



NOVEMBER 2025



Holy Family Junior School
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How quickly this year is passing! The children have settled back into school life so well after the mid-term break and are fully engaging in all the wonderful learning experiences planned and organised for them. Parents and guardians, your continued support makes such a difference — by bringing your child to school each day, helping with homework, and engaging so positively with school staff.

A special thank you to those who joined us for our Maths trails, the Halloween pumpkin competition, and the various classes and courses. When children see the adults in their lives taking an active interest in their education, it truly helps them to thrive. Best Wishes **Ms. Lowe**

Holy Family School Uniform

As you may be aware, Mc Cannon's shop on the market is closing, as the owner Liam is retiring after 50 years in the shop. We wish him health and happiness in his retirement and thank him for supplying school uniforms to Holy Family Schools over the years. Our School Uniform is NOW available from Manix Menswear Ennis, Market Street, Ennis.

The children look so smart in our school uniform. Thank you for ensuring that they wear a clean navy tracksuit bottoms (not leggings), a blue top with crest and a white polo shirt to school every day.

New Furniture

We are most fortunate to recently acquired lovely new yellow and red tables and chairs in all classrooms in our school. The children love the new furniture which is bright and cheery for all to see.

Our old tables and chairs are now FREE TO A GOOD HOME. If you would like some children's tables or chairs, please call to Ita at reception. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.



Science Week

This week is Science Week. In addition to the wonderful Science learning that the children experience throughout the year, pupils are enjoying fun filled experiments this week, inspiring them to be active learners, creative thinkers, and problem solvers.

A Date for your Diaries



We haven't started to talk about Christmas yet, but we'd like you to put a date in your diary!!

The children are beginning to learn Christmas songs and poems. We invite you to come and see them perform on the dates below, with more about this closer to the time:



Junior Infant Christmas Concert – Wednesday the 10th December 2025 – 9.30am

Senior Infant Christmas Concert – Tuesday the 9th December 2025 – 9.30am

First Class Christmas Concert – Wednesday the 10th December 2025 – 2.15pm



Being at school every day!

There will be a new and exciting attendance promotion over the next few weeks. Please have your child at school every day so that they don't miss the fun, The children will tell you all about it from Monday the 17th on!!

HAVE YOUR SAY Department of Education School Survey

'Have Your Say' about your primary school. The Department of Education is conducting a short, confidential survey, which will take at most 5 minutes to complete. The results of the survey will help the department plan how we provide education at primary level. If you haven't already completed the survey, click this link to take part:

www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey

Safety of Children



REMINDER: Children must be dropped and collected to and from school each day by you or an **adult who is over 18 years of age**, nominated by you and listed on our class collection sheet.

Reminder- No Nuts at School



As you know, some pupils in our school have a severe allergic reaction to nuts. To minimise risk to these children, nuts, seeds, bars containing nuts or seeds, nutella and peanut butter are not allowed at school.

Child Protection Annual Review

We will have an annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement at our next Board of Management meeting in December. As part of this review, you will receive a message with a link to a child safeguarding survey, as we like to hear what parents and guardians think about child safety too. There will be a notification on our website to inform you when the review has been completed and you will be able to read the updated Child Safeguarding Statement at: <https://holyfamijuniorsschool.com/resources-policies/#school-policies>. If you have any queries, please contact the principal.

Late Late Toy Show



The annual Late Late Toy Show takes place on Friday the 5th December 2025 at 9.30pm on RTE television. In preparation for the boys and girls watching the toy show on that Friday evening (or over the weekend on the player, if the 9.30pm show is too late), we invite the children to dress up in a Christmas jumper or wear some red and green (no need to buy anything new) to school that day. On that day, we are asking parents to donate €1 to help to buy playground equipment for our garden.

Junior Infant Parent Teacher Meetings

Junior Infant parent teacher meetings will take place next week. Parents and guardians of Junior Infant pupils can now book a meeting slot on Aladdin Connect, if you haven't already done so. Parent teacher meetings for other classes will take place in term two.

Talking to Teacher

If you have a worry or concern about your child at school, please arrange to speak to his/her class teacher or Special Education Teacher. You can do this by asking the teacher at the door for an appointment, or you can call to Ita at reception, and she will organise a meeting time for you and the teacher.





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!

Rainy days

As Winter moves in, please ensure that your child has a coat when coming to school, as he/she will need it while playing outside. Also, please be aware that children are welcomed by their teachers into the school from 9.00am 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.

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

- **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. Join us every Tuesday morning from 9-10am for some fresh air and wonderful company.

- **Pumpkin Competition**

Thank you for all of your amazing Halloween pumpkins. They added a lot to the festive season. We hope you enjoyed the creative process with your child.

- **Art Classes with Magda**

Our Christmas Art classes begin on Friday November the 14th in the Parent's Room.

We have 10 places available for this 4 week course. We will be creating a new Christmas decoration each week. The classes begin at 9.00am and end at 11.00am. Booking is essential.

- **Parents' Association Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Our Parent Association AGM takes place on Thursday the 14th 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.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Regards, Darryl (086 6040686) and Orla (086 1529211)



Calendar – Term 1

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://hollyfamilyjuniorschool.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