



SEPTEMBER 2025



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

Settling back to school

Thank you for ensuring that your child is at school every day and that he/she is dropped and collected on time. Your efforts with this are greatly appreciated. We are very proud of all the children. They are settling into their school routine extremely well. It is lovely to meet you all in the mornings on the yard and to greet your lovely children as they start a new school day.

Home Time for Junior Infants

Junior Infants will start their longer school day from next Monday the 15th of September. All Junior and Senior Infant pupils should be collected at 1.45pm.

School Supplies

Please ensure that you have bought the required school supplies for your child as he/she will be using them everyday at school. A list for each year group can be found here: <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/stationery-lists/>

Arts and Craft Money

Thank you to those who have already paid €50 for art and ICT expenses. If you are having difficulty paying it on Aladdin, please contact Ita at reception.

Nut Free School

Some pupils in our school have a severe allergic reaction to nuts. To minimise risk to these children, Holy Family Junior School is now a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. This means nuts, seeds, bars containing nuts or seeds, nutella and peanut butter are not allowed at school.

Grapes

If you send grapes to school in your child's lunch box, please cut them into smaller pieces as they are a choking hazard.



Healthy food at School

Snacks and lunches are provided for your child at school. Junior Infants will also receive a school lunch from next Monday the 15th of September. Please log in to Carambola regularly to change your child's menu so that he/she doesn't tire of the same food each day. Children are not allowed to have fizzy drinks, crisps, bars, sweets, or gum at school.

Relationships & Sexuality education (RSE)

Relationships & Sexuality education (RSE) is a key component of the Social Personal & Health Education (S.P.H.E.) curriculum in primary school. Each year RSE is taught to Junior Infants and First Class children in term 1 and to Senior Infant children in term 2. If you would like to view the RSE curriculum, teaching documents and resources, please do so on the following link by Oide Primary Wellbeing: <https://oide.ie/primary/home/wellbeing/sphe/resources/>

Use of pedestrian entrances

Our school campus is very busy with cars, buses and people coming and going all the time. Safety is always our main priority. Thank you for using **only** the pedestrian entrances and walkways.

Park and Stride

You can now **PARK AND STRIDE** every day to and from school by parking your car in the GLÓR car park for 30 minutes free of charge, while you accompany the children to school.



Safe Collection of Children



The safety and welfare of our pupils is of the utmost importance. To ensure the safe handover of each child at home time, your child will only be handed over to you or a named person on the collection sheet. Please send in a note or make a call if there is going to be someone different picking up your child. If there are any changes regarding the collection of your child during the year, please let us know immediately. Thank you for your co-operation. **Children must be dropped to school and collected by an adult who is over 18 years of age.**

Early Collection of Children

To ensure the safety of all our pupils, when you need to collect your child from school before home time, we ask you to:

1. If possible, inform the teacher that morning that you are collecting your child early.
2. When you come to collect your child, please go to reception. Your child will be brought to you.
3. Sign your child out in our sign out sheet. This will be in reception.
4. On your return, please bring your child back to reception. Please sign the sheet again.
5. He/she will be taken back to class.

Rainy days

As Autumn moves in, please ensure that your child has a **coat** when coming to school, as he/she may need it while playing outside. Also, please be aware that children are welcomed into school at 9am each morning. On a morning that it is raining try to arrive at this time so that you don't get wet waiting in the rain.



Maths at Home

Each month we will send you home a sheet of 'Maths at Home' ideas for you to share with your child. This is a fun and practical way for your child to learn more about Maths in everyday life.

Frasaí na Seachtaine

Each month we will also share with you some simple Irish phrases that your child is learning at school. You could practice them together or use one or two each day with you child.

A message from our Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Teachers Darryl and Orla

Hello everybody! Welcome back!

Garden Club Tuesdays 9.00 - 10.00am

Our Tuesday morning (9am to 10am) garden club is up and running and we would love to see some new faces. Please come and join us! After a great Summer of growth, the garden has lots of tasty things to eat! You can bring some vegetables home for lunch afterwards!!



English for Parents

Wednesdays 9.00 - 10.00am

Registration Wednesday 17th at 9am in the Parents' Room.

Classes start on Wednesday 24th.

Parent Association

Our first Parent Association meeting will take place on Thursday September the 18th in the Parents' Room. The Parent Association is a great place for mothers and fathers to connect with the school and work together for the best possible outcome for the children.

Aladdin & Carambola

We are here to support all of you with both the Aladdin and Carambola apps. Please reach out if we can help in any way.

If interested, you can catch us on the yard before and after school. Feel free to contact us on this number 0866040686.

Darryl & Orla (HSCL)

Aladdin Connect



We use the Aladdin Connect app to communicate with you about what is happening at school. If you are having difficulty in downloading the app or validating it on your phone or other device, please ask Ita, our school secretary.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance

If you wish, you can still avail of Pupil Personal Accident Insurance for you child. The cost of €9 insures your child 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, while €6 insures your child for school activities only. Just fill in the form and send it into your child's class teacher with the money.

G.A.A. Football Skills



Next week First Class pupils start G.A.A. football training on Tuesdays with coach Gerry Fox. A big thank you to coach Gerry for his dedication to our pupils.

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!

Calendar – September and October

Staff meeting	Tuesday September 30 th 2025	Half Day – children to be collected at 12.30pm
Presidential Election	Friday 24 th October 2025	School closed
Midterm Break	Monday 27 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025 inclusive	School closed

To see our calendar for the school year 2025-2026 please click here: <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/>

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

Primary Curriculum Framework Training Day 1 (for staff)	Friday 13th March 2026	School closed
Primary Curriculum Framework Training Day 2 (for staff)	Friday 5th June 2026	School closed