



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



"Tomorrow will be a good day." Captain Sir Tom Moore 1920 - 2021

5th February 2021

Captain Marvel

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore on Tuesday. When historians look back on how the UK was affected by the coronavirus crisis, it is certain that Captain Tom's name will always be mentioned. He provided us all with a reminder of how we can stay positive even in the bleakest of times. His connection to Britain's darkest hours in WW2 gave him the iconic status the country needed – a living demonstration of how the British Values of service to your community and care for others can help us overcome any predicament.

If your children are upset by his death, it does provide a chance to talk about how they can learn from his example.

Rather than be discouraged by the bad news all around, he decided to take action to help others. I'm sure even he was surprised by the scale of his success in raising more than £33m for NHS charities – but the amount of money is not what we should focus on. His most impressive moment was, I feel, when he decided – at the grand old age of 99 – not to sit and watch the country struggle, but to stand up and get stuck in!



Hungry Home Learners?



One often unacknowledged consequence of having children learning at home five days a week is the impact it is having on the nation's fridges! At school, children's eating can be carefully supervised and snacking is not allowed. While at home there is always the temptation to raid the fridge between lessons, which can lead to unhealthy and expensive habits! Change 4 Life have developed a set of cheap and easy lunch recipes which will ensure children receive the same balance of nutrition and energy they would receive from a school dinner:

[Cheap Lockdown Lunches for Kids | Change4Life \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Half Term Update

The school will be fully closed over the half term holiday and I regret to say that we are unable to offer any holiday club over this period.

You will be aware by now, I am sure, that the Prime Minister's ambition to reopen schools straight after the half term holiday has proven to be unachievable. The next target date has been set as 8th March, and school leaders have been promised at least 2 weeks' notice before being asked to reopen. With that date in mind, we should expect an announcement before 22nd February telling us the likelihood of children returning to school before Easter.

So, if you're counting the days, that means at least 3 more weeks of home learning await us. I am full of admiration for all the families who are taking on this duty without complaint, and I fully understand how difficult it is to juggle the needs of your children while having to manage work commitments. Thank you for all your support and understanding during this time. I would like to say that, if it all seems too much sometimes, then it is OK to give yourself a break. Don't worry about children 'falling behind' if they fail to complete every task set by their teacher. Most don't!

When the children are back with us, we will resume the 'catch up' curriculum we had in place after the last school closures. Schools, not parents, will be responsible for closing learning gaps and our teachers are more than ready to take on that task. All the children in the country have had their learning disrupted, so it would be fair to say that the phrase 'we are all in this together' will apply to every school as we set about rebuilding confidence and self-esteem. Only when that has been achieved will children be ready to move on in their learning.

Ask for help if you need it.

During this pandemic, families are being asked to face new and unexpected problems on a scale none of us have experienced before. It may seem that those around you are coping perfectly well, but our experience in school is that it is not uncommon to find households who are experiencing hardship. The Kent Support and Assistance Service may be able to help you if you are having serious difficulties managing your income due to a crisis. [Information about their offer can be found here.](#)



Snow Procedure

Keen meteorologists may have noticed there is a significant chance of snow in the coming days so it is a good idea to remind yourself of our alert procedure. If the school cannot safely open (to children of key workers and those considered vulnerable) then a message will be posted before 7.45am on the Kent Closures website.



[KCC – Kent School Closures \(kentclosures.co.uk\)](http://kentclosures.co.uk)

It is a very good idea to register with this website to receive free text alerts every time the school's status changes. Please don't attempt the journey to school if you feel it would be dangerous.



Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 9th February

The way we are using the internet has changed beyond recognition in the last year. Screen time limits have gone out of the window and it is being recognised that playing online with your friends is actually a positive thing for children's mental health during this period of lockdown. Unfortunately, the risks associated with online life have not gone away, so we will be taking part in Safer Internet Day on Tuesday to help keep us all alert. Teachers will be assigning tasks on Seesaw that will help to raise awareness and prompt discussion at home – it's a good time to talk about keeping safe online with your children.



Need some Half Term fun? Enter a reading competition!

East Cliff Creatives are running a competition for school children that would be an ideal activity over the half term period. Children are being asked to answer the question **'Where does reading take you?'**. The answer can be written, drawn, portrayed in whatever way the child or adult chooses and the submissions will be combined to form one giant art work which will be shared during a live stream event in March. You can find more details here:

<http://eastcliffcreatives.com/paper-beach/>

There are weekly prizes for kids including £500 worth of books for the school, masterclasses with authors etc. Julia Donaldson, author of *The Gruffalo*, has sent in an entry. The deadline is 25th February. It's a great creative project!

Term Dates now published

It might seem a long way ahead, but we have now published the term dates for the 2021-22 school year, including the teacher training days. [You can find them on our website here.](#) Here's hoping they help us to plan for the holidays we weren't able to take this year!

Living in hope...

We are holding on to Year 6's booking for their trip to Bowles this year. You will recall the dates were moved to 14th July – 16th July. The full cost of this trip is £365. All payments made so far are being held. Parents who have not yet paid in full do not need to until we know for sure that these trips will go ahead. Here's hoping...

Paul Newton,
Executive Head Teacher