

**Important dates for your diary:**

School closes on Wednesday next @ 12 noon.

Thursday, March 17th. - St. Patrick's Day.

**Easter Holidays:** Friday March 18th. - Friday April 1st. inclusive. School will reopen on Monday April 4th. @ 9 am.

**Confirmation Ceremony:** Saturday 16th. April, 2016.

**Midterm:** Monday 2nd - Friday 6th May, 2016. School closed. Reopens on Monday 9th. May @ 9 am.

**Holy Communion Ceremony:** Saturday 21st. May, 2016.

**School Closed:** Friday 3rd. June & Monday 6th. June, 2016.

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

**HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL****March, 2016**[www.hfss.org](http://www.hfss.org)

*Contact HSCL - Breege or Stacey on 086 6040686.*  
Check the website regularly to find out what is happening in school.

**Choir news**

Choir are busy preparing for the upcoming Ceremony of Light and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

All choir members from 3rd–5th class are required to attend in full uniform. 6th class choir members who are not making their Confirmation are also invited to attend to sing as part of the choir. Ceremony of Light takes place on Tuesday, 12th April @ 6:00 pm in the Cathedral. This is a short ceremony and should be over by 6:30 pm at the latest. Confirmation takes place on Saturday 16th of April @ 11:00am in the Cathedral. All choir members to attend.

**Music Generation**

We have a new Violin teacher with us in HFSS replacing Eddie McMahon, working with our 5th class children as part of the Music Generation Clare violin programme. His name is Ciarán Collins, and is an accomplished violin/fiddle player in addition to being an experienced and qualified secondary school music teacher. We welcome him to HFSS and look forward to hearing our Music Generation Clare violin students perform in May.

HFSS Rock Band, under the instruction of Graham Keane, recently performed in the World Music Centre U.L. and were just excellent. Two of our members have written a report about our trip. We are very proud of them and their performance in U.L.

**Féile na hInse**

A huge congratulations to our students who performed in this years Feile na hInse group singing competition in the Auburn Lodge this week. They performed to a very high standard, sang beautifully and represented our school so well. One of our groups came 3rd in the competition. Well done to all who took part - Aoise Kelly, Aimee Cosgrove, Dearbhla Parry, Nicole Marrinan, Laura Kelly, Lily Tiernan, Isolde Hegarty, Sarah Meaney, Cormac Maher, Jason O'Connor, EJ. Opuoro, Sarah Iwunze, Benedict Mundu and Victoria Kieltyka.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge & 1916 Commemoration.**

**Seachtain na Gaeilge** (Irish Week) is in full swing in Holy Family. Earlier this week, two groups of singers represented the school at Féile na hInse. Both groups performed excellently at the competition and one of the groups proudly won a bronze medal. Comhghairdeas do gach dalta a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas. Congratulations to all who took part.



**Lá Glas:** All classes are busy preparing for our Lá Glas (Green Day) and Commemoration Day next week. On Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, the children are invited to wear green clothing to school. We will have a special assembly in the hall at 9:45am to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge and the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

Parents are welcome to attend the assembly. Work that the children have produced will be on display in the school foyer and along the corridors.

**1916 Commemoration:** To commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, we will have a special Commemoration Day in Holy Family on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Earlier in the school year, two members of the defence forces delivered the National Flag to our school. At 12pm on Tuesday, together with the Junior School, we will raise this flag in a short ceremony to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.

There will be céilí dancing classes provided for all class groups throughout the day.

As a school, we are looking forward to celebrating our native language and a very important event in our nation's history. Tá súil againn go mbeidh ceiliúradh iontach againn.

We are hoping for a fantastic celebration.



Ms Kilbane will be leaving 4th Class next week as Mrs Vaughan is returning from maternity leave. We would like to thank Ms Kilbane for all her hard work and dedication to the children in her class and a warm welcome back to Mrs Vaughan.



**Parents' Association:** A sincere thank you to all parents for their generous response and contribution to a great success of The Annual Parents' Association Cake Sale. We raised €915.00! A very big thank you to all parents that helped on the day.

### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Girls' Athletics

On March 9<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class girls went to Athlone for the All Irelands Athletics finals. We had to wake up early as we had to be at school by 7:30am. We took the bus with C.B.S and it was about a 2 hour drive to Athlone A.I.T. When we got there it was about 9:30am. We were all really excited. We then got our jerseys and numbers and ate a bit of food. After that we got ready for the obstacle relay and the over and under relay. The boys went before girls so we had a chance to watch them and decide our tactics. After that we ate some food as we were hungry. Then the boys did their track events while we did our field events. The field events were: chest push, javelin, speed bounce, vertical jump, long jump and triple jump. Then after the field events we moved on to the track events which included: 1x1, 2x1, 2x2, 4x1, 6 lap, obstacle relay and the over and under relay which we did at the start. When they were done we got ready to go on the bus and we went to Supermacs in Loughrea. We were all hungry so we ate our food straight away. When we got back on the bus we were all tired. We were all really nervous before our races and events but really happy that we did so well. The track was really impressive and the whole arena was amazing. The track was blue and red so it looked really cool. There was a track inside, upstairs and outside. It was a really cool place and we were very lucky to have the opportunity to compete there. We had a great day! By Zara Deasy & Emilie Hamel.



### Junior Entrepreneur Project.

This year Mr Bell's 6<sup>th</sup> class are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP) is a programme which teaches children many skills such as: marketing, maths, imaginative thinking, finance, bargaining, confident speaking and many more. We started by brainstorming ideas for products which we could sell. We eliminated some of our ideas until we were left with fairy jars, wonderful weaving and cocoa bunnies. A few days later Alan Flynn from Flynn Hotels came to talk to us about his journey to being a successful entrepreneur. At the end he was oh so generous and gave us freeeeee cookies! A few days later Ross O'Donnell from Munster Technology Centre came and also spoke to us candidly about his pathway to success. At the end, he answered what probably added up to a thousand questions. Next we made a few samples of our products to show at the Dragons' Den. Two weeks later the dragons (Mr Flynn and Mr O'Donnell) came to choose which idea they thought was going to work out the best. They chose.....COCOA BUNNIES!!! Then the serious work started. Our class was split up into groups: production, sales, finance, storytelling, and marketing teams. Then we started working on our parts as soon as we could. We hope our hard work will pay off. The project was very rewarding, though challenging at times. We will sell our cocoa bunnies in the run up to the Easter Holidays.



### Junior Entrepreneur Programme

At present two of our sixth classes are very busy undertaking the Junior Entrepreneur Programme which is financed by Donal Slattery, CEO of the Clare People newspaper. The children are currently finding it to be a very worthwhile experience and hopefully the entrepreneurial ideas that they will learn will help them to become entrepreneurs when they are adults. The programme helps the pupils to develop a number of skills including literacy, writing, presentation, drawing, technology, research skills, numeracy, finance, customer awareness, storytelling, listening skills, creative thinking, problem solving, team building and collaboration skills.

**Coke Bottle Candles.** Mr Moroney's 6<sup>th</sup> class are currently making Fizzy Drinks Candles. These candles are replicas of Coke, Sprite and Fanta 500ml bottles. They will be available for sale on next Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>. These candles are unique and classy and are for sale for €4.00 each.

### Our Universe - Science - Junior Achievement

We have had visiting Scientists in 5<sup>th</sup> class for 6 weeks now. John Hayes from Roche and Brian Gallagher, an engineer, have helped us explore the Scientific World. Science makes up our universe helping us go about our daily lives, enabling us to find solutions and to discover new ways of doing things. Our course began with a look at the 200 bones that make up our skeleton system. In week two we all became C.S.I. investigators and solved a murder mystery using paper chromatography and forensics. Following this we studied different sources of renewable and non-renewable energy. Week four taught us what lifestyle is needed to for a healthy heart. To finish we checked out the world of optics and built our own periscopes! Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are the fastest growing industries in Ireland. We now know why science is important, how interesting and exciting it is and to rule out the myth that it's difficult. Science is for everyone and it is fun!

**Music Generation:** On Wednesday March 9th., the HFSS Rock Band/Singers went to the University of Limerick, for Music Generation Clare lunch time concert in the theatre. We performed three songs. They were called, *Seven Nation Army*, *Shake it off* and *Dynamite*. We also wrote our own original song called "What you think of me". This song explores issues like friendship, equality, racism and self-esteem. Unfortunately, we didn't get to perform it in U.L as we ran out of time. There was a school choir called *Gaelscoil Donncha Rua, Bóthar Linne, Shannon*, who are involved in the Music Generation Clare "Escalation" singing programme. They sang four songs. 3 teenagers called *Karen Mc Mahon* who played the Concertina, *Cian Mc Inerney* who played the Banjo and *Kate Dillon* who played the Fiddle also performed. They were from *Maoin Ceoil na Chláir*. We would also like to thank *Graham Keane* and *Ms Bridge*, for all their hard work. *By Róisín Malone & Lauren Lynch.*

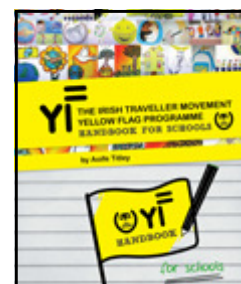


### Yellow Flag Survey:

The results of our Yellow Flag surveys are in! Many thanks to parents and students for partaking; here are some of the key findings:

#### Student Questionnaire:

- Over 95% of children identified themselves as being Irish
- 63% have at least one parent from a country other than Ireland
- 28% have experienced some form of racism at school
- 40% have witnessed racist behaviour
- 97% of students feel welcome in Holy Family
- 96% of students are proud of the country they are from
- 90% feel that Holy Family does enough to include their culture
- 95% feel that their teachers would deal effectively with incidents of racism



Over 95% would like to find out more about different cultures (music, customs, food, dress), learn more about different languages and religion, celebrate different cultures, languages, religions and identities more.

#### Parent Questionnaire:

- 71% of parents identified as Irish
- 21% identified as Polish
- Other Nationalities made up the remaining 8% of respondents
- 97% of parents felt welcomed when enrolling their children in the school
- 97% of parents currently feel welcome in the school
- 96% believe their children feel welcomed and included in the school
- 98% of parents believe their children are proud of their country or identity
- 22% of parents believe their children have experienced some form of racism in Holy Family
- 24% of parents said their child has noticed racist comments or signs/gestures made to others in school
- 88% believe that they would be listened to and helped if they approached the school with concerns about discrimination/racism and inclusion
- 77% believe the school are proactive in organising intercultural events and activities

Areas of possible future initiatives include promotion of different languages, learning about different religious traditions and encouraging children to use their own languages



**Thank You** to all the children who sold shamrock for the school. This was a very worthwhile project and the money earned will go towards buying more books for our libraries.

