

St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. It has been lovely to welcome our children back to their school this week, and to hear about what many of them got up to during the Summer holidays.

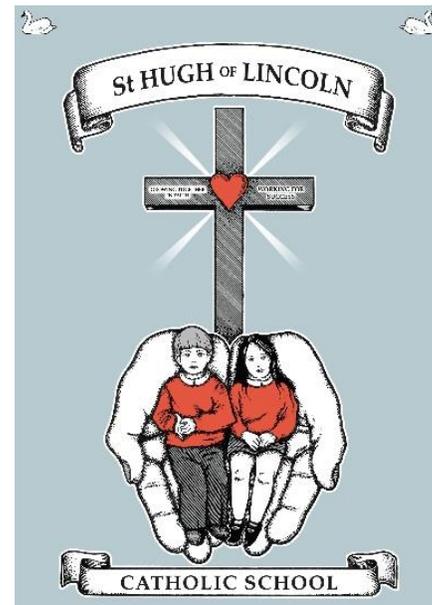
A warm welcome to three new members of staff who have joined us: Miss Bye (Reception teacher), Miss Scott (Year 3 teacher Weds-Fri) and Miss Libby (Year 6 teacher). I hope that they will be very happy at our school.

We are experimenting with a slightly different structure to the children's school day at the start of this term. Although Reception and Key Stage 1 children have always had an afternoon break, Key Stage 2 children have not, and two hours in the classroom each afternoon without a break can be a long time. So we are experimenting with reducing the length of lunchtime by 15 minutes, adding 5 minutes on to the morning play and giving the children a 10 minute play in the middle of the afternoon. We hope that this will enable children to remain fresh and focussed throughout the afternoon. We will evaluate this at the end of September, with feedback from children as well as from staff.

It has been nice to have been in the lunch hall this week, talking to children about their holidays while they have been enjoying their food. I am prompted to remind parents of two very important details regarding food in school:

1) We have children in our school (and children who are about to join us) with severe nut allergies. The consequences of them coming into contact with nuts or traces of nuts are potentially devastating, so we are strictly a **no nut school**. Packed lunches are not allowed to contain nuts or food with a nut ingredient.

2) Grapes included in packed lunches must be sliced (lengthways) into quarters. Whole grapes have been known to cause choking in young children, on occasions tragically resulting in fatality. **Whole uncut grapes must not be in lunch boxes or snack boxes**. Thank you for your support. Have a lovely weekend. God bless, Mr George



School Values

God our Father, help us all to ...

Live like Jesus,
One family, learning together,
Valuing everyone,
Each and every day.

At St Hugh of Lincoln School we are fully committed to safeguarding. Mr George and Mrs Rose are the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads: any concerns regarding safeguarding should be raised with either of them.

Please look out on Monday for a list of dates for this year. The weekly newsletter will then be used to update the list of events as the year goes on.

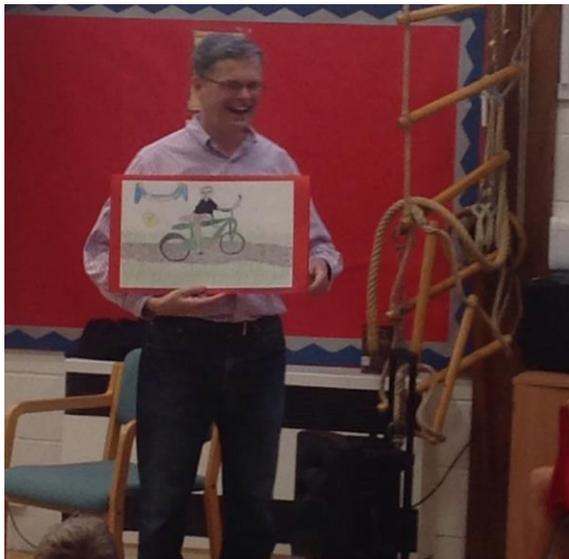
Mass in school – 8.30am on Wednesday 12th and Wednesday 19th September

Fr Alexander has kindly arranged for a visiting priest to celebrate Mass in school on each of the two dates above. We are so privileged to be able to celebrate Mass in school every week and I am very grateful to Fr Alexander for having arranged for this to happen even in his absence.

Please do come if you can. It would be lovely if lots of people came and showed our visiting priest how much we value the opportunity for Mass to be said in school each week, and to make him feel welcome. All parents and parishioners are warmly invited, and Key Stage 2 children may attend without a parent being present.

Swimming

Year 5 children start swimming lessons on Monday afternoon, at Guildford Spectrum. Half of the class will be in this first group, with the other half having their series of lessons in the Spring term.



Year 6 will be away next week on their residential trip to PGL, Windmill Hill. I know that they will have a fantastic time. Mrs Pickard, Miss Libby, Mrs Trundle and I will be accompanying the children on their trip. We will be leaving after lunch on Monday, returning around the end of school on Friday.

Fr Alexander celebrated a whole school Mass on Thursday, for the start of the school year. It was the last time that Fr Alexander will celebrate Mass for us, as he is about to move to a parish in Hove.

For the past six years Fr Alexander has been an integral part of our school. At least twice a week he has arrived on his bike or on foot, saying Mass each week, visiting all the classes, the lunch hall and the staffroom, and often being out on the playground at the end of school. The strength of the partnership between our school and parish is extremely strong, and this is due in no small part to Fr Alexander's commitment to our school and all the children and staff in it. He has been a real advocate for the school, a source of wise advice and an example of great compassion. Behind the scenes he has been a loyal and dedicated foundation governor. We have all learned a tremendous amount from Fr Alexander's extraordinary range of knowledge (whatever the subject being taught when Fr Alexander goes into a classroom he knows more about it than anyone else) and his ability to condense so much into a two minute homily.

We will all really miss Fr Alexander, and wish him every happiness and blessing as he takes his ministry to the south coast. We have been blessed to have been served by him for the past six years.