



Parent/Guardian News Letter

Holy Family School for the Deaf

Primary & Early Intervention, Marian Campus, Ratoath Road, Cabra, Dublin 7 D07RF99
Post Primary: Navan Road, Cabra, Dublin 7 DO7 TH79

Post primary 01 838 0058 , **Primary 01 868 9910 & Early intervention**
E: info@holyfamilydeafschoo.ie

Principal: Eimear O'Rourke, M. Ed | Deputy Principal: Eugene Doyle

30th September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this News Letter finds you safe and well.

After the very challenging school closure and start to the 2020/21 school year, I am delighted to report that our pupils and staff have settled back to school life and are adapting very well to our new environment and rules to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your support and I know you will continue to encourage your son or daughter to follow school and HSE rules to help prevent the spread of Covid 19,

Welcome our new pupils enrolled in Early Intervention, Primary and Post Primary. We wish them every success and happiness in our school community.

Covid 19 Guidance for Parents/Guardians

Please see our website important guidance in relation to suspected or confirmed case of Covid 19 in Holy Family. I also attach the **Return to School Parent Declaration Form**. This form should be used **after any absence due to illness.**

Important updates

Please check the **news section** of our website **holyfamilydeafschoo.ie** & **@HFSchoolDeaf1** for updates and news of on school activities.

School Attendance

•NO CHILD, STAFF MEMBER OR PARENT SHOULD ATTEND OUR SCHOOL IF UNWELL OR IF ANY MEMBERS OF THEIR HOUSEHOLD ARE UNWELL WITH SYMPTOMS CONSISTENT WITH COVID-19.

As a parent, you must let the school know if your child is absent and the reason why. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing.

Please use the **Return to School Parent Declaration Form after any absence due to illness.**

For other absences, you can use the school diary which has dedicated pages for your notes.

The school will notify the TUSLA (National Educational Welfare Board) if a child is absent without reason for 20 days or more or where the absence gives rise to concern.

If your child is sick or is absent in relation to Covid 19 illness, testing or isolation, no action will be taken by TUSLA(NEWB).

However, if there is concern about your child's attendance at school or about the reasons given, you may be visited by an Educational Welfare Officer who will discuss your child's education with you. The Officer will work with you and take full account of the circumstances of the child and the family before deciding what further action is necessary to ensure that the child receives his/her entitlement to an education. Further information concerning the new service and about school attendance matters generally can be obtained from the national Lo-Call Education Helpline (Telephone 1890 36 36 66) which is staffed by an Educational Welfare Officer.

Hand Hygiene

As parents, we ask you to emphasise the importance of hand hygiene and cough etiquette with your son or daughter. **We ask that all pupils wash their hands at home before coming to school.**

Pupils will be asked to sanitise their hands at the following times during the day:

- On arrival at school
- On entering and leaving classrooms
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors
- When their hands are physically dirty (look dirty)
- When they cough or sneeze.
- After changing battery in hearing aid/cochlear implant

School Transport

In the interest of safety all pupils are required to bring or email signed letters of permission from their parents if there are to be any changes to the usual transport arrangements. The teacher on bus duty needs to be aware of these changes.

PARENTS MUST ALSO INFORM DRIVERS OF ANY CHANGES TO TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS i.e.

- (a) If their son or daughter is sick and not travelling to school
- (b) If their son or daughter is not travelling home on the school bus
- (c) If their son or daughter is being dropped to school by a parent and they need to be brought home again by the bus driver.

The bus inspector has emphasised that where possible pupils should wear face coverings (13 years and older) remain in their designated seats, wear safety belts and behave in an acceptable manner on the school bus.

Failure to do so could result in transport being withdrawn.

Change of Address/Telephone Number

It is extremely important that you notify the school in writing of any change of address, telephone number or email address. This is to avoid private correspondence going astray and is also required in the event of an accident or emergency occurring in the school.

School Lunches

Students **MUST** bring their own lunch to school. Please note there are no facilities for heating food so please do not send in food that needs to be toasted /microwaved etc as these facilities are not available.

Please provide bottled water as there is very limited access to drinking water in school.

Hearing Aids/Batteries

Please ensure that your son or daughter wears her hearing aid each day and that it is in good working order. It is advisable that students have a supply of spare batteries with them for use as the need arises. The school has a limited supply and charges are 50 cent per battery.

School Text Books: Teachers will provide pupils with a list of the text books required. For queries in relation to the Book Grant please contact Deputy Principal Eugene Doyle on 01 8380058

Digital Technology: Chrome books: Thanks to income from funding raising and the support of Lions Club Ireland in the last school year, we were able to improve pupil and teacher access to digital technology. Our goal to become a Digital School of Excellence. Every post primary pupil has been offered a Chromebook to rent or purchase. Providing access and development of digital skills will enable us to continue education more effectively in the event of another Covid related school closure.

Uniform: Uniforms should be cleaned/launched on a regular basis. On days when your son/daughter has PE they should wear their PE uniform to school. Please note facial jewelry is not allowed in the school.

Mobile Phones: The use of mobile phones is not permitted during the school day. For security, phones should be switched off and stored in the students' locker or the school office before 9am. If pupils need to make a call during the school day they can do so from the school office.

Well-being & Counseling

Our School Counsellor/Home School liaison, Ms. Katrina Connolly, can be contacted directly by you on 085 2887731 or 018380058 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays. If you need assistance in dealing with any concerns you might have in relation to your son or daughter. She will be available to assist in liaising with all relevant agencies and services on behalf of pupils and their families. Mr. Doyle, The Post Primary Year Heads and Class Tutors are also available to parents

Parental Contributions

To meet on-going school expenses, it is regrettably still necessary to ask for your continued support in the running costs of the school.

These costs include Insurance, Photocopying, Post & IT and Interpreting.

Early Intervention €85

Primary €90

Post Primary €100

For parents of two or more children the cost per child is €80.

As you are aware, parents have the option of spreading costs by monthly standing order over the course of the year, to cover all subjects and school activities. For parents who avail of this option and we confirm we will not look for **any additional payments** throughout the year, this includes the subject fees. This applies to pupils in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th years. Transition Year may have additional costs that it is not possible to cover in this way.

As with other schools, we are a registered charity which means we can claim tax relief on donations of €250 per annum. For each donation of €250 we can claim an additional sum of up to €112.32 against Revenue. These are funds that are available to charities and cannot personally be claimed by donor. If not claimed by a charity, the funds are lost. This offers us a great lifeline and so we would ask you to give this your careful consideration.

We would be happy to discuss a reduced monthly payment for families with more than one child at this school.

This is voluntary and you may of course continue to make parent contributions payments and subject fees as before.

The Standing Order Form for those who wish to avail of this option is available from the school office, please email accounts@holyfamilydeafschool.ie

Subject Fees: apply to all students studying Home Economics', Materials Technology, Wood work & Construction Studies. As do State examination fees for Junior Certificate , Leaving Certificate & Leaving Certificate Applied Examinations.

Holy Family Parents Association: to contact the Parents Association please email the Chairperson Siobhan Corcoran at holyfamilydeafschoolpa@gmail.com

School Policies

The approved policies including the Code of Conduct and the Anti-bullying Policies are available through the website and on request from the school office.

School Visits by Appointment only

Visitors to our school building will be limited to **essential visits only**. **Please make an appointment** before visiting.

School leavers & Exam results

Congratulations to our school leavers on their excellent Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied results. Their parents and teachers can be justifiably proud of their achievements. We wish them every success in their future studies and careers

We also extend good wishes to Mr. Mark O'Leary who retires on the 4th October 2020. We thank him most sincerely for his commitment and dedication over so many years to Holy Family and previously to St. Mary's.

We are in This Together

Thank you for continuing to entrust Holy Family with the education of your son/daughter through this most challenging of times.

A copy of this News Letter will be available on the website

Stay Safe.

Yours sincerely,

Eimear O'Rourke M.Ed
Principal

