

St Bede's Governors' Newsletter



13 May 2019

Summer Term Issue 3

Dear Parents

Since our last letter to you life at St Bede's has been busy. Our children continue to be a credit to the school and the local community in the way they behave and show an awareness of what it is to belong to a Catholic school.

RE and Worship Validation

The governors are delighted that the Diocese of Portsmouth recognised the quality of relationships in the school and the quality of the Religious Education and Worship at St Bede's on their visit last term. It is quite rare to achieve outstanding in every category so the staff and children deserve our appreciation for a superb achievement. It has been noticeable that our children are more and more taking a leading role in worship.

Safeguarding

The governors have updated themselves on the latest developments in safeguarding as we recognise the priority this is for our school. In the autumn term the school successfully completed a full review of safeguarding as required by Hampshire County Council.



Training

The governors recognise that the school's last Ofsted report found that the governors could improve and develop their role. To that end we have been involved in a number of training sessions. We attended a session led by an officer of Hampshire Council as we wish to become an outstanding governing body. We attended a retreat day with Mr Carroll and staff and recently had a governors day where we discussed special needs, the school budget and a review of our mission statement.

School budget

You may be aware that schools are finding budgeting extremely difficult and in some cases are having to lose staff or indeed headteachers and teachers are taking on roles beyond that of teaching. We have looked at our budget for the next three years and have noted that if there is no improvement to school budgets we will face real challenges. Thus we are looking at ways of increasing income to the school to

try and protect the budget. Any plans we agree will be shared with you by Mr Carroll and Katie Strickland, Chair of Governors. Katie Strickland is also ensuring that our MP Maria Miller will be aware of our concern at the challenges primary schools are facing with school budgets.

School grounds

The school grounds continue to be developed for the benefit of the children and we know from them how much they enjoy the space which the school field provides for play. Work is ongoing to develop the woods so that the children can continue to explore science and nature there but also use the woods for fun and play. This all contributes to our commitment to the all round development of our children.

Music

Music in the school continues to flourish under the leadership of Mrs Hynes and recently children from Years 4 and 6 joined pupils from other schools for a musical celebration at the Anvil Theatre.

Sports

Since Mr Carroll's arrival the School has strengthened its sporting traditions and it is a delight not only to see the children take part in a range of sports but also compete in them against other schools. We are beginning to develop a reputation for excellence in sport and have won and finished second in a number of local events recently.



SATS

We hope all our Year 2 and 6 children came through SATS week successfully and we appreciate all the effort they and their teachers have put into doing well. School tests are a reality that children have to engage with but it is good that at St Bede's school children's all round abilities and qualities are celebrated.

Finally, the governors wish all our First Communion children a really happy first experience of the Eucharist and we hope they have a lovely day with their families and friends.

Thank you to you as parents for supporting the work of our school and a huge thank you to all staff and children for making St Bede's the school it is.

Danny Sullivan on behalf of the Governors

Vice Chair of the governing body

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

***St Bede's Catholic Primary School,
Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX
tel: 01256 473379***

Email: f.blackburn@st-bedes.hants.sch.uk