



OCTOBER 2025

Holy Family Junior School
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County Clare
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As we welcome October, our school is buzzing with energy and enthusiasm for learning. This month brings new opportunities for creativity and connection, both in the classroom and outside. Our pupils continue to amaze us with their curiosity and enthusiasm, and we are so proud of the progress they are making. Thank you for your ongoing support—together, we're creating a vibrant, nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Ms. Lowe

Safe Routes to School

As you can see, the Safe Routes to School initiative at Holy Family Schools has been completed. We now have better pedestrian crossings, improved lighting, traffic calming measures, new paths, seating areas, colourful pencil poles and flower beds. As a result, our school surroundings are much safer and look beautiful. Thank you to Clare County Council for their help with this project.



MMR and 4 in 1 Vaccinations Forms

Thank you for returning your child's MMR vaccination form. A gentle reminder also to those who have not yet brought the form back to teacher.

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.

Bi Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) Policy

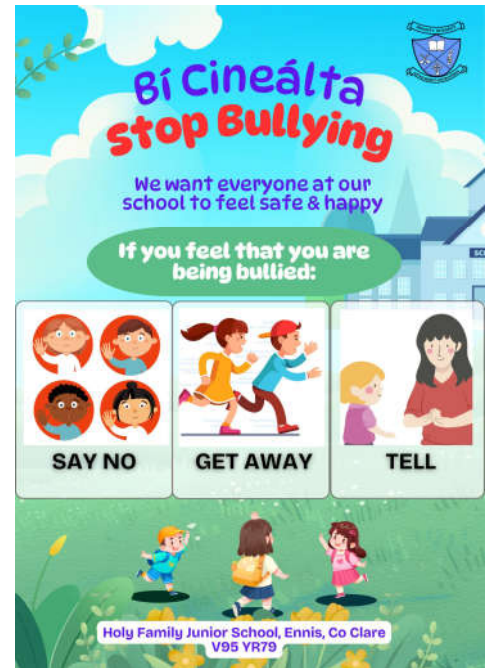
We have a new Bi Cineálta (Be Kind) anti-bullying policy. You can read it by clicking on this link: <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/HFJS-Bi-Cinealta-Policy-June-2025.pdf>

This policy supports prevention and addressing of bullying behaviour. Bullying is targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between the people involved.

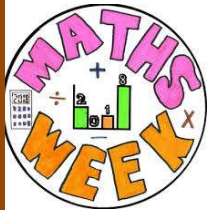
Next week, at assembly, we will be looking at and talking about our child friendly Bi Cineálta policy poster:

<https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/resources-policies/#gallery>

This poster will remind our pupils of what they can do to ensure they feel safe and happy at school.



Maths Week



We will be celebrating Maths Week at school from Monday the 13th 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 trails, please let Darryl or Orla know.**



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 recycling at home and of course with some of the tidying up too!!

Halloween

The children are invited to come to school dressed up in their Halloween costume on Thursday the 23rd 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 Wednesday the 22nd 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 1st and 2nd 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.

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

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
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026 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

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.



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.

Gardening

We have a wonderful team of parents that help out in the garden. If you would like to be a part of that team please let us know. Contact Darryl or Orla on the numbers below.

Holy Family School Parents' Choir

We had our first Parent Association meeting last week. Many parents asked would it be possible to set up a school choir for parents. A brilliant idea. Join us on Friday October 10th in the Parents' Room at 9am to get started.

Parent & Child Autumn Art Class

We have 12 places in our Autumn Art class for parents. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to create some seasonal art. Our art teacher Magda is super excited to guide your child along the way.

Date: Friday October 17th

Time: 9am

Location: Parents' Room

To register please text your name to Darryl 0866040686

Pumpkin Competition

Every year we run a Halloween Pumpkin Art competition. This is a great opportunity for the children to create some festive magic with their parents.

Parent Association 'Annual General Meeting' (AGM)

Our Parent Association AGM takes place on Thursday the 13th of November at 9.00am in the Cafe.

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.

