

Holy Family N.S. - Tubbercurry – Co. Sligo



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Dear parents/guardians.

We are now on our 12th week back at school. It is starting to feel as if we were always here. It is important to remind ourselves that life is still not back to normal and that we all need to keep up our efforts to keep our school open. **Thank you all for your help so far.**

However, we never know when we might come in contact with a person who has COVID 19. If a child or a teacher tests positive the whole class may be forced to isolate for 2 weeks. We all need to take extra care coming up to Christmas to ensure we can have a nice Christmas season.

Here are some reminders:

- Everyplace inside the school gates is for children and staff only. This is to limit the number of people staff and children come in contact with.
- **Any adult in the school or the playground should wear a face mask and sign the COVID tracing book in reception.**
- If your child has any symptoms – cough, sore throat, temperature, loss of taste/smell, tiredness – please don't send them to school.
- If a child comes to school with symptoms they will be sent to the isolation room and will have to go home. If your child is sent home you must contact your doctor. This is a free service.
- Everyone is asked to take a step back from other people – keeping a safe distance. Think of this when you collect your child.
- Children should wash their hands before school. Children will sanitise their hands when they come to school. Children will wash their hands and use the sanitiser during the school day.

Last time when the schools went in to lock down we all got a shock. The teachers had only a couple of hours to prepare work. In case a lock down happens again the teachers are now preparing children for this. Senior classes will be looking at **Google Classroom** in class. Their teacher may put homework up on Google Classroom.

Parent- Teacher meetings: The Department of Education have stated that there will be no face to face meetings this term. This is for Health and Safety reasons. Arrangments for progress reports will be made later this year.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance with Allianz is available from Eilise in the office. The cost of insurance is 4.80 Euro for school hours only and 7.20 for 24 hour cover. Further information in the NEWS Section of our website.

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Discover Primary Science and Maths.

Well done to all the children and teachers who worked together to achieve a Discover Primary Science Award for 2019-2020 school year. It was harder to do the work last year so I would like to thank everyone for supporting this work. The trophy will be on our school wall with our other awards. 6th Class will be on Zoom on Friday morning to receive the award.

Trick or Treat for Temple Street.

Thank you all for your support for our Fancy Dress Fund Raiser before Halloween. It was lovely to see all the child – and teachers – dressed up on the day of the holidays. A little bit of normal living for us all!! Our fund raiser collected 400 Euro for Temple Street. Temple Street have sent us a certificate which is on our website.

Car Park

We are very lucky to have a lovely car park beside our school. This is thanks to many years of work by our Parents' Association, our staff, our BOM and local councillors. To open this car park the BOM applied for funding from Clár. Thanks to David Goulden and local County Council workers we got the car park open. The BOM have now received extra funding of 31000 Euro for the car park. Thanks to everyone who did work for this over the summer months. We will update you when work is going to start.

Unfortunately, we have had complaints of the office about the car park. If we want to use the school car park we all have to be careful and to take special care – knowing there are so many special children in our school!

- **There should be no drop down or parking on double yellow lines.** These areas should be kept clear. If you park there you could cause a car accident.
- **Our school is a no-smoking environment.** This means there should be no smoking in our grounds.
- The lane between the school and the car park belongs to the Marist Order. They have been kind enough to allow us use this lane for safe access to the school. Fences and gates shouldn't be climbed on.
- We all give good example to the children in our care. Please remember this in the school car park – we should all use language that is appropriate for children.
- Drive carefully and slowly in the car park. Follow the arrows. There is also parking available at the church if you can't use our car park carefully.

We have had complaints about everything mentioned above. If we want to keep the car park open we need to take care and keep it safe for every child.

School Lunches

Lunches seem to be going well at present. If your child isn't eating the lunches please feel free to cancel the lunches. We have to pay 2.90 Euro per day, per child, for lunches.

Lunch orders must be changed before midnight on Fridays.

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Parents' Association Fundraiser.

Our Parents' Association have always been a great support to the school. They help to organise visits by Santa and the Easter Bunny. They organise the First Communion Party. Over the last number of years they have organised a super Choral Concert in St John's Church. This year they are having a Christmas Raffle. Tickets cost 2 Euro each or 3 for 5 Euro. If you would like to purchase a ticket please put the money in an envelope. Write your child's name, class and the amount of money on the front of the envelope. Please give the money to the class teacher or to Eilise.

Staff Meeting:

Life in our school is different for the staff this year. The only time the staff all get together is at the front gate at 3pm when all the children have gone home. Staff are on extra yard duty and morning supervision to give your child more space on the yard. Staff cannot take breaks altogether and have to use the staff room in Pods. We have a great staff and I would like to thank them for all their cooperation during the last challenging year.

Our staff meetings are also different. We communicate through phones and messages. We also have done the Zoom meetings. There are times when we have to get everyone together to look at how things are working in school.

Our last staff meeting before Christmas will be **on Friday December 4th**. Children will be going home at 1pm on this day. Children will start leaving school from 1245. We will send a text to you to let you know when to collect your child.

Dates for you:

- Tracksuit day every Friday
- Lunch orders can be changed before midnight on Fridays.
- Discover Primary Science Award – Friday 20th November
- Staff Meeting – Friday December 4th (1pm)
- Christmas closing – Tuesday 22nd December (12pm)
- School opens for the new term on January 7th.