

Important dates for your diary:

Opening of School Year Mass: Tuesday September 19th.

Staff Meeting: Monday September 25th. Children go home at 12.30 pm.

Midterm: Monday October 30th to Friday November 3rd. inclusive. School will reopen on Monday November 6th @ 9am.

Christmas Holidays: School will close at 12 noon on Friday 22nd December. School will reopen on Monday January 8th. @ 9 am.

Confirmation Talk for Parents: Thursday September 28th. @ 7.30 pm in the Cafeteria.

First Holy Communion Talk for Parents: Monday October 2nd. @ 7.30 pm in the Cafeteria.

Confirmation: Saturday 14th. April, 2018.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 26th. May, 2018.

HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL

September, 2017.

www.hfss.org



Contact HSCL - Barbara Buckley/Shane Griffin
on 0866040686

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

A message from The Principal...

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a lovely Summer break with your families and friends. I want to extend a special welcome to all of our new pupils and families. We hope you have a very happy time in Holy Family Senior School. All of our pupils and staff are well settled back now. September is a busy month here at HFSS but also a very productive one. It is very important that everyone has a good start back and has everything they need for class i.e. books, copies, pencils and pens and correct uniform.

If you have any concerns, questions or worries please speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance or with our Home School Liaison coordinators - Barbara and Shane.

September is also a month for all our extra-curricular activities, choir, band, music/sports initiatives to resume. Most are mentioned on this newsletter and other details will be communicated to you in due course.

May I please ask parents to ensure that they have paid their sundries before the end of September or else have set up a payment plan with the office. Unfortunately, our school cannot manage without these vital funds.

I want to welcome Sinead Boland and Rachelle Robbins to our teaching staff, both of whom have worked with us before and to welcome back Majella Lillis from her time away from us. I also want to extend best wishes to Sarah Barnes, Principal, on her year's secondment and to wish her well on behalf of all the HFSS community.

Hugh Connolly will be taking over as Acting Principal and Antoinette Loftus as Acting Deputy Principal when I go on maternity leave at the end of the month and will be happy to help you with any concerns you may have during the year. In the meantime, for the short time I am here, I look forward to working with you the parents, our wonderful staff and exceptional boys and girls, who make Holy Family Senior School such a special and wonderful place to be. We look forward to a happy, productive and exciting school year ahead and to working with you and your child. With sincere thanks for your continued support for our school.

Jillian Bridge, (Acting Principal).

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.



Active School Flag: Two years ago Holy Family Senior School was awarded the Active School Flag for the many initiatives to promote physical activity and a healthier lifestyle in our school community. In the coming weeks we will be forming a new Active School Committee where children's ideas will be gathered to see how we can further energise the school day. One initiative that was a huge success in the past two years was the Morning Walk/Run where teachers, parents and pupils come together each dry morning to walk or run for 10 minutes before the school bell rings from 8:50 - 9:00 am. Teachers observed how children were more alert in class and it was fantastic to see how the children's physical fitness improved as they completed longer distances as the year progressed. There will also be the added incentive this year of extra P.E time for the class who has the most participants on a weekly basis. So please join with us and encourage your children to partake and see what an energetic start to the day can do for all of us! The start of the school year is a great time for children to engage in the vast array of after school activities that the school offers but also to join local clubs in the Ennis community. If your child has an interest in joining a particular sport or activity please contact Mr. Brennan in Room 5 for information on contact details or training times for that activity.

REMINDER/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: Please do not walk under or through the front barrier entrance at any stage and do not walk through the car parks. Follow the pedestrian signs at all times. Thank you.





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 Barbara Buckley and Shane Griffin look forward to liaising with you over the coming year. You will find Barbara and Shane in the Parents' Room or on the Yard in the mornings. Drop in to the Parents' Room if you would like to talk to them & they can also be contacted on **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 **Yoga**. Parents will be invited to explore the art of mindfulness, yoga, health & the power of a positive mind. The course begins on Monday, September 11th in Room 11 in the Senior School (beside Parents' Room).

We are delighted that our English tutor Olwyn Griffin will return to provide **English classes** for parents this year. She will hold these classes in the Parents' Room from Wednesday 13th September from 9 - 12. We would encourage last year's group to return and continue from where they left off. Beginners will be catered for also and Olywn and ourselves look forward to welcoming you. Contact Barbara/Shane for more details.

We had a very productive year last year in our new **Woodwork** room. Parents and students were involved in constructing bird boxes, flower boxes, herb pallets and a beautiful garden bench. We also have a wood turning lathe and some dads turned wooden dolls that the children painted. This room is a great place for parents to get to express their creative talents with their children in a safe environment. All are welcome for one hour on a Monday and Tuesday morning from 9 -10 am. 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.

Please feel free to pop into us in the Parents' Room if you have any queries.

Looking forward to a great school year ahead!

After School Activities for September & October, 2017.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Boys' & Girls' Gaelic Football (2 nd - 6 th class) 2:45 - 3:30 pm	No after school activities	Boys' & Girls' Soccer (2 nd & 3 rd class) 2:45 - 3:30 pm Yoga (4 th & 5 th Boys & Girls -limited places)	Quiz 2:45 - 3:30 pm	Hurling /Camogie Boys & Girls 2:45 - 3:30pm
All after school activities end at 3.30pm.				

Please note that the wearing of gum shields is compulsory for anybody playing Gaelic football. Gum shields can be purchased at any sports shop and are not expensive. Helmets must be worn when playing hurling.

Choir/Music News:

The halls of HFSS are once again filled with melody and music! Auditions took place last week for anyone interested in joining the school choir from 3rd class and any new children to our school. We were delighted with the enthusiastic response. Every Friday from 11.45 -12.30 pm, choir rehearsals take place. Being a member of our school choir is a wonderful experience, and it is of paramount importance that every child attends all events. Roll calls will be taken at Masses and musical events, and failure to attend (2 absences) may result in a child losing his/her place to someone on our waiting list for choir.

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 boys.
- 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.

Graham Keane continues to lead our rock band every Friday and he too has welcomed some new faces to his group. We would be delighted if you would like to donate any old instruments you may have at home that are in good working condition, particularly guitars, concertinas and drum kits. Please liaise with our HSCL coordinators Barbara and Shane who will happily take any kind donations of instruments! We look forward to another wonderful year of music and song!

