



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. Exodus 14:14

3rd July 2020

Light at the end of the tunnel

Yesterday, Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, announced the government's plans for schools in September. The clear message is that as the incidence of Covid-19 continues to fall across the country, it will be safe for all children to return to school at the start of the Autumn term, and that it will be safe to teach children in whole class groups again.

While this announcement has been widely expected it is reassuring to hear it confirmed. The very detailed guidance from the DfE will now need some careful consideration by school leaders, and then will be converted into appropriate action plans and risk assessments across the country. It is immediately clear that, while we will have all the children back with us, school life will not be normal. We will need to organise the children into 'bubbles' that do not cross paths during the day. There will be a significant emphasis on good hygiene habits. Parents will need to fully engage with the Test and Trace system. Our curriculum will need to change at first.

So we will now set about making these things happen. This work will need to take place largely over the summer period so please be patient as we work on it. I will write to parents with full details of how we will welcome your children back to school during the summer holiday, but I would suggest now is a good time to make sure you have the full school uniform ready for the Autumn! It would be very helpful if you could complete a short survey about your child to help us with this process

<https://forms.gle/NxuztkJaj9zBvEzj9>

Can you to help us?

During the Coronavirus crisis I have been fully supported by our governing body. Our recent meetings have been via Zoom, but that has not prevented us from being able to discuss crucial issues such as the Federation's risk assessment, or the need to ensure the schools' budgets will be able to handle the impact of Covid-19. Knowing the full governing body approves of our plans makes us more confident in our decisions.

We need a parent from Bodsham to join the governing body. There has been no parental representation from Bodsham on the board for many months and despite my repeated requests nobody has come forward to offer their time. I do understand that being a governor is a big commitment that not everyone has the time for, but if you think you may be able to join us 6 times a year for meetings and visit the school occasionally to monitor aspects of our work, then please contact the school office and we'll arrange an informal chat about the role.

A Message from Mrs Thomas

Dear parents and children,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to be the acting Deputy Head teacher of this wonderful school for the last year. I could never have envisaged that the year would end in the way that it has. Though it has been lovely to welcome some of you back into school again over the last few weeks, the required absence of others has been noticeable and disappointing for us all.

The most promising thing I have noticed is that the children who have been able to return have done so happily and with smiles on their faces! I have been so proud of their resilience and ability to adapt to the 'new normal' and it is encouraging to see how happily they come in and navigate through their days. It gives me renewed confidence for September when we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school. For those of you still working at home, I am so proud of your determination to keep up with your school work and keep in touch with us via email. You are always in our thoughts.

I need to say a big thank you to parents for working so hard with your children at home and taking on the massive challenge of becoming home educators. You have also done an amazing job of supporting your child/ren's emotional wellbeing which is so apparent as I see their smiles, hear their laughter and listen to their chatter! This school really is excellent at sharing the love!

Thank you all for your support this past year and I look forward to continuing to support you as SENCo next year.

Best wishes
Mrs Thomas

Patience will be rewarded

Perhaps it is timely that the theme of this week's worship is patience! For those still learning at home, the need to wait patiently for September is now clear. The Bible tells us that trusting in God can help us wait. Please take some time to share this with your children this week.

<https://youtu.be/vlhlUP2hPUc>

Getting Ready to Say Goodbye

One of the most saddening things about our current situation is that all the usual celebrations at the end of Year 6 have not been possible. It has been heartening to welcome so many of the Year 6 children back to school for these last few weeks and important transition work has taken place, but we have not been able to stage the usual Year 6 production for parents and the leavers' service in church is impossible.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Allen are working on a good send off for the children on the last day of term that will help them remember Bodsham fondly – lots of games, a gift from the school and a 'video yearbook' that will be theirs forever. I am also aware that this year we are saying goodbye to children who end a long line of Bodsham pupils from their family – which means we will be saying goodbye to some parents for the last time too. If any of these 'leaver parents' would like a video message from them included in our video, please contact the office and we'll try and make it happen. The deadline will be Thursday next week!

Paul Newton, Executive Head Teacher