



# Holy Family Primary School

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May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin the final term of the school year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what a truly wonderful journey it has been so far. At Holy Family Primary, we are incredibly proud of all that our children have achieved — from their academic progress to their personal growth, creativity, and resilience. Each success, big or small, is a reflection of the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of you, our families.

With just a few weeks to go until the summer holidays, we look forward to making this final term one filled with continued learning, celebration, and community spirit. Your ongoing partnership is so valuable, and together we can ensure every child finishes the year on a high.

If you have any questions please get in touch through our various communication channels.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Kind regards,

*The Holy Family Primary Team*

## Community of Faith

Our P4 children are hard at work preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11am**, in Holy Family Church. Please keep our children, their families and our staff in your prayers as we journey together to this beautiful occasion.

The children of Holy Family have been invited to Carfin Grotto to lead the Holy Rosary on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm**. Children and families who wish to attend should meet staff at the entrance to the Grotto. Pupils of Holy Family should wear their school uniform. All welcome, please encourage family and friends to join us in prayer especially as we journey through the Year of Hope.

### Year of Hope- P7 Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto

As part of our Jubilee Year celebrations, we are delighted to share that our Primary 7 children will be taking part in a special pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto. This meaningful journey will offer our pupils a chance to reflect, pray, and come together in faith as they near the end of their time at Holy Family Primary. It promises to be a memorable and spiritual experience for all involved, and we thank you for your continued support in helping us make these opportunities possible. We will be in touch with final arrangements when we confirm with Father on his return to the Parish.

## Staffing Update

Mrs Nixon is due to start her Maternity Leave on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We all wish her well and hope Baby Nixon number 3 allows her a few weeks rest before making an appearance.

Mrs Kennedy who has been working in the school on a part-time basis since the February break will now be with us full-time until the end of June 2025. She will be in P2/1 on a Monday and in P6 on a Thursday and Friday covering Mrs Nixon's Maternity Leave. The rest of the week she will support across the school. I am delighted to share Mrs Cook will again take on the role of Acting Principal Teacher.

## IMPORTANT!!! NUT FREE ZONE!

As with all NLC schools, we are a **Nut Free Zone**. This is to protect staff and children who have **severe allergies**. If they come into contact with or experience airborne triggers they can become extremely ill. Can I ask parents/ carers to continue to carefully check the packaging of snacks and packed lunch items coming into school and refrain from sending anything containing nuts. We want everyone to be safe.

## Uniform

At Holy Family Primary, we take great pride in the appearance of our pupils. A consistent and smart uniform not only reflects our school values but also helps create a focused and respectful learning environment. Thank you to the families who continue to support the wearing of our school uniform.

To help us maintain our **exceptionally high standard of uniform**, we kindly ask for your continued support with the following:

- Pupils should wear **black school shoes or fully black trainers** (with no coloured logos, soles, or markings).
- Shirts should be worn with the **school tie** at all times and PE kits brought for changing into on allocated PE days.
- **Denim jackets** or other non-uniform outerwear should not be worn to school.
- **Summer dresses** in blue are included in our school uniform.

## Uniform Recycling

Our recycling of uniform is going from strength to strength and the stock is being used by families and children. At this time of year children naturally begin to grow out of items of uniform so why not hand them into the school for recycling. If you have gently used items such as shirts, jumpers, skirts, trousers, or PE kits that your child has outgrown, we would be very grateful to receive them. At the end of this term, we plan to have a few dress down days so families can donate uniforms- this worked really well last year. These will be cleaned and made available to other families through our **uniform recycling program**, helping to reduce waste and support one another within our school community.

## Dress Down Days

The children love a **Dress Down Day**, which is always a fun opportunity for children to enjoy a non-uniform day while continuing their learning as usual.

To ensure the day runs smoothly and comfortably for all pupils, we kindly ask families to keep the following guidelines in mind when helping children choose what to wear:

- **Clothing should be practical and comfortable**, as children will still be taking part in normal lessons and activities throughout the day.
- **Crocs, flip-flops, or other open footwear are not appropriate**, as they pose a **health and safety risk** in a busy school environment (this applies to everyday in school)
- **Crop tops or clothing that exposes the midriff are not suitable**, as we aim to maintain the ethos and values of our **Catholic school**.

Please ensure your child's belongings are clearly **labelled**.

We thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all.

**Retirement of Mrs LeBlond-** Mrs. LeBlond, a cherished and dedicated member of our staff, will be retiring at the end of this school year. After more than 20 years of dedicated service to the community, Mrs LeBlond will bid us a fond farewell.

Throughout her time at Holy Family Primary, Mrs LeBlond has been a constant source of support, encouragement, and joy to our children. Her unwavering commitment to the wellbeing and development of the children has left a lasting impact, not only in the classroom but also in the hearts of the many families she has worked with.

Mrs LeBlond has been more than a staff member—she has been an integral part of our school and parish community. Her peaceful nature, generous spirit, and fun-loving approach have made her a treasured presence in our daily lives. Whether in the playground, at the gate, in the classroom or cheering children on at sports events, she has always brought warmth, kindness, and professionalism to all she does.

While we are sad to see her go, we are deeply grateful for the years of service she has given and wish her every blessing in this next chapter of life.

## Attendance Update

Our focus and efforts to improve attendance at school is showing a very positive picture compared to last year. Over the last 2 months we have seen a slight drop in our overall percentage. I would ask, particularly at this time of year, children attend school every day. Every day at school is so valuable helping children to achieve all they can. Keep up the great work Holy Family!!!

Average Monthly Attendance		
Month	Percentage	Percentage
	23-24	24-25
August	96%	97%
September	95%	95%
October	95%	93%
November	94%	93%
December	89%	87%
January	93%	95%
February	90%	95%
March	92%	94%
April	92%	94%

Average Monthly Attendance by Stage			
Stage	August 2024	Feb 2025	April 2025
P1	99.5%	97.2%	93.1%
P2	95.3%	92.5%	95.9%
P3	95.9%	92.1%	89.8%
P4	96.6%	96.2%	90.9%
P5	99.2%	96.1%	93.4%
P6	96.9%	96.3%	95.3%
P7	95.2%	94.4%	94.5%

## Shorts and Shades Party!!!!

The highlight of the Summer term in Holy Family Primary is upon us!!

Our Parent Council are busy in the background organising this party for our children to attend. Children are invited to come back to school on **Thursday 29th May**. There will be two sessions P1-3 then P4-7.

This event would not be possible if the Parent Council were not in the background organising it. Can you help out for a few hours on the evening? If so you are expected to take on a job which will be assigned on the night. This maybe supervising the children, helping organise snacks or ensuring children are safe in the designated areas of the school.

We are also looking for kind donations of sweets, crisps, kwenchy cups or bottled drinks. Children are to pay on the door at £1.00 per child. Please arrange for an adult over 16 to collect your child. No-one will be allowed to leave the building without an adult. The safety of our children is paramount.



## P7 Lead the Way in Lenten Charity Events

A huge thank you to our wonderful Primary 7 pupils who led this year's Lenten charity fundraising with great energy, creativity, and compassion. From organising fun activities to encouraging the whole school to get involved, their leadership truly reflected the values we hold dear at Holy Family.

We are also incredibly grateful to all our families for your generous support and donations. Thanks to your kindness, we have raised over £450. This will go to four very worthy causes, each thoughtfully chosen by our P7 pupils:

**St Andrew's Hospice, SCIAF, Mary's Meals, and Macmillan Cancer Support.**

These charities carry out life-changing work both locally and globally, and we are proud to support them as a school community during this Lenten season.

**Well done, Primary 7—your efforts have made a real difference.**