



# Holy Rosary School Update

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## Welcome Back!

15/09/2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As we reach the end of our second full week back in school, we want to say a huge well done to all of our incredible boys and girls. It's been a fantastic start, and we're delighted to see how well everyone has settled back into the rhythm of school life. We also extend a warm welcome to our 48 Junior Infant girls and boys who have made the transition to 'big school' so very well!

In this newsletter, you will find a wealth of important information, updates, and insights into the happenings within our school. We encourage you to take a moment to read its contents carefully.

Thank you all for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic year ahead!

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## Code of Behaviour

Our new Code of Behaviour is now in operation across the school. It's extremely important that all families take the time to read this policy. Thank you to our staff, children and the wider school community for the time and effort that they put into this.

[Holy Rosary School Code of Behaviour](#)

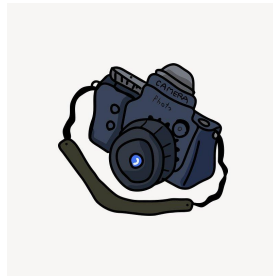
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### PA AGM & Presentation From Hayley Rice

Our PA AGM will take place on **Thursday October 12th at 7.30pm**. We're also delighted to invite guest speaker Hayley Rice on the evening. Hayley will deal with a range of topics with a view to supporting both parents and children with the return to school as well as other topical areas. Please make every effort to attend this very valuable event and AGM.

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### School Photos

We are delighted to announce the return of school photos in collaboration with our Parents Association. On Friday, October 6th, we have arranged for professional photography services to be provided by Michael and his team from County Photos.

Here's a brief overview of what Michael will be offering:

1. **Family Photos:** Each family unit in the school will have the opportunity to have their photograph taken.
2. **Individual and Sibling Photos:** Junior Infants and 6th class pupils will be photographed individually and with their siblings. Pupils from Senior Infants to 5th Class will have the option to be photographed with their siblings or on their own if they do not have a sibling in the school.
3. **Multiple Poses:** You will have the choice of two poses for each family unit at no additional cost. You can select from image 1, image 2, or even a combination of both.

4. **Class Group Photos:** A class group photo will be taken for each classroom group.

Please keep an eye out for more information in the coming week, including pricing & more details on how the scheduling and ordering process will operate. You can also view some samples of Michael's work in the attached flyer.

[County Photos Flyer](#)



In the coming weeks, many of our pupils will represent our school in GAA and athletics. We want to take a moment to wish our boys and girls, along with their mentors, the very best of luck.

We really appreciate your involvement and support as parents and guardians in our school community. As we begin to approach these lovely events and occasions along with many more in the future, we are in need of volunteers to lend a helping hand.

To become a volunteer, there is a necessary step we request you to complete. Any parent / guardian wishing to volunteer must undergo Garda vetting through the school. This vetting process is an essential step which must be taken before you can volunteer.

We strongly urge as many of you as possible to take this important step in becoming a volunteer. Your willingness to be vetted not only allows you to support us during events like

these but also opens the door to many future opportunities where your involvement can make a significant difference in our school community.

Please complete page one of the form attached below and return to Francesca in the office. Please note that you will need to bring two forms of I.D. including one with a photo when you are returning the form. Thanks in advance for your support.

### Vetting Form

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## Email Communication & Whatsapp

A reminder that you can contact your class teacher via email. We kindly ask that all interactions are constructive and we suggest that if your email is longer than a paragraph that a request for a phone conversation or a face to face meeting might be more appropriate.

We appreciate the value of class whatsapp groups and welcome these. We remind all participants to model the behaviour that we expect of our children when we are online and engaging in conversation related to our school.

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## Uniform

A reminder that the following is our **accepted school uniform**:

**ALL PUPILS:** White polo shirt, blue jumper with Dominican crest & black/navy shoes.

**GIRLS:** Pinafore/skirt in bedfordshire tartan, black/navy/white tights, black/navy/white socks or grey trousers.

**BOYS:** Grey trousers.

**Optional:**

**BOYS & GIRLS:** may wear knee-length **navy shorts** in very hot weather

**The P.E. uniform consists of:** Plain navy tracksuit, runners with grips, white polo shirt

## Not Permitted:

- **Earrings:** Only stud earrings are allowed; other types of earrings (e.g., hoops, dangly earrings etc) are not permitted.
- **Jewellery:** Any jewellery that could be deemed to harm the wearer or others, including sharp items, is not allowed.
- **Nail Varnish:** Nail varnish or false nails are not permitted.
- **Makeup:** Students are not allowed to wear makeup during school hours.
- **Footwear:** Runners that are not deemed to be correct sports runners for uniform days are not allowed. Runners should not be worn with formal uniform attire either.
- **Shorts:** Black cycling or lycra-style shorts are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn during school hours.
- **Hairstyle:** Dyed, bleached, or distracting coloured hairstyles are not permitted. Hairstyles should be of a neat and natural appearance.

Any breach / non compliance with our school uniform will be dealt with in accordance with our **Code of Behaviour**.

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## Attendance

Our school is **duty bound** to report all absences to the Education Welfare Officer. We would like to remind all parents/guardians to please ensure that you **record the reason** for your child's absence via the **Aladdin App**.

Last year saw a 2.8% year-on-year improvement in attendance. However, we acknowledge that there is still a significant amount of work to be done to close the gap to the attendance figures we achieved in pre covid times.

Our mission this year is clear: we are determined to not only bridge the gap but to do our very best to surpass the attendance numbers witnessed pre covid. Achieving this goal will not only reflect the commitment of our pupils but also the collective team effort of our entire school community.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing our attendance figures for September and comparing them to previous years. It is hugely important to emphasise that, under no circumstances, should children come to school if they are unwell. The health and well-being of our pupils and staff remain our priority.

We also want to remind you that if you are facing challenges with school attendance, our school is here to support you. We encourage you to contact us for assistance and suggestions on how we can support regular and consistent attendance. Please see the attached document below which illustrates the importance of school attendance in detail.

## Importance of School Attendance



## Afterschool Activities and Sport

As we move into the coming weeks we will see the return of extracurricular activities and clubs!

Here are **some** of the activities and clubs that will be resuming soon:

- 1. GAA Coaching and Rugby Coaching:** Our GAA and rugby coaching sessions will return during school hours with our GPO Jack Keogh and Rugby CRO Aidan Kearney.
- 2. Music with Mr. Dunne:** Mr. Dunne has recommenced music lessons in both school buildings on Wednesday & Friday.
- 3. Swimming:** Swimming will return for children from 3rd - 6th Class again this year.
- 4. Choir:** We are delighted to announce that our school choir will continue in the coming weeks.
- 5. Other After School Clubs:** In the coming weeks, we will also be offering a variety of after-school clubs including athletics, basketball, soccer, chess, and the science club.

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## GAA School / Community Link

I'm hoping to organise a meeting in the coming weeks with a view to establishing a strong partnership within our school community to grow and promote our games in the school and beyond! Please email [principal@holynosaryschool.ie](mailto:principal@holynosaryschool.ie) if you'd like to join.

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## Annual Child Protection Review

We're currently undertaking our annual Child Protection Review. Please feel free to provide feedback via the form below:

[Annual Child Protection Review](#)

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## Facebook Page

Please check out our facebook page for photos and updates!

[Holy Rosary Facebook Page](#)

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## School Calendar 2023/24

School Calendar for your convenience:

[School Calendar 23-24](#)

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## **\*\*Drop Off & Collection\*\***

- Please be mindful of our neighbours and do not block their driveways.
- Park in marked spaces. Do not park on double yellow lines.
- It is **dangerous** to stop and set down children at **the corner of Bethlehem gates.**

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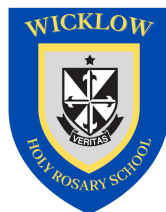
We will be in touch with further updates soon, but for now we'd like to wish you a pleasant weekend!

Le meas,

Brendan Roache,

Príomhoide.

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**Holy Rosary School**

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