St Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

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Head teacher

Mr Gary Nott B.Ed (Hons)

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Head teacher's termly letter to Parents.

15th July 2019

Dear Families

I hope your child's year is finishing well.

We have now received all of our end of year data. It is very pleasing. By the end of KS1 results continue to be in line with national averages and by the end of Key Stage 2, above national averages. This represents good progress from the children's starting points in Reception, which are below average overall. We owe this success to good teaching, well supported by our learning assistants, and the extra support that our after school tutoring brings. Next year will bring its own challenges in Y6 because they are a weaker cohort academically. We will be pulling out all the stops to ensure results are in line with national averages; we will need parents' support to achieve this.

The current recruitment crisis continues in outer London, with a smaller number of people wanting to work in Catholic Schools than is the case with non-faith schools. This is understandable but makes the job of recruiting new staff at St. Bede's all the harder. This year we have recruited one teacher locally but we have had to go further afield for experienced staff with one coming from Scotland and two from Australia.

It has been a busy term with all year groups from Y1 to Y6 enjoying a day at Thriftwood outdoor centre. Reception enjoyed a day at Ongar Steam Railway. There has also been lively sports days and this last week a number of celebrations for our Y6 children.

Next year (by September 2020), we will convert to academy status because the Bishop requires it of us. This will mean a busy year for our governors and I ask you to remember them in your prayers. It will be a new chapter for the school, which will bring its own challenges and rewards.

I do hope your summer holidays are good and that you enjoy some quality time with your family.

Gary Nott

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Head teacher