



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 coordinators. 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 2015-2016. We will also be looking at a new curriculum area for self-evaluation.

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.

I would like to welcome Liliana Lacka as the new Chairperson of the Parents' Association. I would encourage all parents to become involved in the parents' association as it's a lovely way to make new friends and become part of your child's school life.

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, approach the class teacher in the first instance if you have any worries or issues related to school or your child. We are always open to listen and help in any way possible.

May I please ask parents to ensure that they have paid their sundries before the end of September or else have set up a sincere payment plan? Unfortunately the school cannot manage without these funds and it is the responsibility of **all parents** to make an effort to pay for their child's sundries. We will be sending out bills at a later date.

Thank you for your continued support for our school. We, as a staff, look forward to working with you all again this year and hope the school year 2015 - 2016 is a happy and productive one for everyone.

Mrs Sarah Barnes.
Principal.

REMINDER/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.



HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL

September 2015

www.hfss.org

Contact HSCL - Breege or Stacey on 086 6040686.

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

Choir/Music News:



Auditions have taken place for anyone interested in joining the school choir from 3rd class and new children to our school and we were delighted with the enthusiastic response. Our choir rehearsals take place every Friday from 11.45 -12.30 pm.

If your child is a choir member, attendance at choir is of paramount importance. Roll calls will be taken at Masses and musical events.

- *For all choir events, please ensure that:*
 - ◆ *Your child is dressed in full uniform - grey uniform, with white knee socks and black shoes for girls and grey shirt and tie and black footwear for boy*
 - ◆ *No child is allowed to walk home from an evening event unaccompanied.*
 - ◆ *If a child is allowed to walk home from a day time event, a note must be provided.*
 - ◆ *Please arrange a safe collection point with your child after any musical event.*

Our Music Generation strings programme will resume next week for all 5th class children. We look forward to another wonderful year of music and song!

The Sacraments - Holy Communion & Confirmation.

Holy Communion: Date: Saturday May 21st. 2016.

Talk for Parents of Holy Communion Children: Wednesday September 17th in the Holy Family Cafeteria @ 8 pm.

Enrolment mass for Holy Communion: Sunday September 20th @ 12 noon.

Confirmation: Date: Saturday April 16th., 2016.

Confirmation Enrolment/Faith Friends dates to follow

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.



HOLY FAMILY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A warm welcome to all Parents and Guardians of all children of the Holy Family Junior and Senior Schools.

Special warm greetings are extended towards all new Parents and Guardians, who also become new members of the Holy Family Schools Parents' Association. I wish to thank sincerely all Parents and Guardians who generously devoted their time and shared their talents to help with Parents' Association activities the previous school year 2014/2015.

A special big thank you to Ann Waring and Tara McAuley who left Parents' Association Committee. Ann was extremely active, devoted, helpful and ever present for a great number of years. Thank you Ann! I also want to thank Tara for her eagerness and frequent volunteering with Parents' Association activities. Ann and Tara's children graduated from Holy Family Senior School last year. We wish them all the best in the future! I also wish to extend thank-you words to Linda Ward who always willingly helps with organizing all refreshment/reception events in the school. Thank you Linda! The 2014/2015 school year was very busy with events and activities organized in both schools with the help of active parents. We were involved in:

- serving refreshments to parents at introductory meetings about First Holy Communion, Confirmation, induction into Junior School and Senior School;
- helping in school calendar making (photo taking, printing and selling); making, adapting and sewing costumes for Christmas Show;
- decorating the Halla and helping and supervising on Christmas Show night; Christmas art and craft activities for Senior School children;
- Santa presents for Junior School children; helping with Christmas lunch at the school canteen;
- 50 years celebration Cake Sale; 50 years celebration Gala Concert (decorating school grounds, cafe, reception);
- helping at the Book Fair in the Junior School;
- providing gifts for Second Class children and organizing food reception after First Holy Communion Mass;
- organizing gifts for 6th class students and Graduation Night reception;
- Easter treats for Pre-school kids, Junior and Senior School children;
- helping with supervision on Sports Day in both schools.

Plans for the 2015/2016 school year are plentiful and versatile. We are hoping that many parents will be willing to give their time to help out in the running of activities and events for the benefit of all our children. The first Parents' Association meeting will take place on Thursday 24th September 2015 @ 9 in the morning in the Parents Room in Holy Family Senior School building. Everyone is welcome!

Kind regards, Liliana Lacka - Chairperson

Band:

Our school band starts back on Friday September 11th. We have auditioned new members and are delighted to welcome 15 new members to our band. If your child plays an instrument and has not auditioned please ask him/her to call over to the Cafeteria on Friday @ 11.15 am. We look forward to a productive year ahead in band.



Maths: This year we have opted for a new, curriculum-centered Maths programme called Planet Maths. This programme incorporates the best methodologies to teach Maths in the primary school.

It presents a 21st century approach to Maths and includes features such as real-life maths sections, integrated resources and differentiated material. This initiative also includes numerous digital resources to support pupil learning, oral and mental maths to improve mental arithmetic in the school and has an extensive area in assessment to support individual evaluation of pupil learning. We hope that this programme will further aid the already very high standard of Maths in our school.





After Schools activities 2015/2016

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 while in athletics we were **All Ireland Champions** in Sportshall Athletics. 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.

- 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 a note to inform the teacher. **If it is raining there will be no training and the children have to be collected as normal.**

Hurleys and Helmets for Sale: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th 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.

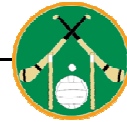
Gumshields: Gumshields must be worn for Gaelic football at all times. Gumshields are available to buy in any local sports shop. We have a small supply in the office at present.

Other after school activities:

We will have quiz on Thursday evenings. A schedule of all after schools activities is available from the office.

Please note that soccer on Thursday is for 4th to 6th class boys and girls. Soccer for children in 2nd & 3rd class will be offered later in the year.

Monday	Girls' Football (2 nd – 6 th class) 2:45 – 3:30 pm (Mr. Brennan, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Frawley, Ms. Kilbane)
Tuesday	No after school activities Teacher's meeting times
Wednesday	Boys' Football (2 nd – 6 th class) 2:45 – 3:30 pm (Mr. Ryan, Mr. Bell, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Cooney)
Thursday	Quiz 2:45 – 3:30 pm Ms. Browne & Ms. Hamel Soccer (4 th – 6 th class Boys & Girls) 2:45 – 3:30pm Mr. Eade, Mr. Cooney, Ms. Kilbane
Friday	Gaelic Football – Boys & girls 2:45 – 3:30pm Ronan Keane (GAA coach), Ms. Frawley, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Bell



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. You will find Breege and Stacey in the Parents' Room or on the Yard in the morning. **Drop in to the Parents' Room** if you would like to talk to them or they can also be contacted at 086 6040686. A number of courses for parents will be offered during the year. These

courses are free and are a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills in a relaxed and friendly environment.

We are now offering a course in Computers. The course is entitled Basic Computers For Back to Work. You will learn about CV preparation, interview skills and basic IT skills. If interested please phone Breege or Stacey to book your place.

We are delighted that a number of parents have decided to continue with the English Language classes which they started last year and are now working at a more advanced level. We also hope to start a Beginners English language class very soon. Look out for this and other interesting courses.

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.

The **Afterschool club** is open to all parents. There is a charge for this facility but reductions are available for qualifying people. Please contact Lara at the Afterschool club for further information. Looking forward to a great school year ahead!

Calendar - School Year 2015 - 2016.

<u>School Reopens:</u>	<i>Monday 31st. August, 2015 @ 9 am.</i>
<u>Midterm 1st. Term:</u>	<i>Monday 26th. - Friday 30th. October, 2015 inclusive. Reopens on Monday 2nd. November @ 9 am.</i>
<u>Christmas Holidays:</u>	<i>School closes on Tuesday 22nd December @ 12 noon. December 23rd 2015 - 5th. January, 2016 inclusive. Reopens on Wednesday 6th January, 2016 @ 9am.</i>
<u>Midterm 2nd. Term:</u>	<i>Thursday & Friday 18th & 19th February, 2016.</i>
<u>Easter Holidays:</u>	<i>School closes on Wednesday 16th March, 2016 @ 12 noon. St. Patrick's Day, March 17th., 2016. March 18th.- April 3rd., 2016 inclusive. School reopens on Monday April 4th., 2016 @ 9am.</i>
<u>Midterm 3rd Term:</u>	<i>School closed from Monday 2nd - 6th. May, 2016 inclusive. School reopens on Monday 9th. May, 2016 @ 9am.</i>
<u>Bank Holiday:</u>	<i>School closed on Friday 3rd. June & Monday June 6th., 2016.</i>
<u>Summer Holidays:</u>	<i>Thursday 30th. June, 2016 @ 12 noon.</i>

Active School Flag.

This year Holy Family Senior School is looking forward to our school being recognised as an Active School and the raising of our Active School Flag. An Active School is a school that strives to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. Over the past two years the school community has come up with many innovative initiatives and easy ways to improve our PE lessons and to energise the school day. Last year we placed a greater emphasis on encouraging children to join sports clubs after school and in our local community. At the beginning of this school year, we renew our appeal to encourage our children to participate in clubs that promote physical activity. For more information on after school activities or information on local clubs please contact your class teacher.

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

Green Schools:



As we were awarded our 4th Green Flag in June, we are now moving on to a new theme - Biodiversity. Biodiversity is our life support system. It is the variety of all life forms on Earth, from the tiniest bugs living in the soil to the butterflies in our gardens, the plants they feed from, and the biggest whales in the sea. Biodiversity will be an exciting and challenging new theme, which we will be embarking on for the next two years. We will be following the seven steps of the Green Schools programme in reaching our goals. A new Green Schools committee will be set up in the first term to plan for the Biodiversity theme. We look forward to exploring this new theme and working towards our 5th. Green flag.

