



May 2026 be a happy year full of learning, friendships, and fun for everyone!

### Principal's Message

Wishing all our families a happy, healthy and peaceful new year. We look forward to a new and exciting term at school and continuing to work in partnership with you and with your child/children in 2026. Attendance really matters so continue to make sure your child is in school every day so they don't miss out on all the new learning experiences that happen on a daily basis. As always if you have any worries or concerns be sure to make an appointment to speak with their class teacher.

# HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

Now accepting applications for September 2026

Accepting applications for:

- [Junior Infants](#)
- [2nd Class](#)

Chat with us today!  
0656829808  
0656828893

Applications close Thursday January 29th

<https://www.facebook.com/hfssnennis> [www.holyfamilyjuniorschool.com](http://www.holyfamilyjuniorschool.com)

## HFSS AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

MONDAY

Gaelic Football (2<sup>nd</sup>/ 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup>)

WEDNESDAY

Basketball (5th/6th)

THURSDAY

Multisport (2nd/3rd)  
Quiz (4th/5th/6th)  
Dance (4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup>)

2.45-3.30



**Catholic Schools Week 2026**  
Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from Monday next January 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup> with the theme of 'Normal Lives, Called to Holiness', reminding us that everyone can be close friends with Jesus by doing good each day.  
Grandparents & Elderly Friends Day will be celebrated in our school on **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**.  
We look forward to welcoming all our family members and friends to visit us on this day. Further details will be sent out later this week regarding this wonderful annual celebration.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21<sup>st</sup>

### CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS

**SENIOR SCHOOL**

10.00-11.00 - VISIT THE CLASSROOM  
LITTLE CHAT ABOUT LIFE/SCHOOL IN THE PAST  
11.00-11.30 - TEA & COFFEE IN THE CANTEEN

**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

10.00-10.30 - VISIT THE CLASSROOM  
10.30-11.00 - TEA & COFFEE IN THE CANTEEN

SCHOOL TRAD BAND  
WILL PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT.

Grandparents or Elderly Friends Welcome

## Attendance at Holy Family

Holy Family Senior School is taking part in a new ANSEO Pilot Initiative, led by TESS and the Department of Education, to improve school attendance. Families are encouraged to support regular attendance, as it helps children feel confident, settled, and connected. Children can attend school with mild symptoms if otherwise well, in line with HSE advice. If a child is struggling with attendance or facing difficulties, families are asked to contact the school early so support can be provided.

## Missing School is Missing Out

### Attendance 2024.2025



### Attendance 2025.2026



Our whole school attendance **improved 4.6% in October** this year. Our **November attendance improved a huge 21.6%** this year. Our whole school **attendance dropped by 1.1% in December** possibly caused by seasonal illness. Let's drive on for improved attendance again in January 2026!

[Every Day Counts!](#)



## Reading & Library Book Reminders

We kindly ask parents and guardians to encourage children to take good care of their reading and library books when they are brought home. Please check at home for any library books that may still need to be returned. To ensure all children can continue to enjoy our library resources, we ask that books are returned to school each week.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping to promote shared reading at home.

We are also excited to announce our upcoming **Book Fair**, taking place from **26<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March**, followed by **Book Week** from **2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March**. More details will be shared soon.

## Peace Proms 2026

Our choir are so excited as we prepare for our Peace Proms 2026 concert on **Sunday March 8th at 1pm** in UL Sports Arena. As we have a lot of songs to learn, all choir members are encouraged to practice at home, using the YouTube link to songs which has been shared over the past few months by Mrs. Hickey on Aladdin. This link can also be accessed through the **QR code below**. When students thoroughly know the words and choreography, they enjoy the concert to the fullest!!! So please encourage them to keep practicing at home! More details to follow via Aladdin closer to the concert.

All choir members will wear

- a plain white top (t-shirt, blouse, shirt)
- dark bottoms (uniform trousers are fine/skirt and tights)
- dark soft shoes (runners/pumps).
- NO LOGOS, COLOUR OR DESIGNS ON TOPS OR TROUSERS.



Tickets for  
Peace Proms



Peace Proms  
Playlist



## No mobile phones allowed in school

Holy Family Senior School has a strict mobile phone and internet enabled electronic devices policy which states that:

*Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones, Ipad, Ipods, smart watches, smart glasses and any device that has a camera and/or recording abilities or internet enabled electronic device into school.*

This policy is in place to ensure child safety in school. Parents may make contact through the school with their children if necessary. We appreciate your support on this matter.



**No electronic  
devices allowed  
beyond this point**

## Preparation for Sacraments- Important Dates



### HOLY COMMUNION CEREMONIES

20 JAN DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME MASS AT 7.30PM

26 FEB FIRST CONFSSION AT 6PM

23 MAY HOLY COMMUNION AT 11AM

These are important dates for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class who wish to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion



## Confirmation Ceremony 2026

Families of our Confirmation Candidates are invited to this special celebration at St Peter and Paul's Cathedral.

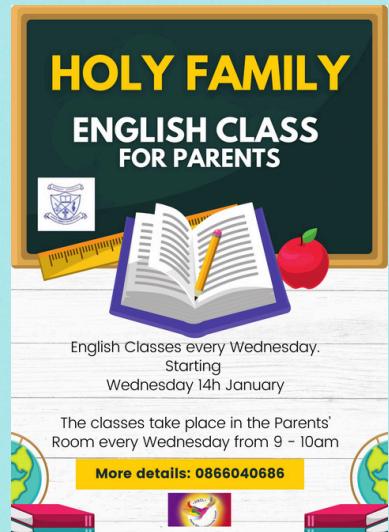


Friday March 27, 2026  
11:00 a.m.  
St Peter and Paul's Cathedral

## Parents' Corner

We have many courses and activities for Parents/Guardians to avail of over the next few months.

We always love to see new faces so come along and try something new!



## After School Music Lessons

### Music Lessons – New Term Reminder

All our music students will return to after-school lessons this week as a new term begins.

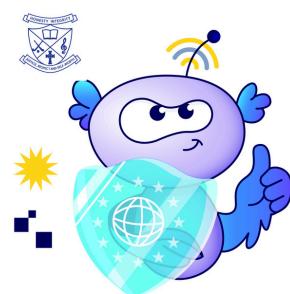
A reminder to parents that each lesson costs €8, or €80 for the full term of 10 lessons. As this is a new term, the €80 term fee is now due.

Payment can be made weekly or in full. Thank you for your continued support.



## Safer Internet Day

We will celebrate Safer Internet Day on **Tuesday 10th February**. This year we will talk to children about AI (artificial intelligence) and how it is used online. We will help children learn how to use the internet safely and make good choices when using technology.



### Holy Family School

### Safer Internet Day 2026

Tuesday 10 February

Together for a better internet

[better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday](https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday)



#SID2026



## Importance of being on Aladdin

Aladdin Connect is our main form of communication with parents and it is vitally important that you have it installed on your phone and check it regularly. Important information, cancellation of after-school classes, school closures, etc. are all communicated through Aladdin. Lucy in the office or HSCL Darryl are more than happy to help any parent/guardian to get up and running on Aladdin or to help resolve any issues you may have. Please don't hesitate to call to either of them for help.



**Aladdin**  
The Software Behind Great Schools

## The Stay Safe Programme



## The Stay Safe Programme

Now is the time of year when we teach the Stay Safe Programme in school to all classes. The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety programme which aims to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It also deals with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other e.g. getting lost or being bullied. If you would like to get more familiar with the programme please visit [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)

## School Calendar

St Brigid's Day Weekend	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2026 - school closed	
Staff Meeting	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 - school closes at 12:30	
Midterm Break	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb & Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb inclusive- school closed	
Staff Training	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 - school closed	
St Patrick's Day Weekend	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March & Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March inclusive- school closed	
Easter Holidays	School closes Friday March 27 <sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. School closed Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday April 10 <sup>th</sup> 2026 inclusive. School reopens Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 9am	
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 inclusive- school closed	
June Bank Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 - school closed	
Staff Training	Friday June 5 <sup>th</sup> – school closed	
Summer Holidays	School closes at 12 noon on Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	