

Holy Family Senior School

January 2017

www.hfss.org

Check the website regularly to find out what is *happening* in school.



Important Dates:

Wednesday 1st. February, 2017: Holy Family Senior School will celebrate "Grandparents'/Elderly Friends' Day" with a prayer service in the school hall at 11.15 am.

Parent Teacher Meetings: Monday evening 13th. February from 6 - 8 pm and on Tuesday afternoon 14th. February from 2.45 pm to 5 pm.

Children will go home on Tuesday at 2.30 pm.

Midterm: Monday 20th. February to Friday 24th. February, 2017 inclusive. School to reopen on Monday February 27th. at 9 am.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Friday March 17th., 2017.

Ceremony of Light: Tuesday March 28th. at 7 pm in the Cathedral.

Confirmation Ceremony: Saturday April 1st. in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral at 11 am.

Easter Holidays: School will close on Friday April 7th. at 12 noon. School will reopen on Monday April 24th. at 9 am.

May Bank Holiday: Monday May 1st.— School is closed.

1st. Holy Communion Ceremony: Saturday May 20th. in St. Peter & Paul's Cathedral @ 11 am.

June Bank Holiday: Friday June 2nd & Monday June 5th. School closed.

Summer Holidays: Friday June 30th. @ 12 noon.

Peace Proms.



This March, 70 of our choir members will participate in the "Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland Peace Proms" concert in the University of Limerick. Peace Proms is a wonderful opportunity for your child to participate in a large scale event which promotes peace, unity and tolerance. They will sing as part of a combined choir with up to 1000 members accompanied by a full symphony orchestra, in addition to performing with professional conductors and soloists.

There will be a workshop/rehearsal for choir members attending on Wednesday February 8th. in the University of Limerick Sports Arena at 12.30 pm. Your child will be required to wear their formal school uniform that day and needs to bring a school packed lunch with them. Ms Bridge is now collecting €5.00 to cover the cost of transport.

The concert itself takes place on Sunday March 5th at 2 pm. Tickets are now on sale for this wonderful concert and can be purchased on the official website - www.peaceproms.com

Travel details and other important information will be distributed to your child nearer the date.

Confirmation: All Choir members from 3rd to 5th will sing for our Confirmation ceremony on Saturday April 1st. Full attendance is important at this special event. Choir will also be required to sing on **Tuesday 28th.**

March, 2017 at 6.45 pm for the Ceremony of Light in the Cathedral.

Music Generation Clare: As we begin a new term we ask that you encourage your child to schedule daily practise of their instrument into their routine and praise and encourage them week by week. 10–15 minutes each day is enough to make a huge difference in their ability to play. We encourage that payment of lessons be made on a weekly basis to Ms Bridge to prevent parents receiving a bill for a large sum of money at the end of term. Term 3 will see two wonderful opportunities for your children to perform - one for our string players to perform on stage in Glór and the other in our annual Summer Recital Coffee Morning. More details will follow closer to the dates.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: on Monday 13th. February from 6 - 8 pm and on Tuesday 14th February from 2.45 - 5.00 pm. Children will go home on Tuesday at 2.30 pm. A letter is gone home to all parent to organise these meetings.

Important information on Parent/Teacher Meetings: If a child's legal guardian (other parent) does not live in the child's home, it is important that each of the child's guardians make arrangements with the class teacher to attend a Parent/Teacher Meeting that suits them. Please make sure you have an up to date home address, contact number given to the school office so our records are up to date. Failure to do so may result in you missing important information and meetings.



Home School Community Links:



Congratulations to HSCL Barbara Buckley on the recent birth of her baby girl, Hazel! Olivia McMahon will be fulfilling Barbara's role while she is on maternity leave. Olivia is available to help you with any concerns you may have, enabling you to become more involved in your child's education and development. If you wish to speak with Olivia, you may see her out and about on the yard or you can pop into the Parents' Room or may have her visit you in your home. (Phone 086 - 6040686) Shane Griffin is also available on Mondays and Tuesdays. Our Parents' Room provides a warm and welcoming haven, where you can meet other parents for a tea/coffee and also learn new skills in dealing with parenting issues and education. Free Cookery and English Language classes have started again for parents and all are welcome to attend! If you would like to learn how to repair clothes or alter communion wear, our sewing group meet every Thursday morning from 9:30 - 11:00 am in the Parents' Room. Or if you'd like to try your hand at some crafts, our craft club meet every Friday morning from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

Shane has been working with Dads and Lads in the Woodwork Room making bird boxes and some children helped to decorate them. Check out the advertising posters at all the entrances to the school and on classroom windows, which will be updated regularly.

Grandparents'/Elderly Friends' Day: Next Wednesday, February 1st is Grandparents'/Elderly Friends' Day. A note was sent home with the children earlier this week inviting all grandparents/elderly friends into the school for a special prayer service and/or to visit classes to share treasured memories with the children. Refreshments will be served in the café after the prayer service. If you wish to join us on this very special day, please return the slip at the end of the letter to your child's class teacher.

Artist in Residence in conjunction with our Yellow Flag Initiative: Artist David O'Ruairc.

In conjunction with our Yellow Flag initiative, Dave - our artist in residence - has organised a 5th class project celebrating the diversity of artistic styles and expressions. As part of this process, Dave will spend 10 weeks working with the three 5th classes constructing an art installation which will contain a distinct contribution from each child. Each part will consist of a 3 sided wooden structure painted and decorated according to the child's preference and will incorporate elements of animé and impressionism. So far, 5th class have completed one week of this process and have painted their wooden slabs with a base-layer of paint. This week they will be selecting an appropriate motif to add as they further explore the design process. It is hoped that the completed projects will form a significant symbol of our commitment in HFSS to diversity and inclusivity. A big thank you to the HSCL and Dave for facilitating such a fun and enriching process.



Faith Friends for 6th Class Students making their Confirmation:

Faith Friends will take place on **March 14th & 21st at 7 pm** in the Cathedral House and on **28th. March at 6 pm** followed by the **Ceremony of Light in the Cathedral at 6.45 pm.**



Green Schools.



We are continuing on our journey with the Biodiversity theme. At the moment, we are having a competition to come up with a new green code. We are looking forward to seeing which slogan wins, and will post this on the website as soon as it has been chosen. We are also continuing to work on the school garden. An expert from Heritage in Schools will be joining us next month to help us with this. Some parents have made beautiful bird boxes with Shane, our HSCL. We hope to get planting again as soon as Spring arrives to create more biodiversity in our school.

After School Activities January - February Mid-Term 2017.

Monday :	Hurling & Camogie. Boys & Girls 2nd. - 6th. Class.
Tuesday:	No after school activities.
Wednesday :	Girls' Badminton - 2nd. - 6th. Class. Yoga. Boys & Girls - 3rd. & 4th. Class.
Thursday:	Quiz with Ms. Browne & Ms. Hamel. Athletics - Boys & Girls - 3rd. - 6th. Class.
Friday:	No after school activities.

- Please note that all activities finish at 3.30pm.
- Children must not enter hall until a teacher arrives.

Active School Flag:

On Friday February 10th at 10am Holy Family Senior School along with pupils in schools across the country will be taking part in RTÉ's Operation Transformation exciting new initiative called 10 @ 10. At 10am for 10 minutes pupils will engage in a variety of activities to get them moving. Pupils will dance, kick a ball, hula hoop or walk/run on the spot to contribute to the largest junior group exercise session to ever take place in Ireland.

Participation in Local Clubs:

As the sporting season in clubs across the county kicks off, over the coming weeks we will be distributing a sheet at the upcoming parent teacher meeting with contact details for all the clubs in Ennis that promote physical activity. We encourage all families to ensure their child reaches the recommended one hour of daily physical activity and participation in local clubs can go along way to achieving this. The physical and social benefits that children gain from being involved with a group or a club will contribute to a happier, healthier child.

Our Active School Motto: "Commit to be fit, stay strong, live long!"

School Uniform: The children can presently wear tracksuits five days a week. Black tracksuit bottoms, leggings or trouser with stripes or brands are not allowed. Children can not wear jewellery at school due to health and safety reasons. A small pair of stud earrings are the only jewellery allowed - no rings or dangling earrings. If a child wears a chain for religious reasons, this needs to stay inside their clothes. Wheely shoes can only be worn as runners, please remove the wheels prior to school.

The carpark between the Junior & Senior School is for pedestrians only. Please use pedestrian gates at all times during the school day.

Catholic Schools Week takes place next week. All parents are welcome to join us for "Grandparents'/Elderly Friends' Ceremony" at 11.15 am on Wednesday February 1st. in the Hall.