



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful mid-term break. We had a busy two months settling back into school—into new routines with new teachers, new books and new learning experiences. It is wonderful to see our students so involved in school life, from attending our breakfast club, partaking in morning badminton, learning a new musical instrument, getting active in our after-school sports activities and immersing themselves in all the learning opportunities they encounter on a daily basis. It is equally wonderful to see all our wonderful Mams, Dads and Grandparents immersing themselves in school life too, through helping out in our school garden on Tuesdays, attending some of our fantastic courses and activities in our Parents' Room and creating our wonderful Halloween Pumpkin display in our school reception area. New faces are always welcome. We look forward to a productive, happy and healthy lead up to the Christmas holidays in 6 weeks time. With best regards, Jillian Bridge, Principal.

After School Music and Strings Programme Update:

From Monday to Thursday each and every week, our corridors are filled with the most fabulous music from our after-school music classes led by our tutors Karine, Graham, Shane and Fiana. At present there are no spaces available, but Mrs. Hickey has a waiting list which she will draw from if a slot becomes available.



Every Wednesday our 4th and 6th class students are learning to play the violin with Tara and Ronan. We are so proud of the progress everyone is making with their music lessons and huge thanks to all parents and guardians for your encouragement and support. As always, with practice comes great progress. A gentle reminder also that fees need to be paid every week, either online through Aladdin or directly to Lucy in the school office for each lesson attended. Strings fees can be paid directly to the class teachers.

Choir & Peace Proms:



Our choir are very busy preparing for Peace Proms and will attend their rehearsal in Limerick on Thursday, November 9th. Full details regarding rehearsal will be sent to all parents via Aladdin and note on Wednesday, so please read carefully.

Our school will perform in the 2 pm concert on Saturday January 27th, 2024. As already mentioned, tickets are available from www.peaceproms.com. From previous years, tickets sell out very quickly so if you want to attend our concert, we strongly advise you to purchase them as soon as possible. Our school do not get any specific allocation, so it is up to each family to log on if you wish to be at the concert. It promises to be an amazing musical extravaganza and we are so excited to be chosen to perform in the very first concert in the national peace proms series!

Wellbeing Update:

Our new Wellbeing committee will meet this week and once again this year our focus is to inspire everyone to be kind. We look forward to spreading this very important message throughout our school community and beyond.

World Kindness Day is on Monday 13th November so why not join with us in spreading random acts of kindness in our homes, in school and in our community.



Holy Family School Quiz Club.

Quiz Club begins on Monday November 6th from 2.50 pm until 3.30 pm for children in 4th - 6th classes. New members are always welcome. Ms. Twomey and Ms. Tuohy will run this club and hope to enter a friendly inter-schools competition before Christmas. Quiz Club is a fun activity, requires teamwork, draws on your existing knowledge and teaches you new facts and information and is an exciting opportunity for our students who may not be involved in sports or music activities.



A gentle reminder to adhere to our School Uniform. Children to wear white polo shirt, navy tracksuit bottoms and our blue crested jumper.

Leggings and cycling shorts are not allowed.

Our New Website

We are delighted to announce our new website holyfamilyseniorschool.com which is now live and available to access. Last year our old website was hacked and all our content lost. At present, we have the bare essentials on it but will be adding to it over the next few weeks. We hope it will be a valuable go-to place for all information regarding school life in Holy Family Senior and will be filled with content and useful information by Term 2.



Holy Family Senior School

Our School Garden

Come and join us in our school garden each **Tuesday morning from 9am**, after you drop off the kids. Rain, hail, or sunshine we'll be there and new faces are always welcome.

There are always plenty of jobs to do from planting, weeding, harvesting, painting, tidying, making paths – so the more the merrier—and the best part is, the cup of tea, biscuits and chats afterwards!

Just come along and we look forward to seeing you in the Garden – Darryl and Orla, HSCL Teachers.



Sports Updates What a busy first term of sport in Holy Family Senior School, with events in cross country, badminton, Gaelic football and hurling/camogie all taking place.



After a strong first term of morning training, our school badminton teams partook in a practice tournament at Ennis Badminton club and gained valuable experience on the court. This will be great preparation for county and national competitions later in the year.

A huge well done to our amazing Cross Country Team who took part in the schools Cross Country 2023 in Lee's Road on 28th Of September. The conditions were very wet and the course was tough but each one of these children ran their hardest to reach the finish line. They represented the school so well and their support for each other and the other participants was noted by other schools.



We are so proud of each and every one of the children. Looking forward to next year's event already!

Our boys and girls Gaelic football teams partook in a blitz each during the past month. Both groups produced great football and positive results, with our Boys progressing to the county semi-final where they were narrowly beaten by a very strong Kilmihil NS side. Our girls battled hard in a competitive group, recording two memorable victories before just falling short against Clooney NS. We have been so lucky to have excellent numbers at Gaelic football training during the term and our school teams have really benefitted from the high standards at these sessions. Looking forward to further Gaelic Football competitions in Term 3.

Our afterschool sports programme is now back in full swing with different year groups partaking in basketball, gaelic football and badminton. A big thank you to all volunteering staff who have helped out with trainings and school excursions in these areas. In addition, visiting coaches Bryan, Cian, Thomas and Gerry have been helping our students develop their fundamental movement, tag rugby and GAA skills. Their knowledge and experience have made learning new skills a fun and exciting process for our students.

Finally, we are so excited to welcome dance tutor Wilson Chung from Sparks Dance Academy to lead the teaching of the Dance Strand of the PE Curriculum for seven weeks after Halloween. This will be at a cost of €5 per child for the full programme and promises to be a worthwhile and memorable experience for all. All monies can be paid to class teachers or online via Aladdin Connect.





Meeting Invitation

To all our Holy Family
Junior & Senior School Parents

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday
14 November 2023
7.30 pm

Junior School Staff Room



New Parents Welcome

Secondary School Unified Application Process:

The unified application process for secondary schools in Ennis is now open, and the form is available on some secondary school websites already. On the week of November 13th forms should be available on all the secondary school's websites and will be available to you to download. Our Home School teachers will be in touch next week in relation to supporting you with this process. They will also be available at our Parent/Teacher Meeting evenings to help with filling in the form. Please call Orla Gannon (086 1529211) or Darryl Eade (0866040686) if you wish to discuss anything relating to this process or make an appointment to complete the form. **The closing date for applications is 12.30 pm Friday, January 12th, 2024.**

A Few Reminders:

- CHILDREN SHOULD NOT ENTER THE PLAYGROUND OR BE DROPPED TO SCHOOL BEFORE 8:45AM.
- LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY LEAVERS MUST BE SIGNED IN/SIGNED OUT AT RECEPTION.
- IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO THE CLASS TEACHER, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT VIA OFFICE.
- IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE/CONCERN/PROBLEM REGARDING YOUR CHILD, THE CLASS TEACHER IS YOUR FIRST PERSON TO CONTACT.

Parent Teacher Meetings



Parent Teacher Meetings will take place this year on 28th and 29th of November. Children will go home early at 2:30pm on Tuesday 28th and finish as normal at 2:45 on Wednesday 29th. A link will be released on Aladdin Connect next week for you to book your slot with the class teacher. Meetings will run until 4:45pm on both evenings and early booking is advisable to secure a slot that suits. If you cannot access Aladdin, please phone the school office to schedule a time with the class teacher. If you cannot make your appointment, please contact the school office to reschedule. We look forward to meeting all the parents and guardians and discussing how your child/children are getting on.

Christmas Time Events:

We are very busy behind the scenes planning lovely festive activities for not only the boys and girls but also our parents and guardians too! - more details will follow over the coming weeks. But for now we have three lovely things planned to look forward to...

A Christmas Treat for all the boys and girls from HFSS.

On 22nd November at 1:15, the West Midlands Theatre Company will come to HFSS hall and perform Sinbad the Sailor for all the boys and girls. This is always a wonderful show, filled with laughter and presented in pantomime form. We hope the children will enjoy this performance.

Christmas Jumper Day on Late Late Toy Show Day.

The annual Late Late Toy Show takes place on Friday 24th November this year and it has become a little tradition here at Holy Family Schools to get into the festive mood by wearing your Christmas Jumper to school on that day in preparation for watching the Toy Show that night. We invite all the boys and girls to wear a Christmas jumper or something festive in school that day instead of their school uniform.

Colaiste Muire Show.

On November 29th at 11am our 6th class students will attend the Colaiste Muire production of Beauty and the Beast - subsidised cost is €5 per child. This is always a wonderful professional production and a magical experience for our senior students.



Holy Family Senior School

Calendar 2023 - 2024.

Enrolment Mass for Confirmation:	7th November, 2023 in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral @ 7.30 pm.
Enrolment Mass for 1st Holy Communion:	8th November, 2023 in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral @ 7.30 pm.
Parent/Teacher Meetings:	Tuesday & Wednesday 28th & 29th November, 2023. <u>Children will go home on Tuesday afternoon</u> <u>28th November @ 2.30 pm.</u>
Christmas Holidays:	Monday 25 th December 2023 to Friday 5 th January 2024 inclusive.
St. Brigid's Day Weekend:	Monday 5 th February 2024.
1st Confession:	1st Confession will be held on Tuesday, 13th February, 2024 in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral @ 6.30 pm.
Mid-term break:	Thursday 15 th February to Friday 16 th February 2024 inclusive.
St Patrick's Day Weekend:	Friday 15th March to Monday 18th March 2024 inclusive.
Easter Holidays:	Monday 25 th March to Friday 5 th April 2024 inclusive.
Confirmation Ceremony:	Saturday 13th April, 2024 in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral @ 11 am.
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 6 th May to Tuesday 7 th May 2024 inclusive.
1st Holy Communion:	Saturday 18th May, 2024 in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral at 11 am.
June Bank Holiday:	Monday 3 rd June to Tuesday 4 th June 2024 inclusive.
School closing for Summer Holidays:	Wednesday 26 th June 2024 (12pm)