



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



## Newsletter

# 26 February 2021- Return to School Information

Dear parents and carers,

I can't tell you how much we're looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Our priority is to help children to rediscover the joy of being back together and making them feel safe, secure and happy at school. I honestly don't think that the terms we hear in the press about "learning loss" and "catch up" are useful ones since they have the potential to create feelings of inadequacy and anxiety in our children. At St Hugh we will only ever talk about reconnecting then moving forward which we hope reflects a much more positive approach to the joy of being back together and learning at school.

### Helping to prepare your child

Our children have had such a strange year and Covid has turned their routines, social opportunities and expectations on their heads. Some children will be really looking forward to coming back to school and reconnecting with their friends whilst others may have really enjoyed their time at home and feel unhappy or anxious about coming back. In order to help, Ali D'Amario, our Xavier Educational Psychologist, has put together another of her YouTube videos with strategies you can use to help prepare your child for 8<sup>th</sup> March. We've uploaded the video onto our website (link below) and I would encourage you to have a look and use the ideas to help your child transition back to school.

<https://www.sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk/monday-8th-march-return-to-in-school-schooling/>

### Structure and routines

All of the guidance we implemented in the autumn term about bubbles, ventilation, hand washing etc are still in place. In this sense, it's very much, "business as normal" which should help the children on their return since they were all very familiar with how we worked before Christmas. Sorry this is a bit lengthy, but here's a reminder for you:

### Start of the day routine

- **Parents can drop children off from 8.35am so children have time to wash their hands and be ready to start learning at 8.50am.**
- Please wear a mask when coming up to the school grounds and socially distance on the pavements.
- We need to encourage only one adult to drop off your child in order to minimize the number of people coming up to school. Where you need to bring pre-school children with you, please make sure they are either in a buggy or holding your hand at all times to help with social distancing.
- Children will have different entrance gates as specified below and will enter the school through their own classroom door. Members of staff will direct children on the first few days until they are happy they know where to go.

- **KS1 and Yr R children will come in the small KS1 gate and go straight into their classroom door.** We would ask that parents say goodbye outside the gate and avoid waiting outside the school.
- **KS2 children will go in through the KS2 playground gate and straight into their classroom door.** Parents need to say goodbye at entrance to the carpark and avoid waiting outside the school once they've dropped off their child.
- **Parents should only visit the school by appointment** and dropping into the office is not allowed. If a parent needs to get a message to a teacher about their child, they are encouraged to telephone.
- To minimize any risks caused by children walking through the car park, **the car park barrier will be closed between 8.35am and 8.50am.** In exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement, parents or carers may drive to school to drop their child off. If this is the case they need to call the office in advance to get a permit to display in their car window. They will need to arrive before the barriers close at 8.35am and wait in their car with their child until the playground gates are open. They will need to wait until the barriers open again before they can drive away.
- If a child uses public transport to come to school and is wearing a face covering, this must be removed before coming into school and taken away in a plastic bag by the parent or carer.
- ***Please help us by respecting our neighbours and avoiding driving up to the school building. We spend lots of time trying to build positive relationships with them, but this is easily undermined when parents drive down the close or park inconsiderately on the road or pavements.***

#### Wickes and the Surrey pub

- Wickes have asked parents not to park in their carpark at this time due to their customer queueing system taking up space in the car park. The Surrey pub are happy to allow parents to park considerately during drop off and pick up.

#### End of the day routine

- To avoid long lines of parents queueing up Five Oaks Close, parents should come into either the KS1 or KS2 playground at 3.15pm to collect their children. We will open the gates at 3.05pm to ease the footfall on Five Oaks Close. Parents should observe current social distancing protocols when waiting and wear a mask.
- If a parent has a child in both KS1 and KS2, please collect your children from the KS1 playground. KS2 siblings will walk to a designated area on the playground for their bubble.
- As with drop off, please minimize the number of adults coming to pick up and make sure that any other children are either in a buggy or holding your hand at all times – they are not allowed to run around the playground.
- Once you have collected your child, please leave the playground with them immediately to minimize the chances of them mixing with children in other bubbles.

#### Scooters and bikes

Wherever possible, please avoid bringing your child to school on their bike or scooter. Although we recognize the benefit to using them if it means avoiding public transport, we are concerned about having large numbers of children bringing bikes and scooters to school for the following reasons:

- It is easy for children to get separated from their parents if they cycle or scoot ahead.
- Increased footfall on pavements as we all return to school mean it is unsafe for other pedestrians to cycle or scoot on pavements.
- Concerns about the safety of children cycling or scooting on the road.

- We only have 1 storage area for bikes and cycles at school. This would mean children from different bubbles would be mixing at the start and end of the day which is something we need to try and minimize. We can't store cycle helmets at school as we need to minimize the amount of equipment transferring between school and home.

### Uniform

- All children will need to come to school in uniform. Please come in school PE kit on Monday and Thursday to avoid having to bring PE bags in.
- Reception class children should continue to bring their PE kit into school as getting changed is part of their learning.
- We completely understand that children will have grown during lockdown and that it may have been difficult to buy things like new shoes while the shops have been shut. Don't worry. Do your best to wear the correct uniform but we understand the challenges lockdown has caused and so if you don't have the correct shoes for a few weeks that's fine.

### School bags

- Children must use a school book bag in KS1 and a school messenger bag in KS2. No backpacks please as we don't have space in class to store them.
- Year R don't need to bring in a book bag as school will provide the children with a reading wallet.

### Pencil cases

- Please send any year 1 – 6 children to school with a **small, named pencil case** including a pencil, pencil sharpener, a rubber, a blue handwriting pen in KS2, a purple biro, a highlighter pen, a whiteboard pen and a glue stick. We will give each child a named 30cm ruler to keep in their tray and this does not need to fit in their pencil case. They don't need to bring coloured pencils or felt pens. Please don't buy a large, elaborate pencil case as it acts as a distraction from learning, doesn't fit in the trays and takes up too much room on the desks. Something like this is cheap, easily available and is ideal:



### Water bottles

- Shared water fountains are not in operation any more around the school so please remember to send your child to school with a water bottle. Each class will have a jug of water we can use to top them up as needed.
- Please don't send fruit juice or squash to school – water only please.

### Lunches

- Our kitchens are operational and will be providing hot, school lunches.
- Year R and 1 will be able to eat in the hall, one class at a time.
- Year 2 and KS2 will still need to eat in their classroom. Children can either bring a packed lunch from home or we will deliver hot food to them in their classrooms in eco-friendly take away boxes. Menu options are on Scopay for you to choose and pay for as normal.

### Morning fruit

- Morning fruit will be provided in Yr R and KS1. Milk is being delivered as usual.

### Wraparound care

- Breakfast club and after school club are going to be running as usual. All of the safety measures we have in place in classrooms will also be adopted in wraparound care and children in different bubbles will be in different areas of the wrap around room as much as possible. If you're registered for wraparound care you can book and pay on Scopay as usual. If you haven't used wraparound care before but would like to start, please contact the office for a registration form.

### Medicines

- All medicines were sent home at the end of autumn term with a new medicines form. If your child has medication that we need to keep at school please return it to us (clearly named) in a clear plastic bag with a new completed form. There will be a drop off box outside on 8<sup>th</sup> March for you to put it in.

### After school clubs for sports, dance etc

- We will not be running any clubs for the rest of the spring term but will revisit this once everyone is back and things have settled down.

### Playtimes

- Yr R will have playtime in the Yr R outdoor area.
- The KS1 playground will be separated in two – one side for year 1 and the other for year 2. They will have playtime at the same time.
- The KS2 playground will be separated to accommodate 2 different classes at any one time. Years 3 and 4 will have playtime together and at a different time from Years 5 and 6.

### Trips

- The government guidance has said that school trips are not currently permitted.
- We are waiting for further clarification from the government about whether the Year 6 residential can go ahead. We will let year 6 parents know as soon as we hear anything.

### **World book day – Thursday 4 March**

This year, World Book Day, just like everything else, will be different. We've adapted to make sure that World Book Day still sends a powerful and positive message about books and reading, even in lockdown. To add to the fun of the week the Art lesson, during World Book Week, will be an open-ended activity based on your child's favourite book or character. Prizes will be awarded for the most exciting creations to be awarded by Mrs Grace on our return to school. There will also be a live author session for

the children to tune into and the children are being encouraged to take part in our Reading Stars activity throughout the week. Reading Stars is a game that has been created to encourage reading at home and all the exciting ways you can share stories – not just at bedtime! For more information about how World Book Day will happen in 2021, please visit: <https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/09/world-book-day-2021-announcements/>

### **Play-worker vacancy**

We are looking for another part time play-worker to help with our after school club when we're able to open again. The position is part time working 3pm – 6pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday during term time. Here's a link to the advert of Eteach.

<https://www.eteach.com/jobs/st-hugh-of-lincoln-catholic-primary-school-jobs-13881/?oo=ag>

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the return to school. Meanwhile, don't forget it's INSET next Friday and I really look forward to seeing everyone again at school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

God bless,  
Mrs Harper