



Holy Family Junior School

BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome Newsletter

August 2026

Welcome!

We hope you all had a restful summer break. It will be wonderful to welcome all our children and parents back to school next Thursday, 27th August, at 9am, as we begin another exciting school year. A very special welcome to our new pupils – we hope everyone settles in quickly, feels at home, and enjoys a happy, successful and rewarding year of learning.

Child Protection

The Board of Management of Holy Family Junior School recognises that the protection and welfare of children is of most importance. It has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (Revised 2023/2025) as part of our overall Child Safeguarding Statement. Please click: <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/resources-policies/#school-policies> to read our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Miriam Lowe (Principal).

School Contact Details

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

Drop Off and Collection Times

Morning drop-off time is 9am (all classes).

Collection time is at:

- 12.15pm for Junior Infants until Friday the 11th of September
- 1.45pm for Junior Infants (from Monday the 14th September) and Senior Infants
- 2.45pm for First Classes and above

All pupils in the Junior School must be supervised by an authorised adult who is 18 years old or older each morning until classroom doors open at 9am.

All pupils in the Junior School must be collected by an authorised adult who is 18 years old or older.

School Supplies

We will be collecting €50.00 for additional school supplies (photocopying, art materials and ICT). This should be paid through E-payments on ALADDIN CONNECT from the 27th of August 2026.



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Attendance

We love it when your child is at school every day. Children who have good attendance make strong connections with education, with their friends, and are happy coming to school every day. It is hard for them when they are late, as they miss the settling in activities at the start of the day.

We closely monitor your child's attendance and punctuality. We must inform the Education and Welfare Officer when we are concerned about your child's attendance.

If your child is absent, please let us know by sending a note or updating Aladdin Connect. We can help you with this if needed.

Headlice

If your child has headlice, please inform the class teacher. A message will then be sent home to all children in the class so parents and guardians can check and treat if necessary. This is done without identifying any child.

Birthday Parties and Invitations

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.

School Policies

Please see <https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/resources-policies/#school-policies> for the following policies: Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying, Code of Behaviour, Attendance, Acceptable Use Policy, Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment, Healthy Eating, Parental Complaints Procedure.

It is important that you read these policies before the start of each school year.

Aladdin App

Please ensure that you have the Aladdin app downloaded at all times on your phone, as we will use this app to communicate with you. Call to Ita at reception if you are having technical difficulties with this.



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Labelling

Please ensure all clothing and belongings are labelled. They can become mixed up very easily!

Change of Home Address, Mobile Number or Email Address

Please let us know immediately if you have a change of home address, mobile number, or email address.

Home School Community Liaison Teacher

Our new Home School Liaison (HSCL) teacher is Lorraine Eustace. We welcome Lorraine to the role and wish her well. Lorraine is available to meet and support you throughout your child's time with us here in Holy Family Junior School. Please find her contact details below. Say hello to her when you see her on the yard. She is looking forward to getting to know you all!

Darryl will be mainly working with families in Holy Family Senior School this year, but will not be too far away, so catch him on the yard too. He'll be delighted to see you!

HSCL Coordinator: **Lorraine Eustace**

Email: lorraine.eustace@hfjs.ie

Carambola Lunches

Junior Infant pupils will receive a snack and a bottle of water each day until Friday the 11th of September. From Monday the 14th September, a hot lunch of their choice can be ordered for the children each week. The week before, we will share log on details for ordering lunches with parents and guardians of Junior Infant pupils.

Parents of all other pupils in the school should already have log on details for Carambola. The child will receive the same lunch each day next week, as was ordered for them in the last week of June. If you wish to change your child's choice of lunch going forward, please log on to choose a lunch for your child before Friday evening in order for the change to take place by Monday morning. Please change your child's menu regularly so that he/she doesn't tire of the same food each day.

If you are having difficulties with logging on, please click here:
<https://www.carambola.ie>.

Fundraising Bag Pack

Holy Family Junior School is doing a bag pack in Dunnes Stores on Friday the 11th September from 12pm - 8pm to raise money to buy new resources for the classrooms. We are hoping for 32 volunteers for the following slots :-

12 - 2 pm
2 - 4 pm
4 - 6 pm
6 - 8 pm

If you can help us, please let Ita, Lorraine or Ms. Lowe know.



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Breakfast Club

Pupils of Holy family Junior School are welcome to our breakfast club in the school canteen from 8.40am until just before 9am each morning. **Parents must wait for their child outside the canteen each day, to accompany them to their classroom door at 9am.**

Please contact the school if you would like your child to be part of the breakfast club.

Uniform

Our school uniform should be worn every day. Please have a spare uniform so that your child comes to school in a clean uniform every day.

Homework

Your child will receive homework on three evenings each week through our Aladdin app, starting later on in term 1.

Please spend time with your child checking homeworking and encouraging best efforts.

Let the teacher know if there are difficulties with homework or if homework is not done. Your child should be able to do homework with little or no support.

After-School Club

After-school club runs from 1.45pm to 4.45pm each day, for children aged from 4 years to 12 years. Call or text Isabel on 087 2062070 for further details.

Latecomers and Early Leavers

We are delighted to welcome your child to school, no matter how late he/she is.

If your child is late, it is recorded on our attendance system. When late to school, please take your child to reception to sign him/her in. He/she will be brought to class from there, to minimise disruption to teaching.

If you need to collect your child earlier than usual, please **call to reception to sign out your child.** He/she will be brought from class to you at reception, to minimise disruption to teaching.

Healthy Eating

We have a healthy eating policy in Holy Family Junior School. Sweets, crisps, popcorn, fizzy drinks, chocolate bars, chocolate biscuits are not allowed. Please read our full policy on:
<https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/resources-policies/#school-policies>



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Important Information about our School Gates

Please see below opening and closing times of gates around our school campus:

- The Dunnes Stores pedestrian gate will no longer be open for pupil access to the school for health and safety reasons.
- **The main pedestrian gate in front of Holy Family Junior School is open ALL DAY, EVERY DAY.**
- The blue side gate at Friar's Walk and the pedestrian gate on Station Road, in front of the pedestrian crossing/traffic warden will be opened and closed at the times listed in the table below.
- Late arrivals and early leavers during school time should use the main front gate on Station Rd. for picking-up/dropping off children.
- Please use pedestrian walkways and refrain from walking through car parks.

We thank you for your support on this matter.

Time	Gates	Opening and closing times
9:15am	Dunnes Gate	Permanently closed for pupil access. Holy Family Senior School staff cars only.
	Friar's Walk Gate	This gate will be closed at 9:15am. Please use main front gate on Station Rd in front of Junior School Reception.
	Pedestrian Crossing Gate Station Rd	This gate will be closed at 9:15am. Please use main front gate on Station Rd in front of Junior School Reception.
11:45am-12:15pm	Dunnes Gate	Permanently closed for pupil access.
	Friar's Walk Gate	This gate will be opened at 11:45 to allow collection from Ms. Grainne's Montessori and closed at 12:15
1.30pm – 2.00pm	Friar's Walk Gate	This gate will be opened at 1.30pm to allow collection of Junior and Senior Infant children and closed again at 2:00pm
	Pedestrian Crossing Gate Station Rd	This gate will be opened at 1.30pm to allow collection of Junior and Senior Infant children.
2:30pm- 4:45pm	Dunnes Gate	Permanently closed for pupil access. Holy Family Senior School staff cars only.
	Friar's Walk Gate	Friar's Walk gate opens at 2.30pm and closes at 4.45pm



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Your Child's Teacher and Classroom Number

Year Group	New Teacher 2026-2027	New Classroom Number	Previous Classroom Number
Junior Infants	Ms. Petric	Room 2	-----
Junior Infants	Ms. Sheahan	Room 3	-----
Junior Infants	Ms. O' Neill	Room 4	-----
Senior Infants	Ms. Conheady	Room 1	Room 2 and some pupils from Room 4
Senior Infants	Ms. O' Reilly	Room 12	Room 5 and some pupils from Room 4
Senior Infants	Mrs. Cahill	Room 13	Room 3 and some pupils from Room 4
Autism Class	Ms. O' Sullivan	Room 7	-----
DLD/SSD Class	Mrs. Power	Room 8	-----
First Class	Ms. Ferriter	Room 14	Room 1
First Class	Ms. Hynes	Room 15	Room 12
First Class	Ms. Shaughnessy	Room 17	Room 16
First Class	Ms. Mc Namara	Room 18	Room 13

If you are unsure of your child's classroom number, please call to reception on Wednesday morning and we will help you with this.

We look forward to seeing you all on
Thursday morning the 27th August at 9am!