

*Dear Parents/Carers,*

*The summer holidays seem a distant memory and the 2019 session is well under way. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new pupils and parents. We hope you have been made to feel very welcome.*

*The school and cluster continue to develop our writing skills through Talk for Writing and there will be a major emphasis on STEM this year. Please look out for upcoming events and any help is greatly appreciated.*

*We continue to improve the school environment and have had some ground works completed over the summer. This included fencing, drain levelling and additional gates with closure mechanisms to make the yards more secure.*

*Please take some time to read our newsletter and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.*

*Yours faithfully,  
Andrew Gallagher  
Head Teacher*

## **New Staff**

Holy Family would like to welcome a number of new staff. Miss Alcorn will be teaching P7b and Miss Brownlie will be teaching P2b. We also have Miss Linnen who will be providing additional support and class cover.

Mrs Gordon has taken a career break for this year and Mrs Young also continues to be on a career break. I would also like to welcome Miss Watt who has taken up the post of Classroom Assistant.

## **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.

Please provide a copy of the appointment letter if your child is attending the Doctor, Hospital or Dentist.



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## 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.

*This term we are also introducing a school prayer which encompasses our shared vision, values and aims. This was developed by staff and pupils and will be used during school masses, assemblies and community faith events. We will be giving every pupil in the school a copy of the prayer to take home.*

### School Values and Ethos Prayer

Dear Lord, grant that our school be a welcoming place where **respect** is given and peace is built on **justice** and guided by love. Where we are **motivated** to learn so we can develop the skills and talents you gave us. May we be **nurturing** so that everyone knows their opinion is valued and they are an important part of our school **community**. May we uphold our **integrity** in every action so that **equality** can exist, friendship can flourish and learning fill our days.

Amen



### School Term Dates

Please be aware of the two additional in-service days planned for this year.

Day 1—October 1st 2019

Day 2—February 7th 2019



A full list of all school holidays can be found on the council website.

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/school-holidays>

### Parent Council and PTA

The AGM of both parent groups will take place on **Tuesday 24th 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 McLellan and Mrs Crossan have been introducing Play to Learn within their classes and the response from pupils has been very positive.

This year has also seen Primary 1 starting full days from the beginning of term. Please look out for a small questionnaire to gather your thoughts on this.



### Twitter

We are on Twitter! Please follow us at **@HFKirkintilloch** where class information and events will be tweeted. All new followers will need to request permission to see the tweets.

## 100 Club

The '100 Club' runs on a yearly basis and the money raised through this helps to support school activities. Entry for the year costs a mere £10 with the chance of winning some great cash prizes.! The remaining numbers will be sold at each Parents Night.

## Uniform

The pupils have all looked great in their uniform since the start of term. Could we remind you to 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, even in the upper school!

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. **As the weather is unpredictable please ensure your child has a jacket with them each day.**

## Earrings

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. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

## Parents Night

This term appointments can be made for Wednesday 2nd October or Tuesday 8th October. Please look out for the letter explaining how to book appointments.

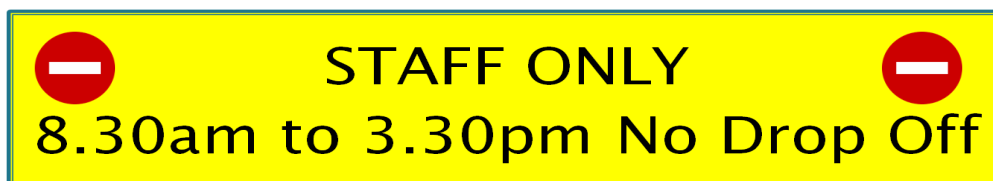
Should you have any difficulties or questions please contact the school office.

## Confirmation

Primary 7 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 29th October in St Flannan's Church. Please keep the pupils in your prayers at this time.

## Parking– Thank You!

Can we remind you that there is also no pick up/drop off allowed in the school car parks (upper and lower), except for permitted vehicles. This has not been an issue since the start of term and we would like to thank you for your support.



Could we ask that you park with consideration for local residents and pedestrians and adhere to 'no parking' areas, especially with regard to school buses.

## National Parent Gathering

SCES, the Scottish Catholic Education Service have organised a National Gathering for parents with children in Catholic Schools. This will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019 (9.30-3pm) at St Francis Xavier primary school in Falkirk. There will be a separate programme for children. Lunch will be provided. Places are free but need to be booked by phoning 0141 556 4727.

## Upcoming Events!

### Maths Week Scotland

WB 30th September



### Book Week

WB 7th October



### STEM Week

WB 18th November



If you are able to support any of these events please contact the school.

## 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

Thank you to those who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' evening. 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.

The office will be e-mailing out the information for those parents who were unable to attend.