



Holy Family Junior School
Station Road
Ennis
County Clare
065 6829808
office@hfjs.ie



Assembly

Each Monday morning all pupils and staff gather in our school hall for assembly. Assembly helps the children to develop their sense of belonging and community. They meet and get to know other children and staff members who are less known to them. Below are some of our assembly activities:

- Birthday certificates and badges are presented to the children celebrating birthdays that week.
- We talk about our school rules.
- Green School activities are discussed or demonstrated.
- We all sing songs together.



A Special Visitor

Today we had a surprise visit from award winning children's book author Benji Bennett. We heard two stories written by Benji and then he sang a song. The message in his books is to spend lots of time with your family, and to show love to with a hug and a kiss.

Incredible Years Programme

We use the Incredible Years programme in our school, where children's behaviour is managed in a positive way. It works very well because children prefer to be praised rather than be given out to! We are continuously 'catching the children being good' and telling them how genuinely good they are. If you ask your child what it means when we say to them, 'Show me five!', they should be able to tell you that this means they have:

1. Eyes on teacher
2. Ears listening
3. Mouth closed
4. Feet on the ground
5. Hands on lap



They also use a 'quiet hand' and wait their turn to speak in class. We are very proud of how well behaved and respectful the pupils in our school are.

Maths Week

We will be celebrating Maths Week at school from Monday the 20th October, with lots of fun activities and games. Please continue to sing number rhymes with your child and to chat to him/her about maths at home. Together you can count, measure, weigh and talk about shapes in a fun and enjoyable way. If you would like to help out with Maths Week activities, please let Darryl or Orla know.

Halloween

The children are invited to come to school dressed up in their Halloween costume on Friday the 27th October, if they wish. Please see the poster below with details about our pumpkin competition. Children are welcome to decorate, colour or draw a pumpkin. Pumpkin art can be brought to school on Tuesday the 24th of October, where it will be displayed in the foyer of our school.



Safe Collection of Children

Please remember that you or an adult nominated by you who is listed on our class collection sheets are the only people who can collect your child from school. The safety and wellbeing of your child is always our priority.

Cold Weather

It is important now that the children wear a coat to school each day, as the weather is getting colder! We want them to feel warm and cosy as they play in the yard.



Green Schools' News

As part of our Green Schools' Programme, every class has a recycling bin, a composting bin and a bin for other waste. The children are very good at using the correct bins. We also encourage our pupils to take pride in their classrooms and to keep them clean and tidy. There is a trophy awarded to the class with the tidiest classroom each week. Ask your child to help you with the recycling at home and of course with some of the tidying up too!!

Headlice

Please let your child's class teacher know if your child has headlice. We will then be able to send a note to all parents/guardians in that class asking you to check your own child's hair. Don't worry – names of children with headlice will not be disclosed.

Coming to school everyday

Thank you so much for sending your child to school every day, except when he or she is sick. When children come to school every day they are happy and secure in their learning routine. They have a great sense of belonging, which is very important for each child's wellbeing.

Calendar – Term 1

30th October-3rd November (inclusive)	Midterm Break	School closed
Monday 25th December 2023-Friday 5th January 2024 (inclusive)	Christmas Holidays	School closing for Christmas on Friday 22 nd December 2023 at 12pm. School reopening on Monday, 8 th January 2024.
To see our calendar for the school year 2023-2024 please click here: https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/		

News from Darryl and Orla, our Home School teachers

- **Parents' Room:** Our new Parents' Room is located at the back of the Café. The door is always open, and we are happy to help and support you whenever possible.
- **Parent Courses:** We have many courses running on a weekly basis. If you wish to improve your English, enjoy some art with your child, pick up some beauty tips or take your parenting to the next level with our Incredible Years parenting programme, just call in and we will get you started.
- **School Garden:** If you are interested in gardening, we would love to hear from you. We are adding to our gardening team and would appreciate your support.
- **Parent Association:** We have a wonderful parents association. If you would like to join our team, we have many exciting initiatives coming up. Next week is maths week and the parents are invited to participate. This Halloween we will decorate both reception areas with pumpkins and festive art.

Chat to you on the yard, Darryl (086 6040686) & Orla (086 1529211)

