

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Holy Family Junior School
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Book Week

We are celebrating an extra-long Book Week this year from Thursday the 2nd - Tuesday the 14th of March, with lots of different fun activities to encourage our pupils to enjoy books. We would ask that you make a special effort with reading at home so together we can foster a lifelong love of books. Tomorrow, **Thursday the 2nd of March is World Book Day. The children can dress up coming to school as their favourite book character and bring a favourite book to school.** Some other planned activities for Book Week include:



- Book Fair (8th – 14th March 2023) in HFJS Reception – The Book Fair will be open to parents/guardians on Wednesday 8th of March at 1.45 and 2.45. Going forward it will be open in the mornings from 8.50am and in the afternoons when the Infants go home at 1.45pm and when first classes go home at 2.45pm
- 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 Ruth Marshall, who is a storyteller
- First Classes will visit the library
- and more...

Keep an eye on Facebook and our school website to see what we get up to!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge from the 15th to the 23rd of March. During this time 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 **Thursday 16th 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 €1 to help the UNICEF Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

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

Pompoms in the jar!

From Monday 6th March for two weeks we will be promoting attendance. Each day your child is in school they will get a pompom and put it in a jar. When the jar is full the children will get a treat! Our hope is that every child (who is well!) will come to school, get a pom pom and fill the jar! 😊

Headlice

We have had some cases of headlice in the school in recent weeks. Anyone can get headlice but it is particularly easy for young children to catch them as they spread by direct head to head contact. **Please regularly check all family member's hair.** Lotions and shampoos to treat headlice are available at your local pharmacy. Headlice is a community problem. It is nothing to be embarrassed about. We can all help to keep head lice under control. For more information click here: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/head-lice-nits/>

Child Protection

We will have an annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement at our next Board of Management meeting on the 30th March 2023. 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.

Absences from School

If your child misses time from school, please record the reason for his or her absence through our Aladdin Connect app. Thank you for bringing your child to school every day (except when he or she is sick). Regular attendance helps children to be more secure and happy at school.

Parent Teacher meetings

Face-to-face parent teacher meetings for **Junior Infant pupils** will take place during the week starting Monday the 13th of March. This year you will be able to reserve a meeting time through the school's Aladdin App. A text will be sent to you when booking slots are made available for you to reserve.

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. We are out and about so we might visit to say hello and chat about activities and classes you might be interested in. Our Gardening Group meets every Tuesday from 9am to 10am. Please join us! We'd love more help to get it ready for planting by the children. Please call us if you have any questions. We'll be on the yard as usual in the mornings and afternoons so we can chat then too!

Darryl (086 6040686) and Evelyn (086 1529211)

Birthday parties and invitations



Birthday parties are great fun and a very important celebration in your child's life. However, we are not in a position here at school to distribute birthday invitations or to share out cakes and sweets on your child's birthday. While your generosity is much appreciated, parties are best celebrated outside school time. Don't worry though! We will ensure that your child's birthday is celebrated in a school friendly way!

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. The children are learning that walking to school helps to save energy as well as being very healthy! As a result, Walk on Wednesdays has begun! The class with the most walkers each week receives the Golden Boot award. Congratulations to Room 5 who won the award last week! By working towards another Global Citizenship flag, the children are being taught how important it is to help other people. On our La Glas the children will be helping others by bring a euro to school for victims of the most recent earthquake disaster. Thank you, boys and girls!



Calendar for Term 2

St Patrick's Day Weekend: Friday 17th March and Monday 20th March 2023
Easter Holidays: Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023 inclusive



To see our calendar for the school year 2022-2023 please click here: <https://hollyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/>