

St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents,

All of the children have been busy this week practising for their Advent Reflection / nativity play. Key Stage 2 children had a good practice at the church on Wednesday morning. Please note the arrangements for the different Christmas events, which I have reproduced again in this newsletter.

The School Council met on Monday. They have decided that they would like us to do a charity collection at the end of the nativity plays and Advent Reflections, and that they would like the money to be divided equally between Woking Hospice and the Little Roo Fund, which supports the neonatal unit at St Peter's Hospital. These suggestions came entirely from School Councillors and I think are excellent causes for us as a school to support.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Bazaar last Saturday. As always there was a nice atmosphere in the church hall with lots of families present. In excess of £2800 has been raised, which is an excellent outcome.

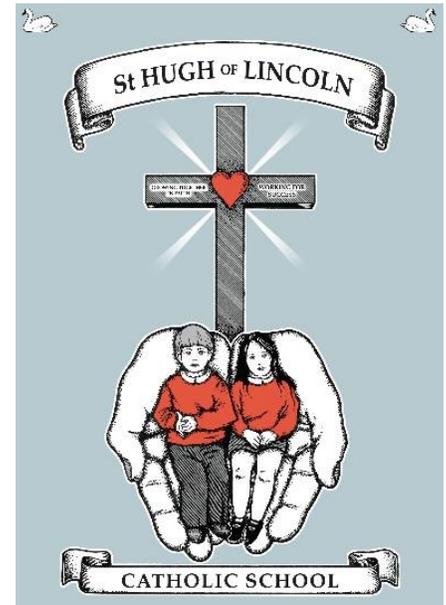
Our attendance so far this school year is very good – 97.8%. Last year our attendance over the whole year was 96.9%, which was super. Our 'healthiest' class so far this year is Year 3, with a 99.1% attendance rate.

Please come to our Phonics Evening on Monday, especially if you have a child in Reception or Year 1. Improving our teaching of phonics, so that more children finish Year 1 with really high levels of phonic knowledge, is a key priority for the school. We would like to talk about what we do in the teaching of phonics, and the ways in which parents can support.

God bless,

Mr George

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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. The member of the governing body with nominated responsibility for safeguarding is Mrs Jo Losty.

Mass is celebrated in the school hall at 8.30am each term time Wednesday. All are very welcome.

Forthcoming events:

- 1 December – INSET day – school closed to pupils
- 4 December – Phonics evening (6.00pm) **(see next page)**
- 11 December – last swimming lesson for current group
- 21 December – End of Autumn term (1.30pm)
- 8 January – Start of Spring term
- 8&9 January – Life Bus in school
- 8 January – first swimming lesson for new Year 5 group
- 26 January – Year 5 assembly (9.00am)
- 9 February – Year 4 assembly (9.00am)
- 1 March – World Book Day
- 2 March – Year 3 assembly (9.00am)

Please ensure all children have a coat in school every day. Children are expected to be outside during playtimes when it is cold and in light to moderate rain.

It has been great to see children from our youngest in Reception to our oldest in Year 6 using iPads this week. Thank you Friends.

Need to apply for a school place for September 2018? Remember the deadline is 15 January.

Luxury Hampers raffle – raising money for our school

“The Hope for Alex team will be holding a raffle with the proceeds going to our school as a thank you to Mr George for the tremendous support we received from him and the school during our fund raising activities. The raffle prizes will consist of a number of luxury Christmas Hampers with tickets going on sale from Monday 4th December. Tickets will be available in the playground from either Louise Hall or Dueyna Chinere. Ticket cost £1.00 with prizes available for viewing on Friday 8th December”.

Best regards,
Louise Hall

St John’s Knaphill Children’s Centre

Our Family Forest School led by a Forest School Leader is on the First Saturday of the month. A fun Saturday morning session for parents with children 2-5 years. Forest schools offers an excellent opportunity for play, exploration and the chance for children to really develop their imagination and creativity. The session is on 10.00am-11.30am.

Please wear appropriate clothing as we are outside for the whole session.

You can also find details of this and all the centre’s activities on the website www.stjohnsknaphillchildrenscentre.co.uk or contact the centre on 01483 476450.

Louisa, Becki, Lucie and Carol

On Monday we will welcome a visitor from **Mission Together** who will talk to all the children in assembly. Mission Together is a Catholic charity the school supports during Advent each year and each child will bring home a collection box early next week, which they will be invited to bring back in the new year.

Christmas arrangements

5 December (pm) – Key Stage 2 children to the church to practise for their Advent Reflection. Key Stage 2 parents will have received a letter about this.

6 December (7.00pm) – Key Stage 2 Advent Reflection in the church. All children in Key Stage 2 will be expected to take part. They will need to arrive at the church at 6.30pm. All Key Stage 2 parents are invited. The church is highly likely to be packed – younger children will have the opportunity to see the Advent Reflection in school and should not be brought unless absolutely necessary. The Advent Reflection is likely to last about one hour.

11 December (9.30am) – Key Stage 2 Advent Reflection the school hall. This will be a repeat of the Advent Reflection led in the church. All Key Stage 2 parents are invited, to see the Advent Reflection for the first time if they were not in the church, or to see it again. Pre-school age children may be brought.

15 December (1.30pm) – Key Stage 1 nativity play in the school hall, for invited guests. This performance will be for the Key Stage 2 children to watch, and invited guests who will mostly be from the parish luncheon club.

18 December (1.45pm) – Key Stage 1 nativity play in the school hall for parents.

19 December (1.45pm) – Key Stage 1 nativity play in the school hall for parents. Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to attend on **either** 18th or 19th. Please **do not** come on **both** dates as the hall will be very full. Pre-school age children may come, but there will be strictly no pushchairs / prams in the school hall. The play is likely to last around 45 minutes. At the end of the play, once the children are changed back into uniform, they may be collected, but any Key Stage 2 children will need to remain in class until the normal end of the school day.

We will take a charity collection at the end of the two Advent Reflections and the two nativity play performances to which parents are invited.

8 December – Fr Alexander will be in school to offer the sacrament of reconciliation to children in Years 4-6.

11 December – Christmas card post box available. Please do not bring in Christmas cards before this date.

13 December – Christmas lunch day.

20 December – A group of children (to be invited) carol singing at Princess Christian care home.

20 December – Christmas parties in each class. Children may wear their own clothes all day.

4 December, 6.00pm

A workshop for parents on phonics. This is mostly aimed at parents of children in Reception and Year 1, but all are welcome. We are working hard to increase the number of children who end Year 1 having reached or exceeded the nationally expected standard in phonics – we need your help. Please come and learn more about what we do in school, and what you can do at home to support your children's learning.

Term dates for academic year 2018-2019 are now on the school website.

Earlier this year, following the Year of Mercy, I produced a small book of reflections on the theme of mercy. More than 250 copies were sold in the school and in local parishes ... I have a few left. Maybe a little Christmas present for someone? All proceeds will go to the school, with a reduced price of £3.00 per book. Please ask in the school office if you would like to buy a book.

Reflections on the Year of Mercy

From the perspective of a Catholic school
Headteacher



Michael George

Foreword by Right Reverend Richard Moth,
Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

Staff news

I am sad to tell parents that Mrs Hermon, one of Teaching Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors, will be leaving the school at the end of this term. She will not be going far, moving to a role at our deanery and MAT friends St Augustine's.

Mrs Hermon has been a valued member of our staff for eleven years. In that time she has worked in most if not all classes in the school, and has worked supporting individual children, small groups and whole classes. Many children have also benefited from her work as one of our Rainbows team.

We will miss Mrs Hermon when she moves on, but will be grateful for the opportunity we have had to have had her in our school for such a long time.

With the weather having become colder it is timely to issue some guidance about procedures to be followed in the event of snow or other 'bad' weather, which may lead to questions about possible school closure.

Parents should always assume that the school is open, unless they are advised otherwise. School will always be open, unless it is unsafe for it to be so. It would be unsafe for school to be open if the school site itself was dangerous, or if insufficient members of staff were able to get to school for us to ensure that all children in school were safe and cared for.

The responsibility for deciding whether a school should be open or shut in the event of bad weather lies with the Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

In the event of school closure being necessary:

All parents will receive a text;

An announcement will be made on the school's Twitter account;

An announcement will be made on the school website;

Surrey County Council will be informed and their website page detailing school closures will be updated;

Local radio stations will be advised.