

### Important dates for your diary


**School Closed:** Friday 26th Oct for Presidential Election  
**Midterm:** Monday October 29th to Friday November 2nd.  
**Christmas Holidays:** Closing at 12 Friday 21st Dec – reopening Jan 7th  
**Confirmation Talk for Parents:** Parish Centre Thurs 27th Sept @ 7.30  
**First Holy Communion Talk for Parents:** Parish Centre Thurs Oct 18th @ 7.30 pm.  
**Confirmation:** Saturday 6th April 2019 @ 11 am  
**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 18th. May, 2019 @ 11 am.  
**2nd. Midterm:** Feb 18th to 22nd. School closed.  
**Bank Holiday:** March 18th. School closed.  
**Friday May 31st 2019:** School will be open.

## HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL

Newsletter Sept. 2018



*Contact HSCL - Barbara Buckley/Shane Griffin  
on 0866040686*

Click on the website regularly to find out what is happening in school. [www.hfss.org](http://www.hfss.org) Follow us on 

### Principal's Message

Dear Families, We welcome back all our students for the coming year. It is so lovely to see how much your children have grown and changed over the summer. Our teachers are working hard to create a rich learning environment for all students. Student success is a shared responsibility between the school staff, students and parents. As we work with our students to help them learn about the world around them, we very much appreciate the support that parents give their children at home as they strive to reach their learning goals. The foundation of a successful school is the cooperation between the students, staff, parents and community. For information on the school please refer to the school website [www.hfss.org](http://www.hfss.org) regularly, and follow us on Facebook at Holy Family Senior School Ennis. Please check your child's school bag and homework journal for notes. We will be rolling out Aladdin Connect so we can communicate with you better so make sure you download the App from Google Play Store and Apple App Store. Wishing you and your families an exciting school year. Best Wishes, Hugh Connolly.

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

As an Active School Flag holder, Holy Family Senior School strives to make our school community more physically active and aware. Over the course of the year there will be a number of initiatives introduced to help our pupils achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity everyday. Up until the mid term break, we encourage children to arrive to school at 8:50 on dry mornings for 10 minutes of exercise before the school bell rings. At the start of the school year we always encourage our pupils to attend our activities on our after schools programme. It is also a great time to join a local sports club or organisation. If your child has an interest in a particular activity and would like to join a club please contact your class teacher and we will give you contact details or training times to help get them up and running.



Suggested Family Activity: 5 km Parkrun every Sat @ 9.30 in Lee's Rd. It's free/Register before 1st run and bring your printed barcode with you. Suitable for novice to experienced runners.



### 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.

### Uniform

Please make sure your child has the correct school uniform coming to school. If your child cannot wear the uniform for whatever reason, send a note to your child's class teacher and we will give your child a clean uniform for the school day.



### Music News: A busy and musical start to our new school year.

Music Generation classes are up and running now with our 4th and 5th class students studying the violin each Thursday with Ciaran Collins and Dr. Annina Ahola. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child on so many levels and is in keeping with the Sing out with Strings programme that has been extremely successful in schools across Limerick and has links with the Irish Chamber Orchestra of Ireland. We are so grateful that Music Generation Clare have included us in such a worthwhile project. Please ensure fees of €2.50 are paid to class teachers each Thursday.

We also have Music Generation after school classes in progress every Tuesday afternoon. This year we have lessons in ukulele, concertina, guitar and drums. Ukulele classes have proven very popular and it is a very easy instrument to learn and progress quickly. Our Music Generation Clare tutors for these instruments are Pdraig Rynne and Marty Ryan. Pdraig teaches out of our staffroom and Marty from our Parents Room. Because of the popularity of studying an instrument at school, we have also got Graham Keane, our Rock Band tutor to teach extra classes in ukulele and drums.

More Music News

Graham's lessons are now up and running and are proving hugely popular. Having a knowledge of how to play an instrument is a life long skill that can take you anywhere and is above all...fun!

Fees for Music Generation after school classes and for Graham Keane's classes are payable to Ms. Bridge in Room 12 each Monday @ 2:15 pm and Tuesday @ 2:15 pm. If you are interested in your child learning any of the instruments mentioned above, please call the office and his/her name will be placed on a waiting list. Please take note of what instrument your child is studying and what day their lesson is on - a letter went home to each child involved in after school music lessons but there is still a bit of confusion amongst the children. All details are on the letter of your child's individual lessons. Concertinas, guitars, ukuleles and accordions have been given out to many children now. Please ensure that these instruments are minded well. They are the property of Music Generation Clare and Holy Family Senior School and are quite expensive to buy. We really don't want to be billing any family for the cost of a broken instrument. Children are allowed to bring them home to practise and progress on, but like all instruments they are fragile and need to be handled with care. Ms. Bridge will do audits and check the instruments regularly and will recall all instruments at the end of the school year. Holy Family School Choir, Trad band and Rock band are also back to rehearsals, with an exciting year planned and many performance opportunities ahead. Please ensure your child brings his/her instrument to school on Fridays for these rehearsals.



**After School Activities for September & October, 2018.**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Boys' & Girls' Gaelic Football (2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> class) 2:45 - 3:30 pm	No after school Activities.	Boys' & Girls' Athletic. (3rd - 6th class) 2:45 - 3:30 pm  Yoga (5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls - limited places)	Soccer (5th & 6th Class boys & Girls)  Quiz: 2:45 - 3:30 pm	No after school activities.
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.

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 and 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 will be running an **Incredible Years Parent Course** in the Parents' Room this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to learn about the programme and to experience the range of Incredible Years methodologies and tips that teachers have been trained to use in the classroom. It is a certified course and will run for 14 weeks on a Tuesday Morning from 10-12:30. We will have an initial Coffee Morning in the Parents' Room on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October for you to find out more information, sign up, ask questions etc. Spaces are limited so please ring Barbara/Shane to book your place.

We had a very productive year last year in our **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 Tuesday morning from 9 -10am.

Our **Gardening Group** will meet this Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, at 9:05am in the School Garden. We will harvest some vegetables and give the garden a little face lift to get things underway for the year ahead. We would love your help and very much look forward to developing the garden further this year.

We have a new **Walking Group** starting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October. We will meet at the Parents' Room and go on varied routes each week. All levels of fitness catered for. We will return to the Parents' Room afterwards for a coffee and a chat. We are running **Cash for Clobber** again this term. This is a great way of decluttering your wardrobes, hot presses etc. while fundraising for the school. We are accepting bagged donations of clothes, sheets, curtains, blankets, shoes, belts etc. (No duvets, pillows or stuffed toys) from now until **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October** when the collection will be made. All donations can be dropped to the school office. 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!



