



St Hugh of Lincoln
Catholic Primary School
In faith and love, we learn and grow



Newsletter 15 January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you so much for all of your kind words, cards and flowers last week when you found out about the death of my dad – it was lovely to know I was in your thoughts and prayers. I'm now back at school and need to say a huge thank you to our school leadership and office team who set up the home learning provision and critical worker placements so effectively with such little notice

I really appreciate that remote learning is a huge challenge for parents. Many of our staff (including me) are also juggling remote learning for their own children at the same time as preparing lessons and resources for yours – so we really do understand the challenges you're facing! We are constantly reviewing the remote learning we offer and will work hard to resolve any issues to make it as manageable and meaningful as possible. We've thought hard about issues like pre-recording lessons to avoid issues with families sharing devices and minimising any printing and equipment requirements as much as possible. I know that it's very difficult to come up with a one size fits all model, but hopefully we've developed a remote learning solution that works for as many families as possible. Please continue to let us know how you're finding it. I can't promise to be able to act on every request, but can promise to listen and act where we can.

Live registration sessions

We've had some wonderful feedback from both parents and staff about the live registration sessions we've introduced. Some classes have shared their favourite soft toys, done virtual show and tells, shared snack time together and read stories which all helps to keep that vital connection going between home and school. If you haven't been able to join the sessions yet, please do encourage your child to participate as it's a good way for them to get any support they need from their teacher and keep in touch with their friends. Initially, some classes had a few issues with children being "kicked out" of the sessions, but our Xavier IT support team has now resolved the problem so it shouldn't happen again. Apologies if this caused you or your child any upset.

Submitting work and getting feedback

This week, we only asked that children submitted their extended piece of writing produced as part of their English lessons. Next week, we'd like to ask children to begin to submit any written RE work they do in addition to their extended writing. Your child's teacher will then give them some feedback on these pieces of work to help develop their learning.

Teachers are also trying to stress to the children that the high expectations we have in terms of presentation and handwriting at school, still apply to the work they do at home. Handwriting and fine motor skills were one of the things we noticed many children regressed with after the last lockdown, so your help in reinforcing this message would be really helpful to your child when school reopens.

Closed bubble at school

I'm sorry to have to say that we had to close our first critical worker bubble at school this week. This new variant really does seem to be more transmissible and many of our Xavier primary schools have also found themselves having to close one or more bubbles this week. Thank you for supporting our community by keeping your children at home. This gives us the best possible chance of keeping the in school provision available for critical workers with no other safe option for their children.

If your child is in school, please be vigilant and don't send them in if either they or any member of their household has any symptoms. If at all in doubt, stay at home and arrange a test.

Helping with anxiety

Many of the conversations we're having with families are about mental health and wellbeing. Dr Alison D'Amario is our Xavier child and educational psychologist and she has produced a really useful video about anxiety, and strategies you can use to support your child. Here's a link for you and I'd encourage you to watch it if you or your child is suffering.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHaB4teA7QI>

Parenting skills and wellbeing

We're also having lots of conversations with parents asking for help and advice about parenting and supporting their child's wellbeing. Mrs Pickard, our SENCO, has sourced lots of excellent resources which may be useful for you which we have put on our website. You can find them in the Spring 2021 – Covid information tab under wellbeing advice.

<https://www.sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk/wellbeing-advice/>

Stay safe everyone and have a lovely weekend.

God bless,
Mrs Harper