

# Newsletter

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

## JANUARY 2025



Happy New Year to all our families. Wishing you all a healthy, peaceful, and enjoyable new year. We look forward to another busy term working with you the parents and guardians, to ensure the best educational experience for all our pupils. Pupils make most progress when school and homework together. We would ask you specially to read to your child every day. If you have any questions or worries, please make an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher.

### Junior Infant Enrolment



We are now taking Junior Infants enrolment applications for the 2025-2026 school year. You can call to reception to collect an application form or apply online by clicking:

<https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/about/enrolment>. The closing date is Thursday, January 30th, 2025.

## Second Class Enrolment in Holy Family Senior School

The closing date for enrolment of children going into Second Class in Holy Family Senior School in September 2025 is Thursday, January 30th, 2025. An application form has been shared with parents and guardians of First Class pupils or can be downloaded from <https://holyfamilyseniorschool.com/enrolment>. Please return your child's application to the class teacher before that date. If you need any help, please contact Darryl (HSCL Teacher) on 086 6040686 or Orla (HSCL teacher) on 086 1529211.

## Communication Policy and Code of Behaviour

We have recently created a School Communication Policy and have also reviewed and updated our Code of Behaviour. These documents have been shared with you through Aladdin text and email and can also be accessed on our school website by clicking: <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/resources-policies/>. The policies are also available for you to read in the reception area of the school.

## Curricular Policies

The following curricular policies have been recently reviewed and updated by the teachers.

- Visual Arts
- Science
- Music
- PE
- Geography
- History

These policies are also available for you to read in the reception area of the school.

## Coming to school on time



Our school day begins at 9am each morning and finishes at 1.45pm for Junior and Senior Infants and at 2.45pm for First Class pupils. **Please drop and collect your child on time each day.** Children are easily upset if this routine is disturbed. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

## Cold Weather

Temperatures can drop during the Winter so children could wear an extra layer or two under their tracksuit if they feel cold. It is very important that the children have a **warm coat and hat** with them every day during these colder months of Winter and Spring.



## Coughs, Colds and Flu

As the cold weather continues, the HSE public health division has asked that the important information below be shared with you:

- Flu is circulating widely in the community, with children being significantly affected.
- Anyone who is unwell should remain at home to help prevent the spread of infection.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette, along with regular hand hygiene, are essential to limiting the spread of illness.
- The **free nasal flu vaccine** for children aged 2–17 is still available through local pharmacies and GPs.

For more information, go to [hse.ie/flu](http://hse.ie/flu)

## The Stay Safe Programme

Stay Safe is a personal safety programme which will be taught in our school during this term. Its aim is to develop children's self-esteem, assertiveness, and self-protection. We hope to enable the children to recognise any situation where they feel unsafe. We also hope that they will learn the vocabulary needed to tell an adult. As outlined in the Revised Primary School Curriculum, children learn the appropriate anatomical terms for the private parts of the body. The worksheets will be sent home to be signed giving you the opportunity to discuss the lessons with your child. Please go to [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie) to become familiar with this programme or go online to view the Primary Curriculum <https://curriculumonline.ie/Primary/>.

## Green Schools



As you know we are currently working on our eighth green flag, *Global Citizenship - Marine*, while also continuing the actions for all our other flags.

### **Recycling**

The boys and girls are doing great recycling in their classrooms every day. Each classroom has three bins. Ask your child to explain this to you. Children often use recyclable materials to create art too, which is another way to save our planet!

### **Bird Feeding**

This term we are feeding the birds in the garden and keeping a close eye out to see if we can recognise any of them. You could help your child to recognise and name some garden birds in your locality too.

### **Walk on Wednesdays**

In February, we plan to recommence our Walk on Wednesday (WoW) initiative. We hope that as many families as possible will join in. We'll tell you more about this closer to the time!

## Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Teachers

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

### **English Classes**

Our fun English Classes for parents take place every Wednesday from 9-10am in the Parents Room. New parents always welcome. Contact Darryl for more details.

### **Parent Association 'Annual General Meeting' (AGM)**

Our Parent Association AGM takes place on Thursday the 16th of January at 6.30pm in the Senior School staff room. The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to inform parents of the work and activities undertaken by the Parents Association over the past year. All parents from both schools are welcome.

### **Garden Allotments**

If you are interested in having your very own Garden Allotment, please join us in the Parents Room on Friday 17th at 9.00am.

### **Grandparents'/Older Friends Day**

We will be welcoming grandparents and older friends of the children in the school to visit us from 10am – 10.30am next Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, with tea, coffee and entertainment from 10.30am in the canteen.

## Calendar for Term 2

St Brigid's Day Weekend	Monday 3rd February 2025	<b>School closed</b>
Staff meeting	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	<b>Half day for pupils at 12.30pm</b>
Mid-term break	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 inclusive	<b>School closed</b>
St Patrick's Day Weekend	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> 2025 inclusive	<b>School closed</b>
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 25th April 2025 inclusive	<b>School closed</b>
New Primary Maths Curriculum Training Day for staff	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	<b>School closed</b>

To see our calendar for the school year 2024-2025 please click here:

<https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/>