



HOLY FAMILY

PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



Holy Family Primary & Nursery School

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Choir Success

Congratulations to our wonderful school choir on their success at the Derry Feis. Our school choir were awarded the Susan Brown Cup for the highest performing school in both the primary and secondary school categories, a wonderful achievement for our talented pupils. The choir also won both the Unison Choir competition and the Two-Part Choir competition. Thank you to Mrs. Barr, Mr. Gill and Miss. Herron for all their work and dedication in preparing the choir. Many thanks to our parents for their ongoing support of the choir.

STEM Club Quality Mark Award

Congratulations to Miss Harkin and her STEM Club team who have been awarded the STEM Clubs Quality Mark award for 2025-26. The external assessors commented on how the club clearly fosters enthusiasm and enjoyment for science among young pupils. They further noted that the club effectively supports the development of knowledge and skills in science. This is excellent recognition for the additional provision being provided at Holy Family, well done to all pupils and staff involved in the award.

Speech and Drama Success at the Derry Feis

We had pupils from P1 - P7 represent the school in speech and drama at the Derry Feis this year. We were incredibly proud of all our pupils who performed so well, many of whom won individual medals for their performances. Thank you to Miss Jenny Doherty and Miss White for all their work in preparing the children.

Eco Schools Green Flag Application

Miss Deery and the eco committee have recently submitted their application to renew the school's green flag status. The Eco members are doing a great job promoting a collective effort to action and raise awareness about protecting our school environment. We hope to hear positive news about our application in the coming weeks.

Nursery Environment Improvements

Our nursery staff have been working to improve the learning environment for our pupils. We have installed a new climbing frame, refurbished our garden area and are installing a sensory space within our foyer area. Thank you to Mrs Doherty and the nursery team for their ongoing commitment to improving the nursery environment.

Active Travel

During term two we applied to become a gold standard active travel school, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to promoting active and sustainable travel over several years. We look forward to learning the outcome of our application. Thank you to Miss Deery and our active travel team for supporting our pupils on their active journeys. We look forward to active travel initiatives in term three where we are aiming to achieve over 70% active travel or combo journeys for our pupils.

TransformED Educational Reform Agenda

During term two, our staff have been engaged in training on the phased implementation of educational reform in Northern Ireland. The reform agenda is a ten-point plan for educational excellence, including improvements to curriculum, assessment, qualifications and tackling educational disadvantage.

Pastoral and Standards Appointment

This term, Mr Gill has been appointed to the role of Pastoral and Standards leader in the school. We wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

Trocaire Campaign 2026

Many thanks to our P6 pupils who organised an Easter raffle and coin collection resulting in a collection of £500 for Trocaire during Lent. Thank you to Mrs Keys, Mr Lagan and Mrs Barr for facilitating the campaign.

Sport in Term Two

This term our school football team completed a round of fixtures in the Derry Schools' Development League. Thank you to Miss McSheffrey and Mr Condren for taking both the boys' and girls' teams to their games. We look forward to their participation in the Derry Schools' Cup in term three.

The P4 - P7 cross-country team performed very well at the annual cross-country race hosted by St Mary's Primary School at the Strabane Sigersons GAA club. There was a first-place finish for Emma McCarron in the P7 girls' race, second place for Noah Doherty in the P6 boys' race and third place for Cara Grant in the P6 girls' race. Thank you to Mrs Gallagher and Mrs McBride for their organisation of the event and to Miss Devlin for her ongoing work with the team.

In term two the school facilitated a girl's introduction to Gaelic football in association with local GAA club Doire Colmcille. Our girls' Gaelic team were beaten finalists in the Doire Colmcille cup, they now progress to the city finals at Celtic Park in May. Thank you to Mr Lagan for his work in preparing the team.

Community Partnerships

During term 2 the school facilitated NEST 'Nurturing Engagement Support Trust' sessions in association with ParentlineNI. We have also worked in partnership with the Dunluce Family Centre, Slimming World, Arlene McLaughlin School of Irish dancing and Springtown Boxing Club to provide community engagement activities for our families. We are very appreciative of our friends at BHCP for supporting our pupils in a community homework club, Read and Feed. Our school remains a hub of the community to support all.

Sacraments of Penance and Confirmation

In term two our P4 pupils celebrated the sacrament of Penance and our P7 pupils celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you to Mrs McBride and all our staff, parents and the parish community for their support in preparing our children for these important sacraments. We look forward to the First Communion on Friday 15th May 2026 for our P4 pupils.

International Links

In term two we hosted a group of German teachers and students to visit our school as part of an international exchange programme in association with Foyle International.

Our P4, P5 and P6 classes continue to avail of weekly Mandarin lessons as part of our link with the Confucius Institute at Ulster University and we look forward to a Chinese New Year celebration event early in term three.

Student Teachers

In term two we hosted three student teachers from St Mary's University College, Belfast and one teacher from Ulster University in Coleraine. We thank all our students for their contributions to Holy Family during their time with us and wish them every success as they continue their studies.

St Patrick's Day Performance

Congratulations to our P3 Irish dance club members who put on a fabulous showcase of their skills for our parents and visitors at the St Patrick's Day concert. Thank you to Mrs Kelly for facilitating the Irish dancing club and for organising the concert.

Credit Union Quiz Success

Congratulations to our Credit Union quiz teams who were runners up at both the Derry Credit Union and the Pennyburn Credit Union quizzes. Many thanks to Mrs Parke and Miss R Doherty for all their support in organising and preparing our teams for the quizzes.

Easter Passion Play

Our P7 year group delivered a wonderful Easter Passion play in the Holy Family church as we reflected on the events of Holy Week and the resurrection of Jesus.

World Book Day

In term two we celebrated World Book Day with our children dressing as their favourite book characters. This was supported by our student council organising a costume swap shop. There has been increased reading engagement in Accelerated Reading in term two, with prizes awarded in each class from P3 -P7. Thank you to Mr McLaughlin for his promotion of these initiatives.

Springfest

Our P5 pupils took part in a musical theatre themed workshop delivered by the EA music tutors in the Millenium Forum. The workshops proved to be a fantastic shared musical experience. Thank you to Mrs Barr, the school music coordinator for organising this event.

Quality Awards

The Holy Family Quality Awards are rooted in the Gospel values and reflect a key element of our school motto 'Do the Right Thing'.

Each month we select and celebrate one of our values which include courtesy, helpfulness, patience, kindness, understanding, generosity, resilience, wisdom, gentleness and self-control.

We are very proud of our award winners for January (understanding) February (generosity) and March (resilience). We hope that they enjoyed their extended break and treat with Mrs Parke.