



September NEWSLETTER



Holy Family Junior School

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.

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.

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://hollyfamilyjuniorschool.com/stationery-lists/>

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.



Home Time for Junior and Senior Infants



Junior Infants will start their longer school day from next Monday the 14th of September. All Junior and Senior Infant pupils should be collected at 1.45pm.

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.

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.

Healthy Food at School

Snacks and lunches are provided for your child at school. Uneaten snacks will be sent home each day. Junior Infants will also receive a school lunch from next Monday the 14th 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.





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Relationships and Sexuality Education

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/>

Vision and Hearing Screening

Vision and Hearing Screening forms for Junior Infants will be sent home this week. Please complete and return the forms to your child's class teacher by Wednesday, 9 September. The School Health Team will arrange to visit your child's school during the 2026-2027 school year to carry out the screening programme.



Hello from the HSCL Teacher - Lorraine

I am delighted to be working as the new full-time Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Co-ordinator.

Please feel free to contact me at any time by:

- Saying hello on the yard at drop-off and collection times
- Phone, text or WhatsApp: 089 256 1397
- Email: hscl@hfjs.ie

Please keep an eye on Aladdin as well as our Facebook and Instagram pages for HSCL news, updates and information about upcoming events, programmes and activities.

I look forward to meeting you and your family over the coming weeks.



Parents' Association

Our first Parent Association meeting will take place with a coffee morning on Thursday September the 10th at 9am 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.



Help Needed PLEASE!!

We have a very important bag pack fundraiser in Dunnes Stores on Friday 11th September.

We need volunteers to raise vital funds for the school at the following times.

12pm – 2pm
2pm – 4pm
4pm – 6pm
6pm – 8pm.

If you can help, please let any staff member know.



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Term 1 Calendar

Mid-term Break: Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026 inclusive

School Closure – Child Protection Procedures Training Day (for staff) : **Friday 25th September 2026**

School Closure – Language Awareness Training Day (for staff) : **Friday 16th October 2026**

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Tuesday 22nd Dec @12pm and reopens on Wednesday 6th January 2027

To see our calendar for the school year 2026–2027 please click here:
<https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/calendar/>



GAA Skills



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

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.

Frásaí 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 your child.



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.

Early Collection

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 in reception.
4. On your return, please bring your child back to reception, from where he/she will be brought back to class, and sign the sheet again.





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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!

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 your 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.

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.

**SAFETY
FIRST**

Park and Stride

You can 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.

