



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

*Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare*

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

12th of May 2023

Dear Parent(s),

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

School Calendar 2023/24

Please see our school calendar for 2023/24 attached to this newsletter. School will reopen on Wednesday August 30th after the summer holidays.

Enrolment Junior Infants and other classes September 2023

Application forms can be downloaded on our school website toonaghschool.com or one can contact the school to receive a form.

If you know of another child (neighbour, relation, friend etc.), please inform them of this.

Free School Book Scheme school year 2023/24

We are currently organising our book lists and trying to plan for the roll out of this scheme. There is a lot of work involved in this and we will have more details for you in early June.

Uniform and Tracksuit this term

This term the tracksuit days are Tuesday and Friday. The school uniform is worn the other 3 days.

Summer Uniform: Children can wear plain navy shorts with their uniform if they wish to and hopefully we get some nice weather.

School Attendance this term

A reminder that schools are obligated & required to notify Tusla if any pupil misses over 20 days during the year, regardless of the reason(s). Therefore, it is important that the reasons for absences are accurately recorded daily on our school Rolla should the absences ever be followed up on. We thank you for providing this information via a note or via email to the class teacher. The daily attendance rate in our school continues to be very high at 94% (this time last year the attendance rate was 90%). Naturally, some pupils will have a higher absence rate if they suffer an illness during the course of the year.

School Tours

The teachers and Noelette are currently organising very nice school tours for each class.

Juniors and Seniors: Bunratty Folk Park, Wednesday June 14th.

1st and 2nd: UL Sports Arena Adventure World, Thursday June 15th.

3rd and 4th: UL Sports Arena Adventure World, Friday June 23rd.

5th and 6th: Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Friday June 2nd.

Thanks very much to the Parents Association who are covering the cost of the buses to the tours and this has helped greatly to reduce the cost of the school tours.

You will receive an epayment request in the coming days for the school tour and more details about each tour will issue in due course.

Accelerated Reader, Literacy Lift Off and reading at home

Pupils in 2nd to 6th class have been taking part in the motivational reading programme Accelerated Reader (AR) this year. So far this year the children in Toonagh have read an amazing **32 million** words and **2015 books** which is fantastic reading. Please continue to encourage your children to keep up their independent reading for the rest of the school term.

1st and 2nd Class are taking part in Literacy Lift Off this term. This is an intensive language programme aimed at boosting reading fluency, comprehension, writing and phonics skills with staff members working together in stations in the classroom. This excellent levelled reading programme is coordinated by Ms. Griffin and Ms. Garrahy.

Juniors and Senior Infants have Graders Readers to read at home each night.

Please encourage your pupil to read their levelled/graded reader each night and it will help them greatly to progress with their reading.

Teacher Training on the New Curriculum

We closed on May 2nd for training on the New Curriculum which is currently being rolled out to schools. Specific focus at the moment is on the New Language Curriculum and next year a new Maths Curriculum will be introduced. There will be more training required next year and we await an update on how this will be organised.

Also at our recent training day we updated our Curriculum Policies on Music and Drama. We updated our Homework Policy and School Self Evaluation on Wellbeing. We are looking at updating the subject area of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) this term.

Holy Communion

Best wishes to our pupils and their families on their special day tomorrow. They have been practising very well for their Holy Communion and thanks very much to Ms. Garrahy for all the work she has put in to preparing the children. Thanks to Mary and Maelisa for their help to Aoife with the sacrament preparation.

Our school choir and musicians have been putting in a great effort and thanks to Ms. Griffin, Ms. Cullinan, Ms. Barry and Mr. Eustace for their help with our singers and music makers for our Holy Communion.

New School Garden

An exciting development here at school is our new school garden. It is almost ready for the children to do some planting in and thanks to our caretaker Ian and Mr. Eustace for their work in developing our garden.

Active Schools Week 2023

Active Schools week took place recently in Toonagh NS, it was a fantastic success and the children really enjoyed it. There were specialist guest coaches in every day including Clare Footballer Cian O'Dea who spoke about healthy lifestyle and nutrition to the children and Laoise Hoey who did Zumba with the classes. The children took part in many other healthy activities including a run around Ireland activity daily and our annual Toonagh Mile run! You can see photos of the week's events on our school Instagram page. Thank you to Mr. Eustace and the teachers for organising a great week for the children. We are very proud to be a designated Active School and to have our Active Flag flying outside our school.

Gymnastics with Magda

All children are participating in gymnastics this term. Magda Konezyk (gymnastics coach) visits the school each Tuesday which the children are getting great benefit from. The Parents' Association are sponsoring the cost of these lessons.

School Sport

- **Hurling and Camogie:** Camogie training takes place in Ruan GAA pitch on Mondays and hurling training takes place in Ruan GAA pitch on Thursdays. The boys and girls are currently taking part in their school competitions and we wish them well. Thanks to Ms. Cullinan, Mr. Eustace and Mr. Barry who are coaching these teams after school.
1st and 2nd class took part in two hurling blitzes in the Fair Green Ennis this term and they really enjoyed the experience. 3rd and 4th are also taking part in hurling blitzes this term.

- **FAI Soccer Tournament:** Well done our 6th class boys who won the county finals and qualified for Munster. They enjoyed their experience of the Munster Finals in Cahir, Co. Tipperary. Thanks to Ms. Cullinan, Mr. Barry and Mr. Eustace for helping out with our soccer players in 5th and 6th class this year.
- Congratulations to Danny Griffin (football) and Cathal Brohan (hurling) who were chosen to play for the Clare Primary School Teams in the Gaelic Grounds Limerick and Semple Stadium Thurles.

Parents Association News

- **Clothes Collection:** The final clothes collection of this school year will be held on Thursday May 18th. Contributions of any unwanted clothes, belts, shoes, towels, curtains and bags would be greatly appreciated. Drop off times are: Morning: 9a.m. to 10a.m., Afternoon: 1.45p.m. to 3p.m. Evening: 6.30p.m. to 7.30p.m. Please spread the word and thanks for your support.
- **Holy Communion Gathering:** The 3rd Class Parents are organising the traditional gathering in Toonagh Hall after the 1st Holy Communion. If anyone is able to contribute some baking or treats, it will be possible to drop them to the hall on Friday between 4.30 and 6, and on Saturday morning, between 11 and 1.

Important Dates coming up

- **Saturday May 13th:** First Holy Communion in Dysart Church @1pm
- **Saturday May 27th:** Confirmation in Ruan Church @ 11am
- **Thursday May 18th:** Clothes Collection
- **May 16th – 18th:** Standardised Testing English
- **May 30th – June 1st:** Standardised Testing Maths
- **Monday June 5th and Tuesday June 6th:** School closed for June Bank Holiday closure.

Every good wish to you all for the month of May.

Gearóid Roughan

Príomhoide

Toonagh N.S. School Calendar 2023/2024.

August 2023						
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
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27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
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October 2023						
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29	30	31				

November 2023						
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December 2023						
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31						

January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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31						

April 2024						
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28	29	30				

May 2024						
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June 2024						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

School starts: Wednesday 30 th August 2023.	School Closed March 18 th St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday.
Mid Term Break 30 th October-3 rd November 2023 inclusive.	Easter Mid-Term. 25 th March - 5 th April 2023 inclusive. Closes at 12.30pm.
Christmas Break: School Closes on the Fri. 22 nd Dec. 2023. School re-opens Monday 8 th Jan. 2024. School closes at 12.30pm	School Closed May 6 th - May Bank Holiday.
School Closed February 5 th - February Bank Holiday.	School Closed June 3 rd . June Bank Holiday.
February Mid-term. 15 th and 16 th February inclusive.	School Finishes: Friday 21 st June 2023. School Closes at 12.30 pm.

