

Dear parents/carers,

The coming weeks in Holy Family will certainly be very busy as we prepare for Christmas, while maintaining a strong focus on all of our curricular developments.

The pupils continue to represent the school very well and have participated in a number of visits, sporting events and welcomed visitors to the school, such as Jo Swinson MP.

In the coming months there are a number of events in which your support would be greatly appreciated, such as the Christmas Fayre, Catholic Education Fortnight and the Mini Vinnies Christmas appeal.

The school continues to grow and I would like to formally welcome all new parents and pupils. I am sure you will be made very welcome by the Holy Family family!

*Yours faithfully,
Andrew Gallagher
Head Teacher (Acting)*

New Staff

Mrs Laura Reilly will be joining the teaching staff on December 3rd, taking over as class teacher of Primary 3a. Mrs Reilly is a very experienced teacher and is excited to be joining Holy Family. I am sure that she will be made most welcome. Can I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Campbell for her dedication to P3a since August.

Roseanne Beveridge joined the staff on Monday 12th November as Support for Learning Assistant. Miss Mickle (SLA) finished her post on Friday 9th and we wish her well for the future and thank her for her dedication over the last few months.

Absence

If your 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.



Holy Family Primary School
Boghead Rd
Kirkintilloch G66 4AT



0141 955 2212

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

Website holyfamily.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Twitter [@HFKirkintilloch](https://twitter.com/HFKirkintilloch)



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.



Community Traffic Update

Areas surrounding the school continue to be very busy at drop off and pick up times. Please be mindful of pedestrians and pupils, especially in Westergreens Ave, where there is little or no pavement.

Pupils will be designing banners to promote road safety in the coming weeks.



Indoor Shoes

Can we remind you that **all** pupils should have indoor shoes to change into.

As the weather has started to change we have noticed more mud coming into the school.

Please help us keep the classrooms and common areas a pleasant place to learn.



Sporting Events

Primary 6 and 7 pupils represented the school at the Scottish Schools' Athletic Association Relay held at Grangemouth Stadium on Saturday 27th October. The pupils were very enthusiastic and focussed, despite the freezing cold wind that they had to endure. Well done to all those who participated, and to the many parents who came along to support them.



Mr Harkins accompanied two teams on the 1st November who played Lenzie Boys Club. The teams played very well and represented the school brilliantly winning all of their matches.

Children in Need

On Friday 16th we had a 'spotty' Friday in order to raise funds for Children in Need. Pupils wore spotted clothing, had spots on their face and even wore some 'bear' onesies! Younger pupils also brought in their favourite teddy bear for the day and had a teddy bears picnic! Thank you for all of the donations which will go directly to the charity. **The final total was an amazing £523.65!**



Jo Swinson MP Visit

On Thursday 8th November Jo Swinson MP visited Holy Family Primary. After a short tour of the school she met with P6a and then P7a for a Q&A session. The pupils had been preparing for this and asked probing and challenging questions. Ms Swinson was very impressed by their knowledge and political awareness.

Nativity

Preparations are well under way for this years performance. Please remember that performances are ticket only. Tickets are now on 'general sale' as all families have had an opportunity to buy tickets for their child. **All children will be in both performances.** In order to maintain the safety of all pupils the car park/yard will not be available for parking during performances.

Book Week

Book week was a great success and many thanks to all of the parents who gave up time to come and read to classes. Stuart Reid, author of 'Gorgeous George' series held assemblies for the upper and lower stages which included book reading and how an author develops a character. The culmination of the week saw many pupils (and staff!) dress as their favourite character and take part in a whole school book quiz! Reading is such an important skill and we would encourage all parents to read to their children, no matter their age, and try to foster their love for books.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

8TH DECEMBER



£1.50 for adults and free to under 14's.

The Christmas Fayre will take place in Holy Family Primary on Saturday 8th December from **12pm to 3pm**. All the usual fun activities will be returning; face painting, tombola, Visit Santa, home baking and much, much more.

Christmas products made by your child will also be on sale that day and the choir will make an appearance.

The PTA would be grateful for any help you can offer either before, during or after. Please look out for a letter regarding this.

Can you donate a big prize for the raffle or do you know someone who would? Contact us at Find us on Face book by searching [holyfamilypta](https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilypta). Twitter [@holyfamilypta](https://twitter.com/holyfamilypta) or e mail us at holyfamilyptalenzie@gmail.com

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 7th December.

Pupils can wear a Christmas Jumper or dress up in a Christmas theme.

All we ask is a donation of some kind for the bottle stall or Tombola.



Holy Family/St Ninian's Transition Programme

Primary 6 and 7 have been visiting St Ninian's as part of our extensive transition programme. The pupils have spent two full days following a regular timetable and experiencing what life is like in S1.

Primary 7 have also had class inputs from visiting high school staff covering subjects such as English, Modern Languages, Mandarin and Design Technology.

Sacramental Enrolment

Fr Hannah will hold a mass of enrolment for the children beginning their sacraments this year.

Primary 3 pupils and parents are invited to attend 11am mass on Sunday 2nd December at Holy Family and St Ninian's Parish.

Pupils new to the school who have not previously enrolled should also attend.

100 Years of Catholic Education

This year we have been celebrating 100 years of Catholic Education, the centenary of the 1918 Education Act. Mr Gallagher will accompany 2 pupils to a Civic Reception in Glasgow City Chambers to celebrate this along with schools from the Diocese. This will be further celebrated during Catholic Education Fortnight through a series of school events.

There will be Mass on Sunday 25th November in Holy Family and St Ninian's at 11am. Please come along and support the school and Parish.

Allergies



We have a number of children within the school who have allergies, and in particular a severe reaction to nuts.

We would ask all parents to refrain from giving their children products which contain nuts, or are derived from nuts, such as hazelnut chocolate spread.

We thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.



Fair Trade



We are delighted to have our new Fairtrade Committee up and running for 2018/2019. Our first job is to raise awareness about the different Fairtrade symbols which can be found on products in supermarkets.

We have teamed up with Gavin's Mill again this year and will be running a Fairtrade shop selling gifts for Christmas starting on 3rd of December. We will also be running our Fairtrade Hamper raffle over the next few weeks.

The committee would like to thank all our new members for showing such dedication and enthusiasm towards our committee so far!



Elf Day 14th December



Mrs Crossan is leading an awareness day for Alzheimer's Society, Scotland. There will be a number of activities on the day.

This is not a fundraising event, however there will be an element of fun. Children can dress up as an Elf—as little or as much as they want. Keep it simple with red and green, or jingle all the way with pointy ears and curly shoes!

Minnie Vinnies Christmas Challenge 2018



Between now and 7th December are collecting toiletries to support the homeless and less fortunate as we approach the festive season. Donations of the following would be appreciated;

- Soap/Shower gel
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Roll-on deodorant
- Disposable razors
- Shaving gel
- Gloves/hats/scarfs (adult sizes)

Multi-packs and non-branded items are the cheapest to buy!

Pupils will make up parcels that can be distributed to those who need it the most.

There is a collection box at the main office or items can be sent to Mrs McGuire's class.

Lost Property

Please remember to clearly label all school clothing. We will always return named items to the pupils. Items with no name will be kept for a period of time before being recycled or re-used.



Pupil Council 2018-19

The new Pupil Council met recently and set about two tasks straight away! Firstly, they helped to spread the word about 'Spotty day' for Children in Need and collected any donations from their classes.

Secondly, the p5-7 Pupil Councillors helped Mr Gallagher by reviewing a 'Pupil Perception Survey'. This survey will help the school to evaluate its strengths and areas for development. The councillors read the questions and evaluated the accessibility of the language. Their next job will be a trial run of the electronic survey to make sure it all works! Well done everyone.



Catholic Education Fortnight



Monday 19th of November sees the start of Catholic Education Week, the purpose of which is to highlight the significance of education, not only for young people but for society.

This year's theme, "Serving the Common Good" marks the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act. We will reflect on the Charter for Catholic schools and put into practice our commitment to communicate Catholic Social Teaching. The Church's Social Teaching teaches us how God wants us to live and how we should treat others. It is based on the messages of Jesus, the prophets and the messages from our Church Leaders. During Education Week we will introduce several initiatives which promote Catholic Social Teaching, some of which are shown below.

Please join us at 11am Mass on Sunday 25th November in Holy Family and St Ninian's to celebrate Catholic Education together as a community of Faith and Learning.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person (treat others with fairness and respect)	Pupils encouraged to treat each other respectfully through the Golden Rules. Good manners will be promoted.
Call to Family, Community and Participation	Fair Trade Coffee Morning Craft activities to support children in hospital
Caring for the Poor (acting to make a difference)	Mini Vinnies fundraiser to support the homeless
Solidarity (Together we make a difference)	Fairtrade Snacks encouraged to stand in solidarity with those who are poor, persecuted or struggling.
Rights and Responsibilities (With rights come responsibilities)	Primary 5 pupils share their learning, showing that the Gospel Values are reflected in the Convention for the Rights of the Child.
Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers (Work is our contribution to the world)	Pupils learn that in preparation for the world of work, their school work must be approached in a responsible way.
Care for God's Creation (taking responsibility for our environment)	Whole school participation in an Eco Day of Action

Dates for the Diary

Here is a handy list of some of the important dates for the weeks ahead.



November

19th—Start of Catholic Education Fortnight

21st – SSPCA talk at assembly

23rd – Civic Reception in Glasgow 100 yrs of Catholic Education – HT and 2 pupils

Sunday 25th – Catholic Education Sunday Mass—11am at Holy Family and St Ninian's

December

3rd – EDC Christmas Concert

4th – Nursery Nativity

7th – Christmas Jumper Day – pupils to donate for the fayre—tombola and bottle stall.

8th – Christmas Fayre– 12:00noon to 3:00pm

10th – Nativity dress rehearsal

12th – Nativity – 9.30am and 1.30pm

14th – Alzheimer's Awareness Day – Dress as an Elf! (not a fundraising event)

20th – Baldy Bane Theatre Company Panto – "Trevor Thomas Travels Through Time"

21st – 1pm Carol Concert

21st - School closes at 2.30pm, re-opens Monday 7th at 9am.



Golden Time



We are always looking for ways to promote positive behaviour within the school. To this end we are adding some additional elements to Golden Time.

Once a fortnight there will be a class draw. Pupils who have not lost Golden Time will be entered into a class draw to win one of 3 prizes;

1. "Tea with Mr G!" - cakes, snacks, juice or tea with Mr Gallagher at Friday interval.
2. Homework Pass—choose not to do homework on one night of the week.
3. Early Lunch Pass—Take a friend to lunch at 12.15pm and go straight to lunch without waiting!

Normal 'Golden Time' will not be affected and will carry on in its present form.

PTA News



The PTA would like to thank all those who helped make the Halloween celebrations a great success. The parties and discos were great fun and enjoyed by all.



Dates for your Diary



Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 7th December (please bring a donation for Tombola to school)

Donations of home baking for Xmas Fayre: Please drop off to school between 3-7pm on Friday 7th Dec or from 9am on Saturday 8th Dec.

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 8th December 12-3pm in school. All welcome!



Easy Fundraising: Please use our cashback scheme, Easy fundraising, especially when you are doing your Christmas shopping, as it's easy to use, free and brings in much needed funds for the school.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hfkirkintilloch/>

Finally, please don't forget to make use of our uniform recycling service and to check our lost property Facebook page (Holy Family Primary School (lost property)) for anything that you are missing. Contact : Allie Carr 07765 579830

Best wishes,

The PTA

Sporting Events Continued

Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the Springburn Harriers Schools Cross Country Race Series on Sunday 11th November. This event was open to pupils from P1 to p7 and all pupils who completed the course received a medal.

The next race in this series is on Sunday 3rd February 2019.

