

# MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

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Now that many Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted, teachers in Holy Family Junior School are delighted to be adjusting some routines and ways of teaching, to ensure that your child continues to receive the best education possible.

This week school opening and closing times will be readjusted to what they were two years ago. Teachers will welcome pupils into school at 9am in the morning. Home time will be at 1.45pm for Junior and Senior Infants. First Class pupils will finish school at 2.45pm.

## Yellow Flag Award for Diversity and Inclusion



The children had a fun filled day at school on Friday as we celebrated being awarded a yellow flag for diversity and inclusion. We hope your child told you all about it. Keep an eye on Face Book and on our school website for photos of the day. Thank you so much for helping your child to dress up on Friday and to bring in a small object from your family's country for show and tell. Your support is much appreciated.

## Book Week

We are celebrating Book Week this week, with lots of different fun activities to encourage our pupils to enjoy books. Keep an eye on Facebook and our school website to see what we get up to! We would ask that you make a special effort with reading at home so together we can foster a lifelong love of books. Some planned activities for Book Week may include:



- Reading lots and lots of great stories
- A Book Quiz based on the big books and fairy tales that the children have been reading in class
- Designing a bookmark or designing/redesigning a book cover
- A visit from Author Etain McCooey who has written a book called 'Deefer's Day Out'. She has written some songs around the story which she will also perform for the children
- A literacy walk
- **Friday 11<sup>h</sup> March: Dress up as your favourite book character. Bring your favourite book to school**
- and more...



### Seachtain na Gaeilge

We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. During this week we will all try our best to speak lots of Irish. Please make an extra special effort to help your child with Frásaí na Seachtaine. If you need any help with the phrases, feel free to ask the principal or Home School Liaison Teacher in the yard in the morning!

On **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**, we will have a Lá Glas (**Green Day**), when we will celebrate being Irish.

The children can dress in anything green on that day. **There is no need to buy anything new!!!** If you don't have something green at home, please let us know. We have plenty of green hats etc. On that day, we are asking parents to donate €2 to help the people of Ukraine.

A special text will be sent to you about Seachtain na Gaeilge at the end of this week.

### Child Protection

We will have an annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement at our next Board of Management meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. There will be a notification on our website to inform you when the review has been completed and you will be able to read the updated statement at:

<https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/resources-policies/#school-policies>. If you have any queries, please contact the principal.

### Parent Teacher meetings

Parent teacher meetings for **Junior Infant pupils** will take place during the week starting Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Your child's teacher will send you a note with your appointment time. Please let your child's teacher know if the time allocated to you is not suitable.

### Absence from School

The Department of Education has advised schools that it is no longer necessary to fill out a Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form. However, **if your child is absent from school, it is very important that you use the Aladdin App or write a note, or explain to teacher why your child was not at school.**

### Adjustment to the school calendar

Resulting from the introduction of a new national bank holiday each year, the primary school year has been reduced by one day by the Department of Education and Skills. As a result, Holy Family Junior School will be closed on **Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June** as well as on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

## Calendar for Term 2

- Half Day:** **N.B.** Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. **Children to be collected at 12.30pm**  
due to staff training in the Primary Language curriculum
- St Patrick's Day:** Thursday 17th March and Friday 18th March 2022
- Easter Holidays:** Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April 2022 inclusive



To see our calendar for the school year 2021-2022 please click here: <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/>

## A Message from our Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Teachers

Hello everybody!

Spring has sprung and we are busy as ever in Holy Family Junior School. Here are some of the things going on:

- Lots of classes...English, Hairdressing, Beauty, Family Cookery
- We are out and about so we might visit to say hello and chat about activities and classes you might be interested in.
- Meeting of the Parents Association Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 10am in the cafeteria
- Gardening Group every Tuesday 9 to 10. Please join us! We'd love more help to get it ready for planting by the children.

Please call us if you would like more details on any of the above. We'll be on the yard as usual in the mornings and afternoons so we can chat then too!

Marina (0866040686) and Orla (0861529211)

## School Uniform

A gentle reminder: Pupils should wear their school uniform to school every day. The boys' uniform is a grey pants, grey shirt, tie, and grey crested jumper. The girls' uniform is a grey pinafore, pink shirt, tie, and grey crested cardigan. Children also have a blue school tracksuit and white polo shirt for PE days or on a day when the weather is cold.



## Green Schools

As you know we are currently working on our seventh green flag, *Global Citizenship - Energy*, while also continuing the actions for all our other flags. As you all know, walking to school helps to save energy as well as being very healthy!



## Walk on Wednesdays

Thanks so much to all those who walked to school or some of the way to school during the ten days of our BIG TRAVEL CHALLENGE. The children were fantastic. It gets easier now. We are going to encourage this big effort on one day each week from now on. Walk on Wednesdays has begun! The class with the most walkers each week will receive the Golden Boot award.