

**Important Dates:**

**Christmas Holidays:** School will close on Wednesday 22nd December @ 12 noon. School will reopen on Thursday 6th January, 2022 @ 9 am.

**2nd. Midterm break:** Monday 21st - Friday 25th February, 2022 inclusive. School reopens on Monday 28th February @ 9 am.

**St. Patrick's Day:** School Closed on Thursday March 17th and Friday 18th March, 2022.

**Easter Holidays:** School will close on Friday 8th April, 2022 @ 12 noon. School will reopen on Monday 25th April, 2022 @ 9 am.

**Bank Holiday:** Monday 2nd May, 2022. School closed.

**Bank Holiday:** Monday 6th June, 2022. School closed.

**Summer Holidays:** Thursday 30th June @ 12 noon.

**HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL**

**December 2021**

[www.hfss.org](http://www.hfss.org)

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Hello everybody,

Thank you for your welcome, commitment and help during our first term as home school teachers in Holy Family School. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to meet as much as usual due to the ongoing safety advice. Hopefully this will begin to change soon and we'll be back to arranging more fun activities and having garden/doorstep visits in the new year. We look forward to working together again then. Until then keep safe! Marina and Orla.



**Music Lessons:** After school music lessons in ukulele, guitar, drums, concertina and piano will resume after the Christmas holidays on the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> January. Music classes with Shane will resume on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Ms Bridge will send reminders on Aladdin – please check regularly for updates. Please ensure that any outstanding fees are paid to the office before the new term of lessons begin. The children are making great progress at their instrument and progress will be even more evident with additional practise at home.

**Creative Schools:** Our 3<sup>rd</sup> class children have had their second visit from Ana Collomer, their Creative Associate and have begun the journey of thinking, planning and evaluating which is central to the Creative Schools Initiative. We have a committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> class children assembled and posters designed to heighten awareness of the initiative around the school. This year the focus will be primarily a planning and development phase which will result in academic year implementing the creative plan the following academic year.

**Trad Band:** Auditions took place by Ms. Faherty and Mrs. Hickey and trad band will resume after the Christmas holidays on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Please ensure that children in band bring their instruments each Friday and that they store them in a safe place in the classroom.

**Choir:** Choir have had a wonderful first term back and have worked hard under the guidance of Ms Bridge and Mrs Loftus. We hope to hear a selection of their Christmas repertoire this week at Candy Cane Lane. Please see Facebook for video clips of their Christmas songs over the next few days.

**Message from Mrs Barnes.**

*I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone in our school community for their cooperation and support during this term. Despite all the government's public-health restrictions, the children have had a safe, yet fun filled end of term in their classes and in Candy Cane Lane. Deepest gratitude to our HSCL teachers, our Parents' Association, staff, parents and pupils who all worked together to create this magical space. I have to say, the optimism and overall positivity of everyone has been invigorating.*

*A special thank you to parents and pupils who have cooperated so well with the government's introduction of mask wearing. I know these are difficult and emotive times for everybody. But, we have remained a happy and productive school where our pupils are provided with opportunities to flourish and grow. The transition to new routines did not happen without intense, on-going effort and hard work on the part of our In-School Management (ISM) team, our Local Worker Representative (LWR) Covid team, all teachers, SNAs, school secretary, caretaker and cleaner. The implementation of our Covid response plans and 'well-being programmes' proved very successful in safeguarding our children's health.*

*Differentiated teaching after lockdown has ensured our curriculum was taught to a high standard and was as child centred as ever. We are so grateful, as always, to our parent volunteers who continue to allow us operate our library. The overall progress, happiness and safety of the children is a testament to the co-operation of the BOM, staff, parents and pupils. We will have our end of year assembly this Friday and Fr David will lead us with a Christmas prayer service. Even our new friends in our fish tank have entered into the Christmas spirit of late!*

*Keep an eye out for our Facebook page and you will be agreeably surprised by some lovely posts from our amazingly talented Holy Family children. Wishing each and every one of you a safe and happy holiday season with your families.*

***Nollag shona agus Ath-Bhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.***

***Sarah Barnes.***



## Medieval Projects:

In Mr. Bell's 5<sup>th</sup> class we were tasked to make a medieval art project. We could choose to make a peasant's house or a castle. Before we started making the projects we talked about what materials would be suitable and we also discussed how everything looked. Everybody tried hard to make their projects look well. When we all finished we brought our projects to school and talked about how we made them and the different materials we used.

We really enjoyed this project. *Maria Mazurek and Klaudia Grochulska.*



## Our New Sensory Rooms:

Our new sensory rooms are filled with happy learning and exploration. The children are really enjoying their time in our active and calming spaces. They happily leave the spaces with optimised energy levels.

We are so delighted to have these sensory spaces available in our school!

## IT News:

We have had a very busy term in Holy Family in IT. We are so lucky to have brand new Interactive Panels in our upstairs classrooms. The children are enjoying interactive activities and brilliant new visuals on these new panels. We look forward to more exciting upgrades throughout 2022.



## Team Transactional Strategies Instruction (TSI):

The children in Ms Kennedy's and Mr Bell's 5<sup>th</sup> classes are doing a special reading programme at the moment. It's called **Team Transactional Strategies Instruction (TSI)**.

It guides teachers to support pupils to independently use all the comprehension strategies and develop skills such as; working in groups, developing vocabulary, good comprehension and giving effective feedback. Team TSI shows how children can direct their own learning at their own pace, in a collaborative, fun and inclusive way. The children are trained in taking on different roles each day: the leader, the questioner and the strategist. They help each other read and understand better.



**Sport:** Despite an absence of inter-schools' competitions and Covid-19 restrictions, HFSS After-school's Sports made a welcome return in Term 1. Over 100 students partook in our programme which included Athletics, Gaelic Football and Badminton. Sessions were focused on fun and learning new skills and we are delighted with the progress all our attending students have made. Special thanks is due to the teachers who led these programmes and to our students for being such enthusiastic athletes! In addition, our visiting coaches Gerry Fox, Cian O Dea and Denis Hynes have been brilliant in teaching our students new skills in Gaelic Football, Fundamental Movements and Futsal! We look forward to welcoming Coach Ollie Gleeson from Banner GAA in Term 2. Finally, we were delighted to welcome the victorious Eire Óg (Senior Men's), Banner Ladies (Senior Women's) and Banner (U17 Men's) Gaelic Football teams to the school during the term. Their visits created great excitement in the school and will hopefully motivate many of our students to join one of our local GAA clubs.

