**Christmas Holidays**

The holidays for pupils commence at 12.30pm on Tuesday 20th December 2022 and the pupils return to school on Thursday 5th January 2023 at 9am.

Please note that school dinners will be available on Tuesday 20th December.

On behalf of all the staff and governors at the school, we wish all pupils and their families a relaxing and holy Christmas.

**Open Day**

Our Open Day for all parents, prospective parents and grandparents will take place on Thursday 12th January 2023 from 10am until 12 noon.

During the Open Day you will be able to:

* Find out about the work of the school
* Visit the classrooms
* Hear our award winning choir
* Hear from our student council
* Ask any questions at all

Also, you will get a wee cuppa 😊

**Nativity Performances**

A huge thank you to the entire Holy Family Community for your support and presence at our Christmas nativities. Our pupils and staff were delighted to see you at the events and hope you thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

**Well Done and Thank You**

A big well done and thank you to our school choir for representing our school so well at a number of events during December including:

* The Community Christmas Carol Service in Holy Family Chapel
* The Surestart Carol Service in Rosemount Community Centre
* The Parish Carol Service in Holy Family Chapel
* The Altnagelvin Cancer Centre Carol Service in Altnagelvin Hospital

Thanks also to Mrs Claire Doherty for all her work with the choir.

**Sign up for the SIMS App**

From January 2023, it is our intention to move all our parental communication to the SIMS App. We intend to forward newsletters, messages, reports, individual education plans, audits etc. via the SIMS app. Accordingly, it is essential that every parent registers on the SIMS app via their current email address. The admin staff are available on 02871267798 to provide any support with SIMS.

**Applications for Nursery and Primary One**

The applications process for children due to enter either nursery or primary one in September 2023 opens on 10th January 2023 at 12 noon and closes at 12 noon on 27th January 2023.

All applications are online at [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

If you have any difficulty with the application process, please contact the school office and a member of the admin team will help.

**Parent/Teacher Association**

The Friends of Holy Family PTA is a group that provides tremendous support for the pupils and staff of the school via various fundraising events. The group ensures that staff have extra resources so that they can provide the best educational experience for all our pupils.

Any parent who would want to get involved in the PTA should contact the school office.

**Trips and Visits**

A key part of the educational experience at Holy Family is participation in trips and visits. During December the following visits took place:

* Our P1 + P2 pupils visited the cinema to view Matilda
* Our P4 – P7 pupils visited the Millenium Forum to view the Pantomime
* Our P3 pupils visited the cinema to view Matilda
* Our nursery pupils had a visit from Parky, the magician

**Visit from the Department of Education**

The Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education, Mr Mark Browne and his team will visit Holy Family on Wednesday 11th January 2023. The purpose of the visit is to see the additional provision at Holy Family especially the Nurture Unit and see how effective this provision is in supporting our pupils.

It is hoped that this visit will highlight the importance of sustaining this provision despite the tight financial circumstances within the education sector.

**Ensuring Full Curriculum Delivery**

The delivery of the full school curriculum is the responsibility of all the school staff, however specific teachers have particular responsibilities in terms of curricular and management areas.

A big thank you to the following staff for ensuring the delivery of their area (s) across the school:

* Mrs Parke – Positive Behaviour/Attendance/Staff Development
* Mrs C Doherty – DTCP/Pastoral Care/Music
* Miss Mc Carron – Religious Education
* Mr Mc Laughlin – Literacy
* Mr Doherty – WAU/PE
* Mr Gill – Numeracy
* Mrs Boggs – SEN
* Mrs Houston – ESSU
* Mr Lagan – Assessment/ICT
* Miss Strathern – Extended Schools
* Mrs K Doherty – Nursery and Play
* Mrs Mc Grellis – Art/Design and Display
* Mrs Mc Crory – Learning and Teaching
* Mrs Stephenson – Nurture

**Staff Development Days**

A key part of the teachers and classroom assistants role at Holy Family is to consistently get upskilled so that they are able to provide the best quality of education for our pupils. During the staff development days on the evening of the 20th December and the 21st December staff will be upskilled on the following:

* Performance Diagnostics
* Supporting ASD pupils
* Effective Outdoor Learning
* Effective Physical Education

**House Teams**

The scores for the house teams are as follows:

Foundation Stage/Key Stage One Key Stage 2

Twiggle 242 Hufflepuff 331

Daphne 235 Slytherin 363.5

Henrietta 244 Ravenclaw 300

Duke 259 Gryffindor 325.5

Congratulations to the following pupils who got all answers correct last month and gained extra points for their house teams: Aoibhinn Stewart, Eoin Stewart, Michael Morrow and Ellen Morrow.

The correct answers were:

1. The distinctive red and white stripes are like candystripes
2. St. Andrew
3. An early manually operated calculator

To secure extra points for your house team this month, answer the following questions and leave the answers with your name into the office

1. Who competed in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Final?

2. What is the capital city of Qatar?

3. When is our Open Day?

**P7 Christmas Nativity**

A big thank you to Fr. Gormley for allowing our P7s to perform their nativity in Holy Family Chapel. For those parents and grandparents who may not have been able to attend on the night, they can view the recording of the show on the parish website: www. Holyfamily-parish.com and click on recordings. We hope you enjoy the performance.

HOLY FAMILY

PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Holy Family Primary & Nursery School

Aileach Road Derry

Tel: 71267798

Email: [office@holyfamilyps.derry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilyps.derry.ni.sch.uk)

Website: www.holyfamilyps.com

Twitter: @principalhfps