

Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

2nd of April 2020

Dear Parent(s),

1. Covid-19 closure and updates:

As a school community we find ourselves in very uncharted waters at a time in which the entire world is trying to adjust to a new reality. Your constitutional role as the primary educator of your child has taken on a new dimension as a result of the circumstances we now find ourselves in.

We will work together, in partnership, to support our pupils learning bearing in mind the constraints placed upon us all.

I expect that school will be closed after April 19th. I would like to reassure you that the staff of Toonagh NS will continue to support pupils while school is closed. Work assigned by teachers must not be seen as an additional source of stress in any household. Individual pupils and families may complete assigned work to whatever extent that family circumstances dictate. If your child is experiencing difficulty please reassure them not to worry. Do what you can do, and, whatever you do, do not let it be a source of stress or conflict in your household.

Your child's teacher is in contact with you and has sent on school work along with some useful resources/websites to date. I've also included below some ideas and online websites/links in this newsletter which might be of use especially over Easter and you may have seen some of these already. We are aware of the varying levels of internet and device access that pupils have in their homes. Access and use what you can, when you can, choose one or two that the children like and go with those. Online learning represents a small percentage of the opportunities that exist for our pupils. Seize whatever opportunities you can manage to talk, play, cook, laugh, and engage with your kids over the coming weeks.

Again I would like to thank most sincerely our teachers who have been very well prepared, including the day of the closure on the 12th of March and are adapting their efforts as best they can and in a professional manner to support the pupils from a distance.

Finally, our parents and pupils, we are grateful to have such a nice, cooperative and supportive school community and parent body. We'll continue to support each other as best we can. I am certain that the children are missing each other's company and will continue to miss the fun and routine of school life here in Toonagh but we pray every day that we will be back stronger after this.

Our priority concern is that all members of our school community remain safe and healthy during these difficult times. We really look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school at whatever point current circumstances allow.

‘Ní neart go cur le chéile’

Gearóid Roughan

2. After the Easter holidays if school remains closed:

- Each Friday in advance of a school week that the school is closed to pupils your child's teacher will email on school work for the following week.
- If you feel your child is having significant difficulty with a piece of work, particularly in literacy or numeracy or if you have a query, you can bring this to our attention via the email addresses that were provided.
- I have included a **Daily Routine For Pupils** at the end of this newsletter as a suggestion as to how pupils may use their time productively. The schedule can be adapted to suit family circumstances but it is highly recommended that some form of daily routine is established.
- See our Twitter page [@toonaghns](https://twitter.com/toonaghns) for some nice ideas and resources for the children. You can also access our Twitter page on the news section of our website <http://toonaghns.com/news.htm>

3. Online Resources:

➤ **Reading**



Pupils can access their Accelerated Reader (AR) account with their username and password. The site can be accessed through the link below <https://ukhosted11.renlearn.co.uk/2935049/>



myOn is a digital library with over 7000 books. The great news for pupils is almost **1000** of these are Accelerated Reader. You can see which ones are on AR by searching <http://arbookfind.co.uk> under the 'Collections' tab. The books on myOn are audio books but if you mute or pause the audio children can also read the books. A brilliant free resource to keep the children reading.

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>



This is a special feature on Accelerated Reader which allows you to see your child's progress. You can see their bookshelf of all the books they have read and their word count. It gives you the opportunity to praise and encourage your child when you see their progress. Log in using your child's username and password for AR and click on the link below.

<https://ukhosted11.renlearn.co.uk/2935049/homeconnect/>



Oxford Owl has an e-book library with over 250 books in it and offers free access to teachers and parents once you create an account at www.oxfordowl.co.uk They also have some vocabulary and comprehension activities for most of the books.



World Book is a resource offered by the PDST. It's like a virtual encyclopedia except a lot more interactive.

<https://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/products?ed=all&gr=Welcome%21>



If you or your child/children are a member of the local library, you can access an App or website called BorrowBox. It is free.

<https://www.borrowbox.com/>

Notes: To register, you need your library card which has your membership number on the back.

➤ Maths



IXL Ireland – Maths games for Junior Infants to 6th Class.

<https://ie.ixl.com/math/>



Brilliant resource of Maths Games for all classes. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

‘Hit the Button’ for learning Tables is very worthwhile <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>



Mangahigh is a game-based learning platform for primary and secondary school mathematics. You can sign up for a homeschool account here: <https://www.mangahigh.com/en-us/for-home>

➤ Gaeilge

Scéal an lae (Story of the day) Short stories i nGaeilge read aloud online.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Sc%C3%A9al+an+lae

Anam an Amhrán – Youtube Various songs I nGaeilge

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Anam+an+Amhr%C3%A1n

TGLurgan Songs i nGaeilge

<https://www.youtube.com/user/tglurgan>

➤ PE, Sport, Art/Craft & Wellbeing



PE with Joe

Nearly one million people are now joining Joe Wicks, The Body Coach, live at 9 am on YouTube every morning for daily live workouts for kids.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>



PE with TJ

Famed Kilkenny hurling hurler is giving a PE lesson every Tuesday and Thursday on Facebook live.



Yoga/play – there are many resources online to help children do yoga and mindfulness, such as [GoNoodle](#) and [CosmicKidsYoga](#).



Draw with Don. Art and Drawing with Don Conroy each day.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo4dO9D4okn25M6mvfB02rQ>

➤ General Resources



Our school twitter page [@toonaghns](https://twitter.com/toonaghns) has and will have some very good ideas and links for pupils and parents.



Scoilnet is the Department of Education and Skills (DES) official poertal for Irish education. The website is managed by the PDST on behalf of the DES. It provides an abundance of resources, ideas and activities in all curricular areas.

<https://www.scoilnet.ie/>



Twinkl are offering all parents and teachers a One Month FREE Ultimate Membership to Twinkl.ie. This will allow parents and teachers unlimited access to every single resource for every single curriculum subject from junior infants to sixth class.

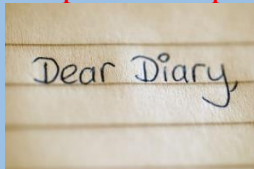
www.twinkl.ie/offer

Notes: Setting this up is really easy to do - go to www.twinkl.ie/offer and enter the code IRLTWINKLHELPS.

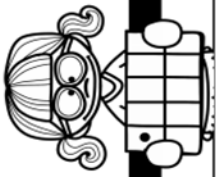


Toonagh NS suggested daily routine for pupils during school closure

Do as many activities as possible with your brothers and sisters. Work together and be kind to each other! Tidy up after activities and meal times and help your family.

Time of day	Activity
8.30am to 10.45am 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wash, dress and have a healthy breakfast. Tidy up after yourself and make sure to wash your teeth and make your bed. 2. Go outside and do 20 minutes of any activity you like. 3. Complete work given by your teacher.
Mid-Morning Break 10.45am to 11.00am	Have a healthy snack. Be sure to tidy up after yourself.
11.00am to 12 noon 	School On TV Turn on RTE 2 and watch the programme RTE Home School Hub . This TV programme is supported by the Department of Education.
12.00noon to 12.45pm 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go outside and observe the changes around you in nature. Make a record of these by drawing or taking a picture. Tidy the garden. See Home Learning Activities attached here for other ideas. 2. Listen to your favourite song and sing/dance make a list of favourite songs with family members and take a turn every day playing one.
Lunch Break 12.45pm to 1.15pm	Don't forget to look at the Food Pyramid and help make a healthy lunch. Make sure to tidy up after yourself.
1.15pm to 2.00pm 	Daily Diary or continue school work/project work Write a daily diary. Draw or take a picture to go with what you write. Include illustrations, photos of the local environment etc..
2.00pm to 3.00pm 	Shared and Independent Reading Don't forget to take an Accelerated Reader (AR) Quiz if you can https://ukhosted11.renlearn.co.uk/2935049/ You can log on https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/ find a book, check if it is on AR https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx Also you can log onto https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html a digital library with 7000 books and do some extra reading.

The following pages contain home learning activities that will provide endless opportunities for pupils to fill their day. If you get to the end, START AGAIN!



HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES

COLOUR EACH BLOCK WHEN YOU COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY

Offer to help cooking the dinner / setting the table / cleaning up	Go on a short walk and point out 5 signs of nature	Read a short story book to a younger sibling / family member	Make a card for a neighbour or relative
Listen to your favourite song. Do jumping jacks the whole time the chorus plays	Think about 3 things goals you have for this month. Write them down and keep them somewhere safe.	Call / text / write a short note to someone and thank them for something they did to help you this year	Look at the TV guide. Choose a movie or program to watch and write a short review afterwards.
Play outside for 30 minutes!	Play a song and do 10 burpees + 10 sit ups taking 30 second breaks between each round	Think about your favourite memory. Write a short paragraph and draw a picture to accompany it	Design and draw your own adventure centre. Write descriptions and label each room



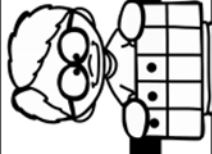
HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES

COLOUR EACH BLOCK WHEN YOU COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY

Draw your favourite animal. Write a short fact file!	Go for a walk. Wave to everyone you pass!	Read a short story book or two chapters of a book.	Make some junk art using recyclable rubbish! (cereal boxes / toilet roll holders)
Design a solution to the remote control going missing	Write a shopping list. Ask someone in your family to help. Estimate how much each item will cost!	Write a letter to a relative or neighbour. Tell them about your day and what you're looking forward to doing tomorrow.	Watch a movie tonight. Tomorrow, call or text your friend and tell them three reasons why they should or shouldn't watch it.
Clean out a drawer or cupboard in your room!	Play a song and do 20 burpees + 20 jumping jacks taking 30 second breaks between each round.	ABC Scavenger Hunt - Write the alphabet. Find things around the house that start with each letter.	Design and draw a treehouse!



HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES



COLOUR EACH BLOCK WHEN YOU COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY

Gather three objects and draw a still life picture	Go for a walk. Take pictures of some plants or trees and try to identify them later.	Write a short poem. Every line must start with the letter F	Write a diary entry from the perspective of a pet at home at the minute
Look up a yoga for kids episode on YouTube. Take some time to relax and enjoy some exercise!	Design a spaceship and label each part. Explain how it works.	Research a recipe that you would like to make. Write a shopping list for any ingredients that you don't already have in your kitchen	Build a boat out of tin foil. Count how many coins you can hold in it and try to beat your own score
Create a comic strip showing the beginning, middle and end of a story!	Find an exercise video for kids online! (Go Noodle)	Research a country or animal. Call or text a friend or relative and tell them five facts about your topic!	Go on a shape hunt around your house or garden. Write a list of objects for each shape!