

Important dates for your diary:

School mass for the New Year: September 30th at 1.30 pm in the Cathedral. All parents and guardians are welcome.

Midterm 1st. Term: Monday 27th.- Friday 31st. October inclusive. Reopens on Monday 3rd. November @ 9 am.

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Friday December 19th @ 12 noon. **December 22nd.— 4th. January, 2015 inclusive.** Reopens on Monday 5th. January, 2015.

HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL

September 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

Principal's Desk:

Welcome back everyone. A special welcome to all our new pupils. We hope you have a very happy time in Holy Family Senior School. All of our pupils are well settled now, however, if you have any worries please be sure to talk to the class teacher or the HSCL coordinator. This time of year is a very busy one at school but it is really important that everyone has a good start.

Last year was a very successful year academically for our school. We reached the targets we had set in both Literacy and Numeracy. We are currently updating our School Self Evaluation Plan 2014-2015. In our School Improvement plan our main focus in Literacy is to raise our pupils Comprehension Skills and in Numeracy our focus is to develop the pupils standards in Problem Solving.

A lot of new initiatives have been put in place at all levels. It is such a pleasure to see the interest that the children have developed in reading and some of these new initiatives such as DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), Accelerated reading have enhanced this reading culture in our school. Please do encourage your child to talk to you about their reading as this will improve their comprehension and do join the local library.

All school policies and plans are available from time to time on our website and on boards throughout the school and in the front foyer. Parents/Guardians and pupils have been given the opportunity to contribute to these plans through the website, parents association meetings, questionnaires, focus groups and students council.

Last year our new *Anti Bullying Procedures* were put in place and these were made available on our website to all parents. We are a caring school and we are constantly updating our initiatives to ensure that pupils feel safe and happy in school. We believe a happy, confident and healthy child learns with ease so our pupils well being is always an area for development and concern for us. It is so important that you, as parents, communicate any difficulties your child may be having to their class teacher at an early stage. The pupils also have worry boxes in their classrooms if they wish to seek support from the adults in the school.

We, as a staff, look forward to working with you all again this year and hope the school year 2014-2015 is a happy and productive one for everyone,

Mrs Sarah Barnes.
Principal.

Music in The Holy Family:

Choir News -

HFSS choir takes place every Friday morning from 9:00-10:00 am. We welcome all our new choir members from 3rd class and new children to the school. We are currently preparing for the **Communion Enrolment Mass on Sunday Oct 12th @ 10:30 am in the Cathedral and for the Confirmation Enrolment Mass on Saturday 8th November @ 6:30 pm.** As always, full attendance is required and further details will be distributed closer to the dates.

Guitar lessons:

All 4th class students will commence a programme of **Guitar Tuition**, commencing on **Thursday September 25th** as part of their music curriculum.

HFSS has engaged Ennis Guitar School Director Michael Varden to run this programme for 4th class children.

Classes will be on a weekly basis during the school day on Thursdays. Home practice will not be required however if children have guitars it will improve their skills to practise in their leisure time. The cost of this project is €2.50 per week, which will be collected by your class teacher each Thursday.



The Sacraments Holy Communion

Date : May 16th 2014

Enrolment mass: October 12th at 10.30am

Talk for parents: Wednesday 8th October 7.30pm

Confirmation

Date: Saturday March 7th

Enrolment mass: November 7th

Talk for parents on Confirmation: November 5th

REMINDERS/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Do not walk under or through the front barrier entrance at any stage. Do not walk through the car parks. Follow the pedestrian signs.

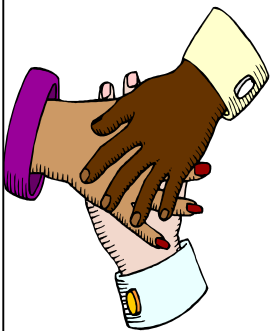
Home School Liaison News.

As a new school year begins we would like to welcome all our parents back, while also welcoming our new parents to the school. Our Home School Links Coordinators, Ms. Breege Hamel and Ms. Stacey Ryan both look forward to liaising with you over the coming year.



A free course in basic English is starting on Mondays in the Parents' Room from Monday 22nd September, 9 – 11 am. Please contact Breege or Stacey at 086 6040686 if you would like to book a place. This is an opportunity to improve your level of English in order to help your child at school.

Look out for other interesting courses which will be offered throughout the year. If there are courses you would like to see offered, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Throughout the year we look forward to meeting you all through other exciting initiatives such as Maths for Fun and Science for Fun. These initiatives provide an opportunity for parents to work with their children in the classroom in a fun and relaxed way.

We also have a very active Parents' Association and would always welcome new members to the team. Looking forward to a great school year ahead!

We currently have some uniforms left over from our recycling sale in June. They are being sold at a considerable low cost so please contact us if you require one for this term. A representative of the parents association will be taking over the management of this further on in the term.

Literacy Initiatives:

This year we have a new literacy initiative in the school. For ten minutes every day everyone one will "**Drop Everything And Read.**" (**DEAR**).

We feel this is a great way to encourage the children to read more widely and for developing a greater enjoyment in reading.

Parents can help us in supporting this initiative by enrolling your children in the local Library. Joining is free to Primary School Children and it is a fantastic way to get your children reading a variety of books.

Once they are members, children can withdraw up to four books at a time. We would hope to see these books used in school for their DEAR time.

It costs five Euro for an adult to join, so you never know you might get the reading bug too!



Changes in Personal Details:

A new school term brings many changes and I am sure that many of you have changed your address, telephone number or mobile numbers while we were on holiday.

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.



After Schools activities 2014/2015

Last year we had a very successful year in sport in Holy Family Senior School. In the area of GAA we reached two county finals, in athletics, we were **All Ireland Champions** in Sportshall Athletics, while in girls soccer we were county champions.

Every year we offer a huge amount of GAA sports and these will include hurling, camogie, boys football and girls football. These sports will be taken by a number of different teachers after school.

This year we will be offering even more sports and these will be happening at different times of the year. The other sports offered during the year will include boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, swimming and athletics. We also organise lunchtime leagues in the area of basketball and soccer for the senior classes. There will be competitions in each of these sports during the year. *It is hoped that as many children as possible will avail of these sports and everyone is encouraged to join.* We hope to organise rugby for sixth class boys this year.

- All children taking part in after schools activities must bring gear and change into it after school.
- A roll call will be taken at the beginning of each training session to keep track of children turning up to training and it is important that children commit to training for the year.
- If your child has to be collected early from training make sure to bring in note to inform teacher. If it is raining there will be no training and the children have to be collected as normal.

Hurleys and Helmets for Sale:

All classes will be involved in hurling/camogie during the year. There are hurleys and helmets for sale in the school office at very competitive rates. All children must have their own hurley and helmet. Please call in to Lucy in the office.

Skipping Ropes:

There are skipping ropes available to buy from Mr. O' Neill in Room 17 at the cost of €6 each.

Other after school activities:

We will have guitar lessons for third to sixth classes with Michael Varden in the hall on Thursdays.

Day/Time	Activity	Teachers in Charge
Monday 2.45 – 3.30	Girls Football 3rd – 6th	Mr. O' Neill, Miss Lillis & Mrs Vaughan.
Tuesday	No after schools activities	
Wednesday 2.45 – 3.30	Boys Football 3rd – 6th	Mr. Corbett, Mr. Bell & Mr. Ryan
Thursday 2.45 – 3.30	Guitar Lessons	Michael Varden
Friday 2.45 – 3.30	Boys Football Team Girls Football Team	Mr. O' Neill, Mr. Corbett, Miss Browne & Ronan Keane (G.A.A coach)

This timetable will change after Christmas and other sports will be offered in the new year. A schedule of all after schools activities is available from the office or class teacher.

