



# OCTOBER 2024

Holy Family Junior School  
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Ennis  
County Clare  
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## Congratulations to Margaret Sinnott on her recent retirement

Margaret has worked as an SNA in Holy Family Junior School and retired on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 after 22 years of dedicated service. Thanks to Margaret, for her kindness, care and attention to so many children over the years. We wish her health and happiness in this new and exciting stage of life.

## Congratulations to Mrs. Williams on her upcoming retirement

After 20 years of loyal service as a teacher in Holy Family Junior School, and as Assistant Principal for the past 4 years, Attracta Williams will be retiring from teaching at the end of this half term. Congratulations and thank you, Mrs. Williams, for your commitment and dedication to the school, both as a teacher and as an Assistant Principal. We wish you every health and happiness in this new and exciting next chapter.

## 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.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **Ms. Grainne's Montessori/Pre-school Morning and Afternoon Childcare**

There are places available now at for children aged between 2.8 months and 5 years. Please call or text Ms. Gráinne on 087 2033328.



### **Story Time for Senior Infants**

Parents of Senior Infant children (pupils in rooms 2, 12 and 13) are invited to visit their child's classroom for Story Time on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 from 9am – 9.30am.

### **Garden Allotments**

Would you like your very own garden patch in our school? Please contact Darryl (086 6040686) or Orla (086 1529211) for more information.



### **Uniform Jumpers**

Uniform jumpers are available again in all sizes from McCannon's shop in the market.

### **Halloween**

The children are invited to come to school dressed up in their Halloween costume on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, where it will be displayed in the foyer of our school.



### **Fundraising - Church Gate Collection**

Holy Family Junior School will be fundraising soon again, by doing church gate collections on Saturday and Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. We will soon be looking for volunteers to help us out. If you are available, please let Ita know at reception.

### **Safe Collection of Children**

Please remember that you or an adult (over 18 years old) 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.

### **Friar's Walk Pedestrian Entrance**

Until further notice, the entrance gate on Friar's Walk near our Scoil na nÓg building will remain locked. It will be reopened when Clare County Council advise us that road works are fully completed.



### **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. From next week, there will be a trophy awarded to the class with the tidiest classroom. 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 everyday 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

Midterm Break	Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024 inclusive	School closed
Christmas Holidays	Monday 23rd December 2024-Friday 3rd January 2025 inclusive	School closed
To see our calendar for the school year 2024-2025 please click here: <a href="https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/">https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/</a>		

**Please note:** New calendar date recently notified by the Department of Education

Primary Maths Curriculum Training Day 2 (for staff)	Monday 28th April 2025	School closed
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### Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Teachers

Darryl (086 6040686) and Orla (086 1529211), our HSCL teachers, are always available to chat with and to support parents and guardians. Please get in touch if you have any queries. They will be very happy to help you.

