

Important dates for your diary:

Friday 28th November: Turning on the Christmas Lights Ceremony - 5pm. Drop off 4.40pm.

Saturday 29th November: Winter Warmers Concert Cathedral 8pm.

Thursday 11th December: School Nativity in the Cathedral. Drop off for 8 pm. Start time 8.15 pm.

Thursday 18th December: Liam Lawton concert with school choir in Glór at 8pm.

Friday 19th December: School closes at 12 noon. School re-opens: **Monday 5th January at 9am.**

HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL**November 2014**www.hfss.org

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

In 2015 our school building is 50 years old so watch out for plans to celebrate this special year

Choir News -

Turning on of Christmas Lights in Ennis Town Centre: The Town Council have invited the children of Holy Family School Choir to sing for the annual turning on of the Christmas Lights ceremony on **Friday evening, 28th November** in the Market area of town (opposite post office in front of Christmas Tree at roundabout). The children need to wrap up well and be ready for whatever weather we have on that evening. They can come in whatever clothes they wear to school that day - either formal uniform or track suit. Drop-off time will be 4:40 pm in front of the post office, the lights will be switched on at approx. 5pm and the children can be collected from the roundabout at approximately 5:10 pm.



The Irish Heart Foundation 'Winter Warmers' Concert: The Holy Family School Choir will be performing as special guests in a wonderful 'Winter Warmer' Festive concert with nationally acclaimed soprano Cara O' Sullivan on **Saturday 29th November @ 8pm** in the Cathedral. This must-see concert is in aid of The Irish Heart Foundation. Tickets are selling like hot-cakes and are available from Lucy in the school office, The Parish office, The Clare Champion office and Mary Kelly's newsagent at €20 each. The children are very busy learning their festive repertoire at present and need to make sure they know all the words of their pieces. Choir will be required to wear their full formal school uniform with white knee socks (girls only) and black shoes. Choir members will receive notification of drop-off/collection times and places nearer the date.

Who Would Imagine a King - A Christmas Nativity: All the boys and girls of Holy Family School will take part in our bi-annual Christmas Nativity 'Who Would Imagine a King' on Thursday 11th December @ 8.15 pm in the Cathedral. This wonderful evening recalls the story of the first Christmas in Bethlehem through song and story. Admission is free and all are welcome. Your child will be given guidance soon from Ms Bridge and class teachers about costumes/props needed etc. **Christmas Carolling:** The children will sing in Dunnes Stores on Fri 12th December for The Simon Community and for the Sisters of Mercy in St. Xavier's Convent before the Christmas Holidays.

Another BIG Concert!!! - with Liam Lawton @ Glór: On 18th December, Holy Family School Choir will sing on stage at Glór in concert with Liam Lawton, infamous church music composer. Much of choir's repertoire is by this composer so it is an absolute honour for the children to be invited to sing in his very special Christmas Concert. Further details will be released soon, but choir will more than likely open the first half of the show and then join in combined voices with Liam Lawton and Cantare Chamber Choir at the end of the concert. Reduced priced tickets (10% reduction) will be released for sale before the 4th December for parents of choir members. Those wishing to attend and avail of the reduced priced ticket to contact Lucy in the school office at 6828893 before Fri 28th Nov to book your ticket. Numbers and names will be then sent to Glór and you can collect your ticket there on the night.



Home School Liaison News.

Cookery Classes - Cooking classes have commenced on Tuesday Mornings from 9am to 11am and parents are sharing their cultural dishes and cooking ideas. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact us.

English & Irish classes are on going on Monday Mornings. There are still places available.

Coffee Morning - Every Friday morning we hold a drop in coffee morning located in the parents room in the Senior School. Come along and meet with other parents and learn more about activities going on in the school.

Sewing Club - We will be recommencing our sewing club shortly. If you would like to join and help in the making of costumes for the Christmas Concert please contact us for more information.

Home Visits - this year we will be trying to visit as many parents as possible in their homes to offer support. If you would like to meet with us at any stage please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a meeting in school or at your home.

Science for Fun is currently going on in 4th class on Friday mornings at 11.15am. Mr. Ryan's class is on this Friday 28th Nov and Ms. Faherty's class is on Friday 5th December and Friday 12th December. If you would like to join your child in their classroom and help them learn about science in a fun way please contact us for more information. Thank you to all the parents of 2nd class pupils who attended our **Maths for Fun** sessions over the last month. **Mature Students**

Information Evening - *Are you interested in going to college as an Adult Learner?* Then go along to the Information Evening at Clare Adult Educational Centre, Ennis, on Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 7.30pm. Exhibitors will include University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, GMIT, Funding/Grants, Limerick Institute of Technology, NUI Galway, LIT Ennis, and Shannon College of Hotel Management. For more information contact 0656897617.

Girls Football Final

On Tuesday November 11th. the Girls' Football team played against a strong Carron/New Quay in Cusack Park. This was the second year in a row that the girls had reached the final having accounted for Corofin N.S. in the semi-final. With a huge crowd of teachers, children and parents in Cusack Park ready to support them in the final, the team ran out onto the pitch to a chorus of cheers.



In the opening half the ability of the North Clare School to pick off points and goals at key stages was pivotal to their win on the day. While in the second half, Holy Family came storming back but just couldn't break down their defence. As the game was nearing the end, Holy Family reduced the lead with two late goals. It was heartbreak for the girls' team that had worked so hard during the year. A total of 43 girls trained since early September under their trainers Miss Vaughan, Mr O' Neill, Miss Lillis & Mr Brennan. There will be the presentation of medals in the coming weeks.

Hurleys and Helmets For Sale:

There are new hurleys and helmets for sale from Lucy in the office at very competitive prices.

Skipping Ropes For Sale:

If any child would like to buy a skipping rope, they are available to buy from Mr O' Neill (Room 17) at a cost of €6.



Holy Family's Narrow Loss To Doora



On Tuesday November 11th. Holy Family played Doora NS in Cusack Park in the Boys' Football Division 4 Final. The starting panel for Holy Family was Eugene Omoifo in goals, David Utake, Daniel Chinekeze and Andrew Ugwuere in the back line. In midfield were Jack Kennealy and Mark Donovan and up front were Liam Kenny, Shay Moloney and our captain Andrew Casey.

The Holy Family team was unlucky to lose by two points to a strong Doora side. The first goal was scored by the Holy Family side but Doora weren't long coming back and scored a goal. Before the half time whistle, Doora scored an unbelievable goal that Eugene couldn't stop.

In the second half Doora were only one goal ahead. Then our back line came under pressure and Doora scored two more goals. Suddenly the Holy Family team started to make substitutes. Alex Dilger, Ryan Chung, Joshua Aduasare, John O' Sullivan, Jared Sherlock, Chris Esedebe, David Murphy, Dominic Ulanowski, Daryll Kenny & Jędrzej Surowiec came on and had a big impact on the game. The Doora side also made a few substitutes. Ryan Chung won possession and sent the ball into Jared Sherlock who scored a great goal. He scored another soon after. After that Doora got two more points to win the match. Holy Family had made an unbelievable comeback but it was too little too late. The final score was Doora NS 4-7 Holy Family 5-2.

By Ryan Chung and Andrew Casey.

County Clare Regional Cross Country Event

The County Clare Regional Cross Country Finals took place on Thursday November 13th. The school was proudly represented by Evelyn Esedebe and Esther Olaoye who were both placed in the top 12 of the East Clare Cross Country Races in early September of this year.

The top 12 athletes from each region came together in Lee's Road for the event. Esther ran a fantastic race in the Under 8 category and we are very proud of her achievements. Esther trains with Ennis Track Club and her hard work and determination can be seen in her attitude and ability in cross-country running. Evelyn displayed her incredible and natural athletic ability in the Under 10 category receiving a medal for coming in 11th place over all. She was rewarded a gold medal for her 1st place position in the East Clare Region.



Our GAA Football Blitz

On Wednesday October 22nd. all the third class children, teachers and SNAs went to Éire Óg for a football blitz.

First, we met the other 3rd classes in the yard and we all walked to Éire Óg. On the way, we saw roadworks, dogs and helicopter seeds on the ground from the sycamore tree.

When we got there, we changed into our gear and ate our snacks.

After we got changed, we ran onto the astro turf pitch and Ronan Keane organised us into teams.

We were split into teams of 6 or 7 and we met other children from Cloughleigh and Kilnaboy schools. Afterwards when the matches were over we changed back into our tracksuits and walked back to school.

When we got back to class, we watched a DVD and relaxed. We all really enjoyed the day. Well I know I did! By Sarah Gannon-Murray

Green Schools: We have been continuing on our journey for our fourth green flag - the Travel Flag. Every Wednesday, we have a WOW (Walk on Wednesday) Day. Pupils are encouraged to walk/cycle/Park & Stride. Members of the Green Schools Committee survey each class on Wednesday mornings to see how pupils have travelled to school. The class with the most amount of pupils taking part in WOW Day wins the Golden Boot Award at assembly. So far, Mr O'Neill's 5th Class and Mr Moroney's 6th Class have won the award. When a class has won the award 3 times, they will receive a day of cycle training and games with Róisín Ní Ghairbhith, travel officer with An Taisce. Huge numbers are taking part in WOW Day each week. Also, pupils have made some wonderful posters to display around the school. Each class displays their WOW Day numbers on their notice board each week. Please keep up the great effort and remember:

Rid pollution from our town,
Use your feet to get around!



Active School Flag

The school are this year striving towards gaining their Active School Flag. The Department of Education and Skills wishes to recognise schools that *strive to achieve a physical educated and physically active school community* by awarding them the Active School Flag. In the coming weeks, the children will be picked to be on the Active School's Committee. We are also organising a Poster Competition where the children have to come up with the Active School Motto. Furthermore, on the 4th and 5th December we have organised a Skipping workshop for the children. More information to follow on this



Changes in Personal Details:

It is important that school has up to date addresses and numbers for every child. As you know we use "Text a Parent" to inform you of up-coming activities or changes within the school. Failure to supply us with a current mobile number will mean you may miss out on important notices. Please ensure that you inform the School Office if you have changed your name or address. We thank you for your co-operation in this.

RSE in Senior Classes:

We are about to start our RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) in all classes before Christmas. You will receive a letter from the class teachers in regard to this. Please do discuss it with your child .

The Christmas Season - inappropriate exposure to the internet/websites/electronic games/TV series/over 12s/16s/18s films: I would urge all parents to be very diligent in supervising their children's access to mobile phones, internet, film sites and most importantly X box and Play Station adult or teenage games during the Christmas holidays We are aware that pupils do have access to games and sites that are not age appropriate and this can cause difficult situations at school.

Young primary school pupils are like sponges, they absorb everything around them in their environment and at times this can make them confused and emotionally and behaviourally upset. Different personalities react to different situations. Some children become withdrawn, others can become aggressive and mimic the behaviour they have seen and some others crave attention and get into difficult situations by using inappropriate terms that they really don't understand or mean in order to be popular. Please do sit and watch programmes with your children. If you hear them use terms that are adult like or alarming please do help them understand the impact of this on themselves and on others. Our world is making them grow up too fast and as parents and teachers we have a responsibility to try and protect them and let them be the innocent young children that they deserve to be.

Mrs Barnes and Staff.

