



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



Please see [a special message from Lorraine](#) at the end of this newsletter!

15th May 2020

Is R < 1?

The government have asked us to reopen the school to some children on 1st June, in recognition of the decreasing reproduction rate of Covid19 in society in general and improving safety conditions for us all. However, as part of the 'new normal' I have spoken about before, we must make some fairly radical changes to the way the school operates to ensure reopening does not contribute to a resurgence of the virus.

At the time of writing I also have to acknowledge that there is a great deal of uncertainty around whether schools will actually be able to reopen as planned. The Prime Minister made it clear that it will only happen if the number of Covid19 cases continue to fall. The main teaching unions are not currently supporting the proposal. Putting all these doubts to one side, we need to plan on the assumption that we go ahead.

So, how do we plan to reopen?

School will reopen to children in Years R, 1 and 6 on 1st June. Parents are not being compelled to send children back however, so you need to know how the school will operate in order to make your decision.

The safety of both our children and staff will always be the overriding priority. It has been acknowledged that it is not possible to ask young children to observe social distancing and we believe it would be unsettling for the children to try and achieve it. There are, however, a number of very important measures we will put in place:

- Children will be taught in small, distinct teaching groups of around 15. These groups will not mix with other groups during the day to reduce the chance of viral transmission between them.
- A rigorous regime of handwashing will be in place throughout the day. Soap and sanitiser will be provided in all classrooms. Children will be taught the importance of hygiene.
- Unused desks and other furniture will be moved to create extra space. Surfaces and equipment used by the children will be cleaned every day.
- We will stagger playtimes and lunches so that the teaching groups do not mix.
- We will stagger the start and end times of the school day to avoid a large number of adults arriving and leaving at the same time.
- The school will close on Friday to allow teachers to plan for the following week and deep cleaning to take place.
- Children will not attend if they or any member of their household develop symptoms of Covid19.
- Children who develop symptoms of Covid19 while at school will be isolated and sent home immediately.
- Children and parents will have access to testing to determine whether they or their child are Covid19 positive. Where this is confirmed, the child's entire teaching group will be asked to remain at home for 14 days.

With these conditions in mind it would be very helpful if all parents of children who are eligible for a school place after half term could complete the survey at the end of this message so we can gauge your opinion on these arrangements.

What About Other Year Groups?

Schools are being asked to offer places to Years R, 1 and 6 from 1st June. The government has also expressed an ambition for ALL primary school children to return to school for around a month before the start of the summer holidays. It is obvious that very few schools will have the space required to admit any further year groups while maintaining the arrangements put in place for Years R, 1 and 6, so I can't say how we will tackle that next step when it is suggested. We will continue to supply home learning to all those children not in school, but the 'ask the teacher' email service may have to stop as all teachers will be back in school full time after half term.

What about Vulnerable children and those of Critical Workers?

The school has been offering places to children from these groups through the current crisis and will continue to do so. The conditions in which these children are supervised will need to change however. Unless they belong to one of the year groups attending school, they will form their own distinct group and will not mix with other groups.

**If your child is eligible for a school place on 1st June 2020
please complete this short survey.**

[Click here to begin](#)

Love will keep us together

It must be difficult for children to hear that some of their friends may be coming back to school if they are not in one of the chosen year groups. That is where our '[share the love](#)' web page can help. It has been really heart-warming to see how our children have been working to help others while the school has been closed.

Mrs Thomas writes:

Thank you all so much for your beautiful hearts, messages and work for the 'Share the Love' whole school project. It has been wonderful to receive them all and be able to share them with our Bodsham community. It would be lovely to receive some more writing now.

Maybe you could send in a short poem or rap you have written, based on love?

Or would you prefer to write a diary entry about life in Lockdown....

Or perhaps you could research Captain Tom or someone else who has inspired you during this strange and challenging time?

Anything that focuses on how you, or others, are sharing some love would be lovely!

Thank you and keep safe and smiling,

Debbie Thomas



More support for children's well-being and mental health

During lockdown, I have noticed how the level of support for those who need some help with their mental health or well-being has been impressive. Attached with this newsletter is a comprehensive leaflet from KCC with some great advice and signposts to many sources of help and advice for parents and carers. Please take a moment to have a look.

I hope to write to all parents next week with full details of how the children will return to school after half term. Until then, take care.

Paul Newton
Executive Head Teacher

A Message from Reverend Lorraine

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well? To those of you who aren't, I wish you a speedy recovery.

It occurred to Mr. Newton and me that although the families of Bodsham are doing a brilliant job of supporting each other, staying in touch and giving home teaching their best shot, there is something that we as a school haven't been able to provide. That is, the daily worship which the children enjoy so much when they are all in school.

Don't panic, I'm not suggesting for one minute that everyone try to cram some kind of 'act of worship' into their already stressed and busy lives. Great if you already do, or would like to maybe think about something but that's not why I'm writing this. (If you did want to try something, then the simple act of saying grace before the main family meal would be a great place to start!)

On good Friday I did a 'service' on Facebook which was a bit like a much condensed form of Messy Church, crossed with a Blue Peter style craft. This seemed to be well received and I have had many requests to do something similar again. So for those of you who would like to give it a go, or maybe just watch and then try it out later, I will be doing one next Saturday, 23rd May, at 10.30. All the details of what to do, how to prepare, where to find me etc, will be posted on the school Facebook group, or, if you can't access that, then feel free to email me at;

revlorrainelawrence@icloud.com

In the meantime, may I wish all of you continued health and mental well-being, and close with a short prayer which I hope you will find helpful, and might even want to say together as a family at some point during the day.

My prayer for you:

*May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all, evermore.
Amen.*

A prayer the children, and families, may find helpful:

*Lord God, you are always with us.
You are with us in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).
Help me to remember that you love us all and are with me in everything I do,
today and every day.
Amen.*

Again, my love and best wishes go out to you all, I hold you all in my prayers, and look forward to a time when we can all be together again.

Yours,
Lorraine