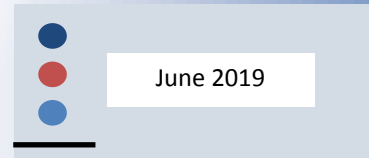




Holy Family Senior National School

NEWSLETTER



Thank You

Thank you to the Parents' Association for their wonderful support of the school this year. We really appreciate the time and effort that the members put into fundraising; circulating information to the parent body and raising awareness through the information talks that they organise. They also provide refreshments for parents after many school events and they represent the parents on our School Community Committee. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact the Parents' Association by email: holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com

We would like to thank Woodies in Airside for donating a big box of bulbs to the school.

The Parents' Association has set up a successful School Uniform Donation Initiative. They would be delighted to receive any unwanted, clean and in good condition school shirts, jumpers, cardigans, trousers, skirts, polo shirts, tracksuits, ties or school jackets. This supply of uniforms allows us to provide or loan spare articles of uniform to other Holy Family pupils where necessary. The Parents' Association also sells these uniform items at reasonable prices at their events throughout the year. At the end of this year, anyone who would like to donate uniforms (clean and in good condition please) can do so by dropping them to the secretary's office.

Through the School Community Committee, we are trying to revamp our entrance and main corridor. We are hoping to develop some of our outside space next year. We are always in need of help for different projects! If you can volunteer any skills or talents that you have to making the school a better place for everyone, could you please email us at: secretary@holyfamilysns.ie

I would like to thank the teachers and S.N.A. staff for all their work throughout the year. The teachers and S.N.A. team give so much of their own time to extra initiatives that we organise in the school:

- The School Community Committee
- The Green Team
- PlayWorks
- Cross Country/ G.A.A. Hurling and Football/ Soccer/Basketball teams
- Quiz Teams
- Corfheile/Peace Proms/Talent Show
- Wellbeing week
- Dyslexia Ambassadors Programme
- Cyclerright
- Rainbows
- Large range of After School Clubs

Also a big thank you to Anne and Kate in the office and to Paddy and Willie, our Caretakers.

Dates for your Diary

6th Class Graduation

Wednesday 26th June at 11am
in St. Finian's Church

School Holidays for

2019/2020

- ⇒ **School starts Thursday 29th August 2019**
- ⇒ October Midterm: School closed Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2019
- ⇒ Christmas: Close at 12pm on Friday 20th December 2019 and reopen on Monday 6th January 2020
- ⇒ February Midterm: School closed Thursday 20th & Friday 21st February 2020
- ⇒ St Patrick's Weekend: School closed Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th March 2020
- ⇒ Easter Holidays: Close at 12pm on Friday 3rd April and reopen on Monday 20th April 2020
- ⇒ May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th May
- ⇒ June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd June 2020
- ⇒ Finish for summer holidays at 12pm on Tuesday 30th June 2020

Dyslexia Ambassadors' Update

Our Student Ambassadors for Dyslexia, of News2Day and RTÉ Six One News fame, will soon be completing their awareness mission for this school year.

They have worked very hard visiting each class to deliver an interactive presentation focused on spreading greater awareness about this learning difference among their peers. We are extremely proud of them all. Our student ambassador initiative was set up by teacher Peter Madden and we thank him for all his awareness raising work with children and staff.

The S.N.A. and teaching staffs of both the Junior and Senior schools attended an information evening led by Donald Ewing of the Dyslexia Association of Ireland. We also welcomed some staff from neighbouring schools to this event .

As we move towards the new academic year of 2019/2020 we look forward to continuing to support the learning needs of all our pupils in Holy Family SNS.

Parnell Park



After a very successful group stage, winning all 5 of the group games, the Junior Boys Football Team reached the final of the Fingal League. They came up against a very tough opposition in Gaelscoil na Cille from Ashbourne and the two teams looked very evenly matched throughout. Holy Family, through some well taken scores and outstanding defending, went into half time 4 points to nil up. After the break Gaelscoil na Cille came flying out of the blocks and nicked an early goal which put Holy Family in the back foot and unfortunately we never really regained control. Despite fighting hard and giving their all the Boys came up just short and lost the game by a point. It was an incredibly disappointing result after what had been the most successful year in many for the school but the boys can be very proud of their efforts this year and have done themselves and the school extremely proud!





Rainbows is a free, voluntary service for young people experiencing loss following bereavement or parental separation. This year we supported 28 young people. We had two bereavement groups and two separation groups. The groups met weekly with two facilitators per group over a nine week period. In October 2018 we were

fortunate to have seven teachers volunteer for training over three weekends and in May 2019 we had a further five teachers who completed their training. We are very proud to have such a dedicated and supportive team of facilitators in our school.

As facilitators we are humbled and privileged to work with such wonderful young people and we are thankful for the trust their parents and guardians have placed in us. In November 2018 we had our first Rainbows Information Evening for parents. We had a slideshow to explain the Rainbows Programme followed by a question and answer session. It was very well attended. We also had our first end of programme meeting in February 2019. Parents had the opportunity to ask further questions and offer suggestions about improving the programme. Parents were also given evaluation forms to complete, to give us feedback about their child's experience of Rainbows. Thank you to all of the parents who completed evaluation forms. The feedback has been very positive.

Localise, which is a youth volunteering group in River Valley invited me to one of their meetings in February to talk about Rainbows. They subsequently decided to have a cake sale to raise money for Rainbows in Holy Family S.N.S. We were absolutely delighted to receive 365 euro which will be used to train new facilitators. We would like to express our appreciation for the hard work involved in the fundraising and a special thanks to Siobhan Leonard for coordinating the cake sale.

A special thanks to our wonderful team of facilitators, especially Ms. Nolan, Rainbows Deputy Coordinator and to Ms. Gowen and Ms. Curran for all their support for the Rainbows team.

Miriam Kearney

Rainbows Coordinator and Facilitator.



Thank You

We recently carried out a survey to gather information about the knowledge and opinions of our school community around the use of digital technology.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who participated in the survey.

Cycling

Mr Tommy Duffy is a Cycle Ireland Right instructor. He has been running a safe cycling programme with all 6th class students in Holy Family SNs for the last 29 years.



On Thursday 20th June, he will be running a cycle course for parents and students from 5pm to 6:30pm. This will take place on the basket ball yard in the school. This evening course is an initiative of Cycle Ireland and the Road Safety Authority. The course is completely free of charge but is limited to ten parents and ten children. The course will cover practical safety measures for cycling on the road with your child. Parents and children must have bikes and helmets to participate. Please contact Mr Duffy (0860611656) as soon as possible to reserve your place.

Our experience with Localise:

We are a group of 6th class students who were chosen to participate in the Localise Volunteer for All Award programme.

The first day we had a meeting. Everyone introduced themselves to Sean, who was our Localise co-ordinator. After we introduced ourselves, we brainstormed some ideas about what teamwork meant.

We were put into groups of four and we each got a lemon. Each pupil had to pick a lemon from a bag and we had to study it to remember what it looked like. After this Sean took all our lemons and put them back in the bag. Then we had to find our own lemon..... The whole point of the lesson was that we are all the same, but we have different features.

The week after the lemons, Ms Walsh called us up to her room. She put us all into groups of four people. She gave us questionnaires to give out to students and teachers. We each had a different year group. Each student had to fill out the questionnaire and then the teachers and SNAs were given questionnaires too. The point of the questionnaire was to find out what kind of volunteering was already happening in our school and to see just how diverse our school community was. We had a few meetings throughout the process of doing this project.

On the last week, we had a meeting in the computer room with Ms. Walsh and Sean and we discussed and created our school charter for volunteering.

At assembly in April, we invited our parents to come and see us being presented with our Volunteering For All Award.

We took picture for our school website and after assembly we had a little party.

We loved our time volunteering with Localise.



Rivervalley Localise



Localise youth volunteering challenges young people to come together and make a difference in their local community by being of service to others.

On Sunday April 28th, the young mentors from Rivervalley Localise held a "Connect with Coffee and Cake" morning in St. Finian's church. This event was dual purpose. Firstly the young mentors wanted to reach out and connect to members of the community by inviting them to have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. They also wanted to make a contribution to a local group by fundraising for them. After lots of discussion they decided that Rainbows, Holy Family SNS, would be the perfect group to help and so a cake sale would also take place on the day. It was a very successful day and they were delighted to be able to present €365 to Rainbows, HFSNS.

Well done Rivervalley Localise for once again showing how much they care about their community.

The Green Team

We just wanted to introduce ourselves. We (Jamie, Abbie, Ella, Doireann and Freya) found out that the school community had not been recycling as much as we should have. We decided to make a change. We have been busy recycling old boxes to make paper recycling bins and starting new incentives to reduce, reuse and recycle. We are also trying to save resources in school (electricity, water, paper etc.)



We would like this to continue long after we move on to Secondary school. Ms. Quinn has sent out application forms to those interested in joining the green team. We welcome ideas, experience and any useful resources which can be sent to Ms. Quinn in

Prefab 4. We hope that you will make an effort to recycle at home and encourage your child to use more reusable resources, bring lunch waste home and recycle whenever possible.



Thank you!



Wellbeing Week 2019

Holy Family S.N.S had its first official 'Wellbeing Week for Students and Staff'. Events included 'Random Acts of Kindness' for all, 'Mindful Moments' and a 'Moodwatchers' talk from Shane Martin.

Thanks to everyone who participated and remember to take a moment for yourself everyday!



As part of our Green Schools Programme, we are encouraging our children to take part in the **Walk On Wednesdays** initiative. Road safety is a very important issue, so this would be a great opportunity to have a chat with your children about how to stay safe when walking to and from school - and to remind children about crossing with the lollipop ladies to ensure everyone's safety.

Each class will record the number of students walking to school on Wednesdays and at the end of each month, Ms Gowen will announce the class per year group with the highest number of walkers. We appreciate your support in this initiative.



During 6th class, the pupils have opportunities to be involved in many school initiatives. One of these initiatives is called Playworks. This is where 6th class pupils play a variety of yard games on the 3rd, 4th and 5th class yards at lunch time and have the opportunity to develop their interpersonal and leadership skills. We would like to say a huge congratulations and thanks to all the pupils who were involved in Playworks this year for making yard time so enjoyable for the younger pupils in our school. It was greatly appreciated by our school community and we hope the skills you have gained will be a credit to you next year.



Dublin Bus

Art Competition Winners



Every year Dublin Bus run an art competition and the students from Holy Family have always shown amazing talent with their entries. We would like to thank all the students who entered the competition. Once again the standard of entries this year was incredibly high.

We would like to congratulate this years winners.

The overall competition winners were Joshua Ralph and Una Ibourk from Ms. Nolan's 6th class. They were presented with their prizes by Brendan from Dublin Bus and Ms Gowen.



Mr. Mc Donald's 5th class

Jessica Gerraghty

John Elder

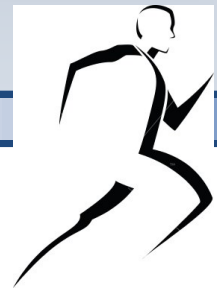
Brian Mc Glade (not in the picture)



Ms Walsh's 6th class

Kate Higgins

Ms Donnolly's 4th Class



Cumann na mBunscoil Primary School

Sprints and Relays

The school held its trials for the school in late May for the sprints and relay teams as again the weather prevented them from being held earlier. We practised the changing of the relay baton for four weeks and to the credit of the children involved, each transition section of the relay went smoothly.

Eight team travelled to Santry Stadium on the 29th May. Our U/10 boys team came 2nd in their heat and 7th in the final and the U/12 boys teams came 1st in their heat and 5th in the final. These placings have been our best finishing positions for a number of years. It is a very difficult competition to be a part of as we had been competing against 32 other schools on the day.

We are now going to start our preparations for September where the 6th class children get the opportunity to take part in the children's marathon training which is run by Fingal Co. Co. and in October they will get to run the final mile of their marathon training.