

October 2022

HOLY CHILD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter

Can you believe we are almost at the end of our first half term back at school! What a busy two month's it has been. We hope you will enjoy reading about events that have been taking place in school during this half term as well as important information about upcoming events and dates for your diary.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Mrs Concannon

This new school year has started extremely well with us, as a school, welcoming the highest pupil numbers we have seen for some time. We now have over 300 pupils here at Holy Child Primary - it is wonderful to continue to see our school grow, year in, year out, and we are delighted that so many local families have chosen Holy Child for their children to start and/or continue their educational journey. We are also delighted to have had the opportunity to open up our Extra Curricular Activities programme again this year with 25 clubs running on a weekly basis. I want to thank the school staff for giving their time after school to provide these wonderful clubs including Cookery, Art, Football, Irish Culture, iPad, Drama, Netball, Music, Dance, Relax Kids, Gaelic, Lego, Fit kid, Science, Sewing, Mathletics, Homework Club, Reading Rockets, Connect 4 tournament, Board Game club, Breakfast club, Booster clubs and Sibling clubs.

BREAKFAST CLUBS: EARLY BIRD CLUB

Our FREE Early Bird Club is open for all children daily from 8:15am. Cereal, toast and juice will be served daily in the foundation stage corridor for P1 and P2 children and also in the KS1 corridor for children in P3-P7. As well as breakfast club other clubs are available in the morning including Mathletics in the ICT suite, Reading Rockets in Mrs O'Connors room, Board Games in the learning support room and Connect 4 tournament in Mrs O'Connor's room. Watch out on our website and Facebook page for more news on our Connect 4 tournament coming soon.



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent Consultations will take place on the week beginning Monday 14th November. Parents will be invited to come into school to meet with the teacher. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss schoolwork and anything else that may affect the happiness and wellbeing of your child at school. Each meeting is scheduled for 15 minutes and your allocated time and day will be sent out soon. We intend to keep to the times allocated but do understand that additional time may be required. As always, a meeting may be arranged at any stage of the year if you wish to speak to the teacher about your child. Please note no afterschool's clubs will operate during this week. Breakfast Club and siblings club will continue as usual.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are entitled to Free School Meals and have not yet applied for them, I would encourage you to do so. A proportion of school funding is allocated through Free School Meals numbers. The larger the number of children on the register the more the school benefits. The application procedure is confidential and children are not identified in any way in their classroom. Please apply online at...

<https://freeschoolmealsanduniforms.eani.org.uk/>



We will continue to use Seesaw as a means of communicating to all of our parents. Seesaw is a useful tool for brief communication between parents and teachers, however, it would not be reasonable to expect teachers to respond to messages outside of school hours. They will be dealt with at the teacher's earliest convenience during the working day. In this technological age, I am still a great believer that it is good to talk in person, if something arises which is a concern or a problem relating to your child please talk to your child's teacher.

SACRAMENTAL DATES

The Sacramental dates for children in P4 and P7 have now been set by Fr Mc Faul. The Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated on the 15th March for Mr O' Donnell's class and 22nd March Mrs Mc Menamin's class.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 14th May. Mass for Mr O'Donnell's class will be celebrated at 10:00am and mass for Mrs Mc Menamin's class will be celebrated at 12:15am.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

During September each class nominated two members from each class to represent their pupil voice on the school council. The school council have already met and have come forth with some great ideas and initiatives already. The school Council also enjoyed an afternoon out to meet the Mayor of Derry last week and enjoyed a tour of the Guildhall. They have some brilliant ideas for our Halloween Spooktacular event.



HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR EVENT

We are delighted that this year we will be able to enjoy a full list of exciting Halloween events for the children on **Friday 28th October**. All children are invited into school in fancy dress to enjoy a morning of Halloween cookery, art, slime making sessions and a Halloween disco. Children will receive their lunch in school and then be dismissed at 12:00pm for Nursery P1, P2 and P3 children. Children in P4, P5, P6 and P7 will be dismissed at 12:15pm.

We wish all our families a fun filled Halloween break and we look forward to seeing the children after half term holiday on the 7th November.





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As you are already aware it is essential that your child attends school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow children to fulfill their potential. Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. In school we have an obligation to monitor children's attendance very closely and to report attendance percentages to the Education Welfare Officer on a regular basis. Punctuality is essential as each time a child is late to school they are marked late and when they arrive after registration has closed (09:15)- this impacts on their attendance. If your child's attendance is causing concern, we will follow the agreed procedures in school:

- The class teacher will inform you if your child's attendance percentage (below 85%)
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will receive a letter from school
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will be invited to a pre-referral meeting in school. Our EWO Mrs Marcella Doherty may be in attendance
- If your child's attendance is 85% or below/causing concern, we are obliged to make a referral to EWS.

If you need to discuss any issues surrounding absences or support strategies that can be put in place to improve attendance, during the school year, please contact Mrs Concannon.

Please ensure that you contact the school office in the morning if your child is not able to attend school.



EARLY WITHDRAWAL

Early withdrawal causes disruption to valuable teaching time. It is essential that non medical appointments take place after 3:00pm. Please note that early withdrawal from school is marked as absence and are closely monitored by the Educational Welfare Officer.

SCHOOLS NI APP

Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on.



MEET OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM



DESIGNATED TEACHER:

**MRS O CONNOR
(VICE PRINCIPAL)**

Designated Governor: Linda Kelly

If any parent / carer has any concerns, please contact the school office on 02871 261263 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team.



**DEPUTY DESIGNATED
TEACHER : MRS CONCANNON
(PRINCIPAL)**



**DEPUTY DESIGNATED
TEACHER : MRS NELSON
(TEACHER)**



**National
Online
Safety®**

Holy Child is a National Online Safety Certified School. This means our parents and staff have a huge range of advice and resources to help you have a better understanding of how to support your child use technology safely.

To sign up use the link: <https://.nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/holy-child-primary-school-1>

We couldn't possibly inform parents of all the exciting events that go on in our school daily but all these events are uploaded on our school website. Please check out our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date with what's going on in our school.

