

St Bede's Governors' Newsletter



14 July 2020

Summer Term Issue 6

Dear Parents/Guardians

When we sent out our last newsletter back in February of this year, we had no idea what lay ahead for us as a school and as a community. No-one could have predicted what has happened in the last few months. The situation we found ourselves in was unprecedented, we had more questions than answers as the UK and the rest of the world came to terms with what was happening and how to manage it.

As many of our priorities for this school year have had to be placed on hold, we wanted to take the opportunity, as we approach the end of this academic year, to reflect on the last few months as well as look to the future.

LOCKDOWN

All UK schools were officially closed to pupils except those of key worker children on Friday 20th March. During that final week, we were able to assess the impact this would have on our parents and make provision to ensure all key worker children that did need to attend school were able to as per the government guidelines from March 23rd.

By Monday 23rd, the school had issued books, worksheets etc to children and set up an online framework for home working, individually managed by the teachers where documents and homework were uploaded each week. As the weeks progress this work was complimented by many of our teachers with videos to further support the children.

RE-OPENING (YR R,1,6)

Once the Government confirmed schools were to re-open, with the safety of our pupils and staff our main focus, the school opened its doors on 2nd June to all pupils in the above year groups that wished to return to school. Numbers were initially at around 125 pupils per day but this gradually increased to around 176 by the end of June, well above the average attendance rate for Hampshire. The children were obviously very happy to be back in school and staff morale was also very good.

JULY

The size of our school meant we could not open up to all pupils whilst the restrictions around social distancing are in place. A survey was sent to parents to determine who would like to send their children back to school and the response was overwhelming. With that in mind, Mr Carroll decided to put measures in place that allowed every child that wanted to come back to school to have the opportunity to do so. Every child was then offered a week of schooling before the end of the academic year which we gather was gratefully received by pupils and their parents.

Although the pupils have worked and played in small bubbles during this time, the school has still managed to organise an International Day, a Sports Day and a Year 6 Leavers event. All of these events have been carefully organised that every precaution is made to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.

A huge amount of thanks needs to go to the staff that made all of these things possible.

YEAR 6

Whilst all of our pupils have been impacted by the lockdown that has been in place, our Year 6 pupils have been affected the most. They have missed out on the fun of preparing for their final year production and the celebrations they will have been looking forward to following their SATs. Since they have been back in school though, they have mostly benefitted from the opportunity to socialise and play with each other, after such a long period of absence. As previously mentioned, there will also be a formal Leaving Event for them held this week, which will be live-streamed to parents so that they can watch at home.

Despite their final year at St Bede's not going quite as planned, we hope our Year 6 pupils have enjoyed their time here and we wish them all the very best as they move to secondary school in September.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

A lot can happen between now and September, however, at this point, we are planning to return to school more normally on Sept 7th. Whilst we need to move forward, we acknowledge the difficulties around homeschooling and concerns over the children's emotional and mental well being. Please be assured that this will be managed carefully as the children return to school in September.

NEW LIBRARY IN PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

One of the benefits of the present time in school, is that some of our staff have had extra time to develop our new library, which is looking fantastic. The library environment is based on a woodland theme and is now packed with brand-new books which our children will benefit from in the Autumn. A big thanks to Mr Parry and all of the staff who have worked so hard to develop this new feature for the school.

Finally, over the last few months, each and every one of us will have been affected in different ways. For those who have lost loved ones or friends during this difficult time, you are in our thoughts and prayers. The coming months and even years will bring other trials and tribulations as we are not out of the woods yet, however, we have a special community at St Bede's we can be proud of and we will, as ever, look after and support one another as needed.

We hope that you will get some time to enjoy the summer with your families and friends and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school in September.

Debbie Froud on behalf of the Governors

Foundation Governor

This is my Commandment:

**That you love one another as I have
loved you**

John 15: 12

As pupils, staff, governors and parents of St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Our Mission is to live by the values of
Jesus

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