponed clothes collection which was due to take place this month, Noreen Cummins will accept any bags of clothes from you if wish to do a clear out now and she has a place to store them. The Parents' Association will hopefully have a clothes collection fundraiser in October.

Board of Management

Our new Board of Management have had a very different start to their term. I would like to thank them for their help over the last number of months. We are very fortunate to have a Board of Management with lots of expertise and who are very generous in volunteering their time for the betterment of our school.

School Calendar

The school plans to reopen on Thursday August 27th.

School calendar attached for 2020/21 is attached to this newsletter.

Thank you

I wish to thank our teachers and SNAs who have been extremely busy over the last four months preparing school work, planning and up-skilling in online teaching and communication platforms. These were very difficult and stressful times for everybody and the school staff were equally challenged with their own personal and family circumstances. They did their very best and did a great job to work remotely and organise online learning, they rose to the challenges and adapted their teaching to continue to support the pupils. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and committed staff in the school.

I wish to thank all the parents, staff and the school community for your support during my first year as principal in Toonagh.

We all worked in partnership over these past 4 months, the staff, parents and children to try and ensure a continuity of schooling as best we could. Well done for the incredible effort that you made at home each week in helping your child to engage in their school work. I know that it was not easy and I appreciate the many challenges that you have had to face each day. The last 4 months have clearly shown again that we have a great school community here in Toonagh.

I would like wish all of you and your families continued good health. We hope that you have a safe summer, we pray that we will all get back together to school on Thursday 27th August.

Yours sincerely,

Gearóid Roughan

Principal



Clare County Library launches Summer Stars 2020

Enjoy choosing books that you might like and read as many as you wish during school summer holidays at your own pace. Summer Stars is all about **Reading for Pleasure**.

That's the message from Clare County Library as it announces that the annual Summer Reading Programme, Summer Stars, gets under way for children on June 15th, with additional online activities for all who sign up.

With the school holidays approaching, the summer months provide an ideal opportunity for children to take time to find books they really enjoy and experience reading as an activity which is fun and a source of entertainment.

Access to books and reading for pleasure is well known to have many important long-term benefits. In fact, children who develop an interest in reading have been found to have greater self-esteem and well-being, greater creativity, better social and health outcomes, and an overall better quality of life as they get older.

With younger children, just talking about the story, the pictures in a book and the characters, and making connections from these to the child's own life can particularly improve their emotional development, confidence and understanding of the world. The advantages that children get from regular exposure to reading material in their early years have been found to last throughout their lives.

Summer Stars at your local library provides the whole family with an opportunity to include regular reading and associated activities in your summer holiday entertainment.

As a Contact and Collect Service through many of our public library branches is now in operation, Summer Stars will be managed in the same way. Children can ask a parent/guardian to phone or email the local library to order their summer reads and a collection of 6 books for each child registered will be ready at a designated time at the library door. Children will receive a Summer Stars log card to track their reading.

Library staff will need to know the age of participants so that they can choose the most suitable books. Irish books and children's non-fiction books can also be included.

This year library staff are delighted to offer readers the option to include e-books and e-audio books downloadable for free from the library website to add to the Summer Stars reading experience.

Simply choose Borrowbox from the library's list of E Resources on the library website homepage and log in with your library ID/barcode and password/PIN. With the help of your parent/guardian children can download the app. From the 15th of June, there will be a Summer Stars section on Borrowbox which will have a range of children's e-books and e-audio books with individual collections for children aged 0-4, 5-8, 9-12 and 13+.

Remember to keep a lookout for the latest posts on Clare Library's social media channels as there will be fun learning activities in the coming weeks for you to join as part of Summer Stars 2020. There will be words of encouragement from some of your favourite authors, readings by Clare library staff and a Story Competition – *An Unexpected Adventure*, that will be open to children all over Ireland. Entry details are not available yet but feel free to begin imagining your story right now! There will be great prizes for all the winners and runners up.

So in summary remember to

- Borrow your books from branches of Clare County Library and electronically from the Borrowbox App after June 15th.
- Enjoy reading every single book
- Log onto our website www.clarelibrary.ie for Summer Stars updates
- Full details of the Summer Stars programme are also available at www.summerstars.ie
- Remember to visit our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media channels for regular Summer Stars postings throughout the summer.
- List the books you have read on your Summer Stars reading log and remember to return it to your library to receive your Summer Stars Certificate in September.

The Summer Stars Reading Adventure is an element of the Right to Read initiative, which is co-ordinated at national level by the Right to Read Steering Group, chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Right to Read is an annual programme to support literacy and reading development across local authorities and is led locally by the public library service. Key elements of the Right to Read service currently include a network of local partners supporting and co-operating in literacy and reading development activities and a series of annual reading activities including Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family Time at Your Library.

Toonagh N.S. Calendar 2020/2021

School Opens:	Thursday, August 27 th
October Mid-Term:	October 26 th - October 30 th (inclusive)
Christmas:	Close on Tuesday December 22 nd @ 12:30p.m., re-open on Wednesday, January 6 th
February Mid-Term:	February 15 th - 19 th (inclusive)
St Patrick's Day:	Wednesday, March 17 th
Easter Holidays:	Close Friday March 26 th @ 12:30p.m., re-open Monday, April 12 th .
Confirmation 2021:	TBC
Holy Communion 2021:	TBC
May Bank Holiday Closure:	Monday, May 3 rd .
June Bank Holiday Closure:	Friday June 4 th closed. Reopen Tuesday June 8 th .
School Closes:	Friday, June 25 th @ 12:30p.m.

This is the calendar for the 2020/2021 school year with the main dates that been decided so far. The school will need to close for a half day 3 times during the year for a staff meeting (one each term), when we have these dates we will notify you.