

*Dear parents/carers,
The new school year is already well under way and all of the pupils have settled in nicely. Our senior pupils have been excellent buddies to the New primary 1 pupils and they should be very proud of themselves.*

The staff have been developing their knowledge on Talk 4 Writing, an new pedagogy for the teaching of writing, across the school. This is a cluster initiative you will hear more about this as the year progresses.

On a personal note I would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for making me feel very welcome and part of the school community. I am already very impressed by the ethos within the school and the commitment to learning and teaching from all stakeholders.

*Yours faithfully,
Andrew Gallagher
Acting Head Teacher*

New Staff

Holy Family would like to welcome a number of new staff. Mr Docherty will be teaching P5b and Miss Fleming will be teaching P2a. We also have Miss Brownlie who will be job share in Primary 2B for the remainder of the year.

Miss Capanni and Mrs McLeod will also be joining the staff on a temporary basis working across a number of classes. They have settled in very well over the first weeks of term and have been made to feel very welcome by pupils, parents and staff.

Absence

If you child is absent from school it is important that you contact the school in the following ways.

1. Call before 9.15am on the day of the first absence and each subsequent day.
2. E-mail the office (address below) stating your child's name, class and reason for absence.
3. In person at the office before 9.15am.



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Kirkintilloch G66 1JZ



0141 955 2212

E-mail office@holyfamily.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Website holyfamily.e-dunbarton.sch.uk



Our Shared Vision, Values and Aims

In Holy Family Primary School, we are actively engaged in the pursuit of excellence. It is our purpose to provide a Catholic education of the highest quality that will enable all our young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

We aim to:

- Create an ethos of achievement within our learning community and so raise standards of educational attainment in all areas of the curriculum.
- Support and develop the skills of all staff to ensure the highest standards of learning and teaching.
- Use enterprising learning and teaching practices that encourage enthusiasm, creativity and ambition enabling each individual to reach their highest standards of achievement.
- Work in partnership with home and parish to build a sense of Christian community where all members are held in high respect and their dignity, worth and individuality are respected.
- Welcome parents as active participants in the life of the school to help all children develop physical, social, spiritual, mental and emotional health and well-being.
- Ensure the deployment of excellence by fostering high quality leadership at all levels.



School Term Dates

The date for returning to school after the April holiday was omitted from the homework diaries.

School will close on Friday 29th March 2019 and Re-open on Monday 15th April and close Thursday 18th April and re-open on Tuesday 23rd April. Dates for all school holidays can be found on the school website or on the East Dunbartonshire website.



Parent Council and PTA

The AGM of both parents groups will take place on **Tuesday 11th September at 7pm** in the school hall.

We would ask all parents to attend these meetings as both groups do a tremendous amount of work on behalf of the school.

New members are always made to feel very welcome.

Primary 1

Both classes have made an excellent start to their first year at Holy Family. Mrs Smith and Miss Sutherland have been introducing Play to Learn within their classes and early indications have been very positive.

On Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th the pupils and parents enjoyed a School Lunch Experience within the school cafeteria. This was very well attended and we would like to thank you for supporting this event.



Twitter

We are on Twitter! Please follow us at [@HFKirkintilloch](https://twitter.com/HFKirkintilloch) where class information and events will be tweeted. All new followers will need to request permission to see the tweets.

Soft Start

The 'Soft Start' has been working well over the past week and most pupils are organised and ready for learning by 9am. Could we remind you that doors will open at 8.45am and the entrances are at the Primary 1 door and the main office. There will always be a member of staff at these points and staff throughout the school.



Uniform

The pupils have all looked resplendent in their uniform since the start of term. Could we remind you put your child's name on every piece of clothing as this will make it easier to return lost items. Children are expected to have a change of shoes for inside use, such as a pair of plimsolls.

Mr Harkins has also asked me to remind you about PE kit. Indoor kit should be a plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts. Plimsolls can be worn, but trainers can also be worn as some classes may take place outside, weather permitting.

Could we also ask that you check that the clothes that come home do belong to your child, especially in the younger classes. If they belong to someone else please return them to the class teacher.

Earrings

A number of parents have asked about earrings and whether pupils are able to cover them up or keep them in during PE. Unfortunately East Dunbartonshire guidance does not allow children take part in PE whilst wearing earrings or cover them up using a plaster. All earrings must be removed as well as all other jewellery.

Parking

Parking at the start of the school day, at 3pm and during evening events can be a potential issue in the areas surrounding the school. Could we ask that you park with consideration for local residents and pedestrians and adhere to 'no parking' areas. Can we also remind you that there is also no pick up/drop off allowed in the school car parks (upper and lower), except for permitted vehicles.





reading cloud

Our online Reading Community



Your school library in the palm of your hand

The school have invested in 'Reading Cloud' which allows us to manage the distribution of books within the school. A further benefit is the availability of e-books for all of pupils which can be read on a number of platforms; Apple, Android, phone or tablet. There are not only fiction and nonfiction books from popular authors, but also a wide range of books to support cross curricular learning.

Pupils from P2-7 will be given a username and password sticker which will be placed in the Homework Diary. This will enable them to log in to the site and download books. Primary 1 will be given their passwords later in the term.

Could we please encourage you to try this resource as we will be looking for feedback later in the year on its functionality and popularity. Below you will find a step by step guide for opening the e-book.

- Go to www.readingcloud.net
- Click on **Login** at top right corner
- Type in username (3 or 4 digit number)
- Type in password
- Under the school section type in G66 and choose Holy Family from the drop down
- Click on **search** at the top of the page under the heading Reading Cloud.
- Click on the icon **eBooks**.
- Choose any book from the list as long as the words **override Eresource** are in the bracket after the title.
- Click on the book you want to read. When it loads onto a new page click **Open eBook** and you can start reading!



Pick Up Arrangements

3 o'clock is a very busy time of the day at Holy Family. If you need to make last minute changes to your arrangements for your child please call the office as soon as possible.

Could we also ask all parents to talk to their children so that they too know the arrangements after school.

As always, children are told to return to the school office if there is no one there to pick them up at the end of the day.

Meet the Teacher

The attendance at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening was excellent. The information shared on this evening helps with the smooth running of the class and also gives an insight into curricular developments at each stage within the school.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team.