



# Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,  
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

13<sup>th</sup> of December 2022

Dear Parent(s),

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

## **Christmas Concert**

For the first time in 3 years our Christmas Concert returned and 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. It was good to see a packed Toonagh Hall again.

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 an enthusiastic and talented staff 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 school**

This Christmas has been a very special time in school. The teachers and SNAs have been involving the children in Christmas events and activities such as wreath making, flower arranging, Christmas baking, Christmas Art and Crafts. You will notice the windows of our school very nicely decorated and painted for Christmas.

Children can bring their Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school for the 3 days next week, Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>. As part of our Active Schools programme we will be taking part in some healthy activities including athletics, dance and a santa dash/race on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> in our all-weather pitch. Thanks to all the staff for making Christmas in school a special time for the children in Toonagh NS.

## **Enrolment to Junior Infants 2023/24**

If you know of a parent with a child who would like a place in our school in Junior Infants September 2023 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). The closing date for enrolment is 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. Thank you.

## **Reading in Toonagh NS**

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 new school library in our GP room, PM Levelled Readers from levels 1 to 30, Novels for Guided Reading and new books for Accelerated Reader.

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 1059 books and over 14 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 1st and 2nd 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 initiative and well done to all the children who are engaging greatly with this intensive 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 novels *Toro Toro* and *Private Peaceful* with Ms. Cullinan and Mr. Roughan. In 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class the pupils read the novels *Stanley* and *The Owl who was afraid of the Dark* with Mr. Eustace and Mr. Roughan.

### **Teacher-Artist Partnership:**

Ms. Garrahy's class took part in this initiative with Evelyn Sorohan who is a local artist. Throughout this term the children in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class took part in Art and Craft lessons to make a very nice Art Creation which is on display in our reception area. The piece symbolises inclusion, biodiversity and climate change. It is made from recycled materials and photos of their creation and great work can be seen on our school Twitter page. Thanks to Ms. Garrahy who did a course in this area and gave the children the opportunity to be part of this excellent partnership with Evelyn.

### **Food Dudes Programme:**

The Food Dudes healthy eating programme took place recently for one week where each child got a piece of fruit and veg each day. We hope the children enjoyed sampling these healthy foods and thanks to Mr. Eustace and the Students Council for organising the week.

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

This takes place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. This walk is in aid of Mid-Western Cancer Foundation and there will be more details 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 this coming Monday and Santa will have a Christmas present for all the children in the school!
- **Calendar and school photos:** The Parents Association have put together a very nice school calendar for 2023. They will be distributing these calendars and any school photos you ordered next week.
- **Christmas Concert:** Thanks so much to the Parents Association and all the parents who helped out with all the great work they did in preparation for our concert. Much time and effort went into planning for parking, hall decorations, organising seating and the very successful raffle.
- **Christmas Lights Tractor Run and much more:** In partnership with Toonagh Hall Committee this very nice community event was a great success. The community came together to see the very impressive Christmas Lights Tractor Run while other events on the evening included Santa's Grotto and a Craft Fair. Well done to all involved in the organisation of this successful event.

I would like to take this opportunity 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:**

- **Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>:** Santa visit to the children in Toonagh NS.
- **Monday – Wednesday (Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>):** Children can wear Christmas jumpers or anything Christmassy to school for the 3 days next week.
- **Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>:** School closes for the Christmas holidays @12.30.
- **Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup>:** School reopens after the Christmas holidays.
- **Wednesday February 1<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 2022.*

*Gearóid Roughan*

Príomhoide