



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you – Deuteronomy 31:6

30th March 2020

There's no place like home...

I thought I'd write a single newsletter to all the parents of our Federation during these unusual times – it sometimes helps to know we are part of a larger family!

Both our schools closed their doors for the foreseeable future just over a week ago and life has changed beyond recognition in that time. I have been encouraged by the response from parents at Saltwood and Bodsham who quickly understood that being at home is the safest thing for all children (and teachers!) and so have made great progress in creating a new normality for us all.

While we are away from each other it is important that we maintain a strong (if remote) relationship between home and school. Our Reception teachers are making good use of the Tapestry system so that we can see what the children have been up to at home.

Our other teachers have been creating home learning packs for you to follow with your children. I know this is a very challenging thing to be asking parents to do – you only have to check out the latest jokes on social media to understand what an impact this responsibility is having on parents! Many of you are also trying to juggle working at home, cooking, cleaning and worrying about elderly relatives. My advice is to set up a routine that works for you. Don't feel pressured to do too much if it creates tension in your household. All our teachers are staffing an email service where you can ask them for help and advice directly if something isn't clear to you.

I have asked each teacher to prepare some Easter Homework which should help keep the children occupied during a period that would normally be a holiday, but will now feel much like every other day. This should be with you on Wednesday.

I am receiving regular communications from both the Department for Education and the Local Authority. Thoughts are turning to educational provision that can be offered after the Easter break. However, at this stage there is no indication that schools will be asked to reopen and so I would advise all parents to make plans for children to be at home for April and May at the very least.

Some great learning online

I know your teachers will have pointed you to many great online learning opportunities, but can I just recommend the BBC Teach web service which has loads on active lessons, videos and ideas for home learning: www.bbc.co.uk/teach

Be aware of Free School Meals scam – a message from KCC

*We have been made aware that some parents in the County have been approached via text and/or e-mail in relation to Free School Meal arrangements in light of Covid-19 (Coronavirus). We understand parents have been asked to provide their bank details and personal information about children who are eligible, including names and dates of birth, with a promise that money will be sent to them directly. **This information is not accurate.***

Can we also take this time to remind you to be aware of anyone who contacts you either directly or via social media offering services for your family in these difficult times. Unless you can trust them, you should not be sharing personal information related to you or your family as it may not be used in the manner you would have hoped.

Keep well and stay safe,

Yours Sincerely

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher