



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

HELLO OCTOBER

This October, our school is filled with excitement, positivity and a love of learning. Each day brings new opportunities to learn, build friendships and explore creativity. Regular attendance is essential, ensuring every child can make the most of these experiences and continue to grow and thrive. Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a happy, welcoming school community where every child can flourish.

Ms. Lowe

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Holy Family Junior School
Station Road
Ennis
County Clare

PHONE: 065 6829808
EMAIL: office@hfjs.ie



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.

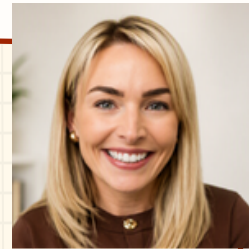
INCREDIBLE YEARS PROGRAMME

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

The children 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.

PARENTS' CORNER: SUPPORT, EVENTS & UPDATES



Lorraine, our HSC Teacher, is here to help and support families.

Phone/Text/WhatsApp: 089 256 1397

Email: hscl@hfjs.ie

Lorraine can help connect parents with school supports, community services, courses and local activities.

Check out the posters below for upcoming events and opportunities and keep an eye on our social media pages and Aladdin for the latest updates.

Need support? You're not alone!

Trusted mental health information and advice
Teachmeanthelp.com - easy-to-understand information about mental health and guidance on where to get support.
SoundOut.ie - created for young people, covering topics like mental health, relationships and daily life.
Youngminds.ie - information & resources on internet safety for young people.
Asha.ie - supporting children experiencing depression and anxiety.

Support for specific needs
Beneo.ie - provides LGBTIQ+ support groups and 1:1 chats, both online and in-person.
SafeSpace.ie - safe space for those dealing with eating issues. Email ash@bodywhys.ie.
ADHD Ireland Support for Parents - free support groups for parents of ADHDers.
Teachmeanthelp.com - free & anonymous 24/7 text service if you need someone to talk to.

Chat, text and online support
Jigsaw.ie - provides live chat, group and in-person mental health support.
Teachmeanthelp.com - free & anonymous 24/7 text service if you need someone to talk to.

Parent/Family specific supports
Parentline.ie - national, confidential helpline that offers parents support, information and guidance on all aspects of being a parent. Call 01 873 2000.
National Parents Council - helpline for queries on any aspect of your child's education. Call 01 887 4477.
SOS Family - supports one-parent families in Ireland through times of change or for people experiencing crisis pregnancies. Call 1890 662 212 or 01 662 9212.
Family Carers Ireland - offers a range of supports and services for family carers. Call 1800 24 07 24.
 Other resources: CYPSG Supporting children and parents; GSCC; Beneo.ie

Other Free Support
Helpline.ie - provides free support help for anyone struggling with self-harm or suicidal thoughts. Call 1800 247 247 or text 'help' to 51444.
Samaritans.org - free talk service for those who are struggling to cope and/or feeling suicidal. Call 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie.
 Textline - 1800 833 638.
 Primary Care Psychology - talk to your GP about free mental health support.
[HSE National Counselling Service \(NCS\)](http://HSE National Counselling Service (NCS)) - free counselling to people age 18+ who experienced childhood abuse or neglect, are former residents of a mother and baby home, or have a medical card.

Neart

ART CLASSES WITH MAGDA

THURSDAYS
REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 1ST

9.00am in the Parents' Room
 12 seats available
 These classes are for parents only

SCHOOL GARDEN TUESDAYS 9AM

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THEIR CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY MORNINGS

SEP 29TH - 4TH CLASS
 OCT 06TH - SENIOR INFANTS
 OCT 13TH - 3RD CLASS
 OCT 20TH - JUNIOR INFANTS

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR GARDENING TEAM.
 CONTACT
 DARRYL 0866040686
 LORRAINE 0892561397

6-weeks course **FREE**

DIY: Fix it yourself!

with Cortney O'Farrell

Tuesdays 10.30 - 12.30
 Start Date: 13th October

For more information contact:
clare@womenscollective.ie
 087 2777477

Women's Collective Ireland Clare

HOLY FAMILY PARENT ASSOCIATION

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN COMPETITION

BRING YOUR PUMPKINS TO YOUR CLASSROOM ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21ST
 BRING YOUR PUMPKINS HOME AFTER SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 22ND

Paint it, Draw it, Decorate it
 THE TOP 30 PUMPKINS WILL BE PLACED ON DISPLAY IN THE OLD GROUND HOTEL WE ALSO HAVE CINEMA TICKETS FOR THE WINNERS

Top Prizes
CINEMA TICKETS

ENNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
 Books are just the beginning

KIDS CLUB
 after school activities for kids ages 5-12

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, a United Way agency

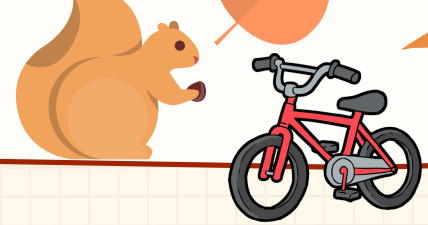
PROGRAMS INCLUDE:
 Art, Crafts, Recreational Activities and more! No library card necessary.

THURSDAYS
 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 September 24th to October 29th

IN CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY ROOM
 972-875-5360
www.ennistx.gov/Library
 501 W. Ennis Ave.



GREEN SCHOOLS NEWS



Our New Green Schools Theme is Global Citizenship – Travel.

We are delighted to begin our new Green-Schools theme: Global Citizenship – Travel, which we will be working on over the next two years.

We will explore how our travel choices affect our health, community and environment, with a focus on walking, cycling, scooting and other sustainable ways of travelling.

There will be lots of opportunities for our children and families to get involved!

Green Schools Travel Officer, Ciarán Hussey, visited us today on his bicycle. His visit is a lovely introduction to our new Global Citizenship Travel theme.



BI CINEALTA (ANTI-BULLYING) POLICY

Below is a link to our 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.



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.

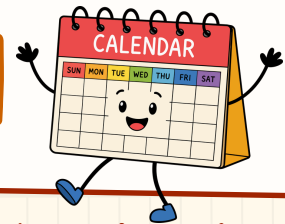
HONESTY INTEGRITY



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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR



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

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

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://holyfamijuniorsschool.com/calendar/>

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.



HOT LUNCH

It is important that your child enjoys their hot lunch at school everyday. Please have a chat with your child about lunch choices and then log in to Carambola to make changes to the order. If you need help with your login details, please contact Ita at reception.

HALLOWEEN

The children are invited to come to school dressed up in their Halloween costume on Friday the 23rd October, if they wish. Please see the poster in the Parents' Corner with details about our pumpkin competition.

Children are welcome to decorate, colour or draw a pumpkin. Pumpkin art can be brought to school on Thursday 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 7th and 8th of November. We are looking for volunteers to help us out. If you are available, please let Ita know at reception.

NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT'S REVIEW OF THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The Board of Management of Holy Family Junior School wishes to inform you that the board of management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 1st October 2026. Please click here to read the most up to date child safeguarding statement and risk assessment: https://holyfamilyjuniorschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/HFJS_Child_Safeguarding_Statement_and_Risk_Assessment_2026-2027.pdf

HOT OFF THE PRESS...

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS!

Join Us!

HOLY FAMILY GARDENING

FOR PARENTS

Every Tuesday | 9.00am | School Garden

Looking for a fun outdoor activity?
Would you like to meet other parents?

Come join our team for some gardening every Tuesday morning.
No experience needed.



SEWING, KNITTING, CROCHET FOR PARENTS

REGISTRATION TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20TH IN THE PARENTS' ROOM AT 9AM

