

Important dates for your diary:

Midterm: School closed from Monday October 30th. to Friday November 3rd., 2017 inclusive. School reopens on Monday November 6th. @ 9 am.

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Friday December 22nd. @ 12 noon. Reopens on Monday January 8th., 2018 @ 9 am.

Midterm 2nd term: Thursday & Friday February 15th. & 16th.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Monday March 19th.

Ceremony of Light: Wednesday April 11th.

Confirmation: Saturday April 14th. @ 11 am in the Cathedral.

First Holy Communion: Saturday May 26th @ 11 am in the Cathedral.

HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL

October 2017.

www.hfss.org

Contact HSCL - Barbara Buckley on
086 6040686.



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

Holy Family Senior School Book Week: is taking place in our school from October 23rd to 27th.

A series of activities will be taking place in our school linking with this event. Each afternoon children will be given an opportunity to do fun, book related activities, listen to audiobooks and the only homework each evening this week will be **reading for pleasure**. Book clubs will meet also during the week in small focus groups. We will be looking out for children who are regularly taking online Accelerated Reader quizzes and who are making a special effort to read. All the children are busy trying to reach their Accelerated Reader targets for this term so if you can do some shared reading at home, we are sure your child would love the help. So go ahead and please support your child taking on our school reading challenge. We will have little prizes at the end of the week for those who make a special effort! 6th Classes will go to Glór to hear children's author Caroline Busher and ER Murray present 'Things That Go Bump in the Night' on Friday October 27th. Local award winning author Matt Griffin will visit our school on Tuesday October 24th @ 11 am to do a workshop with children from 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes. All children will be brought to visit our local library in November for a scheduled visit. They will be given a tour of the library and a chance to pick up an application form to join.



'Today a reader, tomorrow a leader'

Sundries.

Thank you to all the parents who have either fully paid or partly paid their child's sundries bill this year. We note that a number of people have not started paying yet. Our school depends so much on this money to run all the listed activities and initiatives for your children. We will be contacting individual parents on our list after the half term. However, in the meantime, we would ask that any parent who hasn't paid sundries so far this year, please contact the office this week on 0656828893 or call to the school to start your payment plan. A plan can be made to suit your financial circumstances. We would appreciate greatly your support with this.

Up to date contacts for Parents: please ensure that the school office has the most up to date mobile contact for all parents. If you have changed address please update same in the office. It is so important that we can make contact with you especially in the event of an emergency. Take the time and send in your mobile number. Thank you.



Halloween Disco for Charity on Friday October 27th.: We will have our annual Halloween Disco next **Friday October 27th**. It is a **Fancy Dress Disco**. We look forward to seeing great costumes. Please bring €2 each on Friday next.



Choir News:

Holy Family Senior School in collaboration with Music Generation Clare are delighted to continue our well established strings programme with all children from 4th class. This will run for 1 term (8 weeks) starting this Wednesday October 25th and this is a **compulsory** part of our performance strand in the music curriculum. We are so lucky to be able to give every child in 4th class, the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. These lessons are provided at an exceptionally low cost (€2.50) in comparison to music fees elsewhere, as the aim of Music Generation Clare is to bring low cost tuition to as many primary school children as possible. From January 2018, Music Generation Clare are adapting their programmes and will be providing the same music lessons from their own centralised location after school hours. They will inform parents of these changes closer to that time. In addition, we welcome back Pádraig Rynne who will be teaching concertina, and Cian Daly who will be teaching guitar and percussion on Tuesday evenings after school. All our music lessons are heavily subsidised to make them affordable for all. We wish all our students every success and enjoyment in learning their instruments!

After the midterm, we will be preparing for our **Christmas Variety Show** so we will be welcoming all budding singers, dancers and musicians to audition in early November! Happy practicing!!!!

Home School Links:

Halloween Cake Sale: Our annual Halloween Cake Sale took place on Tuesday 24th October from 9am. We wish to thank all who supported this wonderful event, many thanks to the parents who contributed beautiful cakes and buns. This event was held to support our School Literacy Fund.



Penny Wars: We have concluded our Penny Wars fundraiser since Monday, October 23rd. We are delighted with the response to this initiative and are looking forward to seeing which 3 classes will win the pizza party for their class. Thank you.

Cash for Clobber: A huge thank you to all those who donated bags to the Cash for Clobber. The lorry collected a massive load on Friday morning weighing in at almost 1000kg! Well done everyone.

Parents' Gardening Group: Unfortunately storm Ophelia resulted in the first meeting of the gardening group being cancelled. We are rescheduling for Thursday 26th November at 11am. We would love as many parents as possible to join us. We will harvest some vegetables, save seeds and give the school garden a general tidy up after the recent bad weather.

October, Attendance Awareness Month: Well done to all the children and parents who made an extra special effort with punctuality and attendance this month. We aim to keep this up for the whole year. The children have taken part in competitions and raffles during school time also. The winners of these will be announced next week.

The Parent's Association AGM: took place on Wednesday night in the school café. There was a good turn out and we were delighted to welcome both new and familiar faces. Dr. Suzanne Parkinson, Educational Psychologist was a guest speaker who spoke about a child's learner identity from a parental perspective. Everyone found it most interesting. A new board of the Parent's Association was elected as follows:

Chairperson: Patricia Mulqueen.

Vice-Chairperson: Lilliana Lacka.

Secretary: Karine Hegarty.

Vice Secretary: Katie Maher.

Treasurer: Karen Berry.

Vice Treasurer: Marie Fitzpatrick.

Maths for Fun:

For the last two Mondays, my Mam and Dad and other parents came into Room 5 to help us with our work in Maths. We did a lot of fun activities. We made girls, boys, bunnies and hearts by folding paper into shapes like triangles, squares and rectangles. Then we had to listen carefully to cut the shapes in special ways. We also had a challenge to see if we could get our whole body through a piece of paper by folding and cutting. My favourite part was making the hearts.

Mahasin Abouebyda, 2nd Class/Room 5.



Boys Gaelic Football.

The boys on the HFSS team are Aaron Lynch, Seán O'Loughlin, Jim Delaney, Cillian Ryan, Cormac Maher, Calum Berry, Reece O'Donovan, Martin Delaney, Mark Reidy, Patrick Sherlock, Thomas Sherlock, TJ de Courcy Kiely, Daniel Jelenek and Saleem Ojulari. The first team we played was Mol an Oige, Ennistymon. We beat them 4-2 to 0-4. Our team was overjoyed with the result and we made it into the semi-finals. Our teachers told us not to get too excited because if we won this next game we would be top of our group. Our next match was against Cloughleigh N.S.. They beat us 2-8 to 2 points.

We were disappointed as we felt we got unlucky because we were tired after our first match. But we were still really happy because we got to the semi-finals anyway. Our semi-final match was against St. Senan's N.S. Shamon. The weather was good for the match on Friday, October 20th. Following a very tight match played in Newmarket on Fergus we were unlucky to lose out to St. Senan's National School, Shannon. By Cillian Ryan and Calum Berry.

After School Activities Halloween - Christmas 2017

Monday	Boys and Girls Hurling /Camogie. (2 nd - 6 th class) 2:45 - 3:30 pm
Tuesday	No after school activities.
Wednesday	Boys & Girls Soccer (2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th class) 2:45 - 3:30 pm Yoga (5 th & 6 th Boys & Girls - limited places) 2:45pm - 3:30pm
Thursday	Quiz (5 th & 6 th Boys & Girls) 2:45 - 3:30 pm
Friday	No after school activities

**Please note that the wearing of helmets is compulsory when playing hurling/camogie.
Helmets must meet IS: 355.**

The Football Match

On Wednesday October 18th the girls football team, accompanied by Ms Frawley and Ms Lillis, went on a bus to play our first match. We arrived at the pitch at around 12 mid-day. We were a bit late so we had to hurry and get ready. Crusheen were already warming up so we went for a run and did some stretches. We lined out. I was starting in midfield. The referee threw up the ball and the game started. The pitch was wet so it was hard to bounce the ball. Crusheen were tough and they got the first few scores. We had some chances but the ball went wide. Then we got it up the field and Vesta got two goals. Soon it was half time and we were down. After half time we went back out and we were ready to go. We fought hard but so did they. We got a few points but neither side got many scores and we were getting a bit tired. Soon it was all over. We were all a bit disappointed but everyone played really well. We are still through to the semi-finals which are due to be played in the very near future. By Caoimhe Ryan.



Freaky Fuel-Free Friday:

As part of the Green Schools travel initiative, we are aiming to reduce pollution and protect the environment by walking, cycling or parking and striding to school this Friday, 27th October. The council car parks in Ennis will offer free parking on Friday morning around school opening times in order to facilitate park and stride. On Friday, children can dress up for Halloween and come to school in an environmentally friendly way.

There are prizes for the class that makes the most effort to walk, cycle and park and stride. Please get involved as it is a fun way to help our environment.



*Happy Halloween.
Enjoy the midterm
and stay safe.*

