



Holy Family NS, Newsletter October 2023

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents/Guardians & Children,

It has been a very busy start to the year and so lovely to see all the enthusiasm and fun taking place around the school. The staff have been welcoming, taking the time to build relationships with the children they are working with. The school is growing but even though we have increased in size, the warm welcoming feeling of our Holy Family school remains. Welcome to new pupils, their parents and new members of staff. Tá fáilte romhaibh!

Our Junior Infants and new pupils have settled into our school beautifully and I wish to congratulate them on their efforts to learn and integrate here, it's like they've always been a part of our school community.

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Halloween break and remind all our pupils to stay safe, particularly where fireworks or sparklers may be in use. Most of all enjoy the fun!!!

Board of Management

Our Board of Management are coming to an end of their current term. The term they served on the Board was from 2019 to the end of next month. During their term they have overseen some huge changes to our school. Enrolment has increased by almost 25%, the staff has increased by over 50%, we have added our wonderful Rock Hub to our school, the addition of a new sensory room, climbing wall, yard upgrades, a significant increase the technology available to the children and our school status has changed to Deis. This is just a snippet of the work and support the Board of Management give so that our pupils will have the best primary school experience possible.

We wish to thank Canon Munster, Mary McGinley, Marie McCready, Bernie Gillespie, Liam Travers, Sonya Davis and Andrea Maguire for their governance and dedication to our school.

Parents Association News

The Parents' Association AGM took place on Tuesday and the following parents were elected to the committee. I wish to thank everyone on the outgoing committee for all their hard work and support. I'd also like to wish our new committee every success for

the coming year.





My name is Anita Mc Ginn and I am the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) in Holy Family National School.

The HSCL recognises parents and guardians as the primary educators of their children. The aim of the HSCL is to promote partnership between home, school and the wider community to ensure each child is supported to reach their full potential and ensure a positive learning experience.

Some activities undertaken by the HSCL are:

Home Visits. A chance to talk over any questions or concerns you may have.

Organisation of in-school activities and classes for parents/guardians.

Advising and supporting parents/guardians on education related issues

Encouraging cooperation between home, school and community groups

Supporting transitions from pre school to primary and from primary to post primary

Our first term has been a wonderful success.

I would like to thank all parents and guardians for getting involved in our school activities.

Thank you to the infant parents/guardians for attending the 'Starting homework/Seesaw' talk and for the huge support you have given the 'Bedtime book Library'.

Thank you all for supporting the school book fair and for donating so generously to our Halloween costume collection.

Thank you to the amazing Parents' association for suggesting the Christmas Cards for school.

A very special thanks to everyone who welcomed me into their homes.

If you would like to contact me my phone number is 083 0094276 or email mrsmcginn@holyfamilyballyshannon.ie

Music Programme



We are delighted to participate in the Donegal Music Partnership in Schools Programme again this year. Brian O'Sullivan is our tutor and 4th, 5th and 6th Classes are learning ukulele with him again this year.

Cycle Bus

The Cycle Bus was in action twice this half term and though the weather didn't allow for us to be out as much as we

wanted, they were two wonderful mornings. We hope you will join us again during the Spring!



Online Applications



Homework continues to be set on Seesaw and Google Classroom. Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs McGinn if you are having any difficulty accessing the apps.

School Uniform

Every child in our school is expected to adhere to our uniform policy. Our uniforms are not crested and can be purchased easily. Uniform checks will take place in every class after midterm break.

The uniform for normal school days is a navy jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan, white shirt, navy trousers/skirt/pinafore and a red tie.

The uniform for P.E days ONLY is navy tracksuit bottoms, navy sweatshirt, white polo shirt.

***Hoodies are not part of our uniform**

***Leggings are not part of our uniform**

***Some allowances may be granted for children who have sensory issues AND a HSE professional recommendation following consultation with the school.**

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent-Teacher meetings will take place on the 14th & 15th November. **All classes will finish at 1:45 on both days.** We can't wait to meet everyone face to face this year. There will be tea and coffee available to parents in the Library with Mrs McGinn.



Payment Links

All payments to the school continue to be received via payment links. The link can be sent to you via email or text message. When you receive a link, please click on it to view what the payment is for and further instructions on how to pay. Please

contact the office if you have any difficulty using the payment links or need an extension for your payment. We will assist families in any way we can. Thank you to everyone who has paid for activities through this system this term.

Holy Sacraments:

The sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place on 11th May at 11pm in St. Joseph's Church in Ballyshannon.

The sacrament of Confirmation will take place on 25th May at 11pm in the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Bundoran. We wish the children every blessing during their preparation.



Wainfest

Many classes enjoyed trip to the Abbey Centre to see performances and 5th and 6th class participated in a Drama workshop in Bundoran Library as part of the Wainfest celebrations.



Active Schools:

On the 21st of September pupils from 3rd- 6th represented our school at the Cross Country Event in Donegal town. Everyone had a very enjoyable day and a big thank you to Tír Chonaill A.C. for organising this day.



During term one, boys and girls from 3rd -6th have been doing hurling training every Thursday after school. They have all made good progress with their ball handling and hurling skills and the Poc Fada competition was a firm favourite!

Green School Flag

Our Green School theme for this year is Water. We made a fantastic start on this theme last year and we continue to work on the theme of litter and waste.

Mr Sweeny's class took part in our first litter pick of the year and made a huge difference to the area around our school. Thank you to fifth and sixth class!

Our cycle bus is up and running and although the weather has not been in our favour this term it was fantastic to see such a huge turn out and have so many parents/guardians supporting the children.

We continue to monitor our classroom and school bins. We continue to recycle and reuse whenever possible.

The Green school team would like to thank all those who donated a costume or collected a costume from our Halloween drive. Remember it can be lots of fun to make your own from recycled materials at home.

We wish you all a very Happy Halloween!



Amber Flag

Holy Family N.S. is committed to maintaining our Amber Flag status by being involved in promoting positive mental health in our school. There are a number of ongoing initiatives this year including Friendship Week, and The Cycle Bus and Walk On Wednesday projects .



Maths Week

Maths week was full of wonderful maths activities. Ms Mullaney organised maths competitions, congratulations to our winners: Kaillum, Hugh, Maia, Eimear, Katie, Willow and Holly. You can see some of the fun that took place around the school during maths week in the following video:

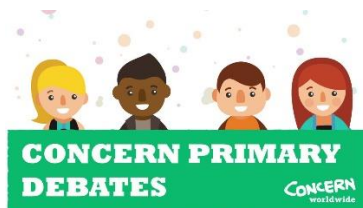
[Maths Week 23 - YouTube](#)

Halloween Celebrations

Horror Hall, Disco & Dress Up: We will celebrate Halloween this Friday by dressing up and having a school disco in aid of “Trick or Treat for sick children” and our Parent’s Association. This was a very successful fundraiser last year and it’s close to our hearts here in Holy Family NS.

Mr Sweeny’s Class have also been preparing an extra spooky treat for the children, they will invite the rest of the school to travel down their Horror Hall, if they dare!!

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal: The Shoe Box Appeal is back! Ms McGinn will be co-ordinating the collection of Shoe Boxes again this year. They will be collected on **Friday 10th November** so if you are planning to participate, you might like to start gathering materials over the mid-term break. Every family received a leaflet this week. Shoe boxes can be brought in to your child’s class teacher when they are ready.

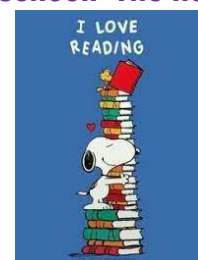


Children from Mr Sweeny’s Class have been preparing to debate in the Concern Primary school’s debating competition. They enjoyed their mock debate this week and we look forward to hearing their arguments in the competition.

Book Fair

It was wonderful to see our pupils enjoy visiting the Book Fair again this year. You’re never lonely when you have a good book! Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Fair. As a result the school will receive vouchers to the value of over €1300 to purchase even more books for our school. The new books

will be available for your children to enjoy in their classes.



News from the Classes!

Please click on the following links to view the class sections on our website.

Ms Martin Junior Infants:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/junior-infants---ms-martin.html>

Mullaney Senior Infants

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/senior-infants---ms-mullaney.html>

Ms McNally Junior Rock Hub

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/rock-hub-1---ms-mc-nally.html>

Mr McGroary 1st Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/1st-class---mr-mc-groary.html>

Mr. Breslin 2nd Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/2nd-class---mrs-curranmr-breslin.html>

Mr. Foley 3rd Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/3rd-class---mr-foley.html>

Ms Curran 4th & 5th Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/4th-5th--ms-curran.html>

Mr Sweeny 5th & 6th Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/5th-6th--mr-sweeny.html>

Ms Brennan, Rock Hub

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/rock-hub-2---ms-brennan.html>

Ms Sweeney, SET

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/set-ms-sweeney.html>

Ms Maguire, SET

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/set-ms-maguire.html>

Dates to Remember:

- **School Re-opens Monday 6th November**
- **Parent-Teacher Meetings 14th & 15th November, all classes go home at 1:45pm both days.**
- **Friday 22nd December, school closes for Christmas holidays at 12:30.**

Remember to check out our website & social media:

www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie

Instagram:

Holy Family NS Ballyshannon

Twitter:

@HolyFamilyNS_

and to like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Elementary-School/Holy-Family-National-School-443493775761145/>

Wishing you all a Happy Halloween!