



**Bodsham Church of England  
Primary School**

**Federation  
of**



**Saltwood Church of England  
Primary School**



**"Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. Matthew 19:14**

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **The New New Normal!**

On Monday we will finally welcome back all children to what will be, to them, a familiar routine. We can keep our Covid19 restrictions in school to a level very similar to the period between September and Christmas, so settling back in should be a quick and painless task.

However, the reason for this second period of extended closure was the rise of the new variant of Coronavirus that caused a spike in cases, first in Kent and then across the country. Because this new variant proved to be more transmissible, we have put in place a number of important new restrictions on site that parents who have not come to school since December may not have experienced.

- **All parents must now wear a face covering while on site.** Please let us know if you have a medical exemption to this rule. Children do not need face coverings. If you happen to arrive at school without one, please go to the office before going round to the playground and ask for a disposable mask.
- Staff will be wearing face coverings while you drop off in the morning and at home time.
- Staggered times of arrival and departure still apply. Timings are at the end of this newsletter. Please arrive and leave using following the arrows. If you need to queue please observe social distancing and follow signage.
- National lockdown restrictions mean that **car sharing between households is not permitted at this time.**
- If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please ask for a telephone call rather than hold conversations on the playground.
- Children should not bring in pencil cases – all stationery will be provided.
- Breakfast and After School Clubs will be operating. Breakfast Club will commence at 8am. Parents should drop children at the hall entrance without coming into the building. After School Club will run until 5pm every day except Friday. Parents should collect children from the hall entrance. Bookings for these services are being taken via the school office with 24 hours' notice. Payments can be left in the mailboxes as usual.

## **Regular Covid Testing for Parents**



Since we were all last together, the government has put a system of regular Covid19 testing in place in primary schools. All of our staff now take a Lateral Flow Test twice a week, which is also helping to further decrease the risk of transmission in school. Last week the government also indicated they are offering twice weekly home tests to ALL households with primary age children. That means that all parents are eligible to receive Lateral Flow Test kits. These will not be supplied through schools, but can be obtained by parents in various ways. [Full guidance is here](#). I would encourage ALL families to take up this offer to help keep children in school.

## **Putting Relationships First**

You have all done a great job keeping the children learning at home and Seesaw has really helped us all to stay in touch. What home learning can't provide of course is the social interaction that helps children develop while at school. For the first few weeks this term we will be focussing our curriculum on activities that build relationships and promote friendships. We will also concentrate learning on essential skills and knowledge, with the aim of being able to resume our curriculum in full in September.

I have also asked all teachers not to set any homework until after the Easter holiday. I imagine everyone could do with a short break from school work at home for a while! The only exception to this is, of course, the expectation that all children read at home every day.

## **Start as we mean to go on – Look Smart Everybody!**

Children should return to school in full school uniform. Black shoes and not trainers please. Long hair should be tied back. Jewellery should not be worn to school, and wearable technology such as smart watches and fitness trackers should be handed to the teacher each morning. Children should wear winter PE kit to school on PE days, so PE bags are not necessary. PE kit should be plain navy blue jogging bottoms or shorts, Bodsham white t-shirt and a Bodsham blue sweatshirt. No logos please!!



## **Time to get active – Elite Clubs restarting**

As part of our focus on helping children rebuild those rusty social skills, we have engaged Elite Community Coaching to offer after school sport activities to children from 18<sup>th</sup> March. Children will need to be kept in bubbles for these clubs, so the offer is not as wide as usual, but I'm pleased to say that there will be something for all Key Stage 1 and 2 children every Thursday. [Parents can book right now on the Elite Website](#).

## **Do You Have Some Time For Yourself Now?**

During lockdown most parents have had to put their own needs to one side as the children have been at home demanding attention, encouragement and support. Now we are welcoming the children back to school it might be time for you to think about your own wellbeing. Kent Adult Education are offering an impressive range of online courses that could help rebalance frazzled brains. You can choose from interests such as Crafting, Fitness & Wellbeing, History and Genealogy, Languages and Writing – some courses are even free! [Explore the KAE website here.](#)



## **Back to School Dinners**

From Monday our usual service of hot meals will be available to all children and the [Spring menu is available here.](#) Bookings should be made, as usual, via the school and payments made to Caterlink online. If you'd rather send in a packed lunch, please make sure lunch boxes are thoroughly cleaned when they come home each day.

## **How to build a robot!**

Last week, we had a very special guest for one of our Zoom meetings, Sam Prentice. An extremely cool, robot engineer, Sam, has made robots for Star Wars and Disney productions. As you can imagine, our inquisitive children asked lots of thoughtful and creative questions around how robots are designed, operate, and even talk. To everyone's delight, we got to see some of the wonderful robots including R2D2 working and had a glimpse at the electronics inside. We are sure this will have inspired some of our children to think about trying to build a robot themselves. This Zoom caused double excitement amongst the teaching staff as we got to see children outside of our bubble. It felt lovely to be a whole school again, even if virtually.



## Have Your Circumstances Changed?

We are acutely aware that some households have faced considerable challenges over the last few months. It may well be that families have become eligible for support in the form of Free School Meals or holiday supermarket vouchers without realising. By applying for Free School Meals you not only help yourself, but help to increase the school's funding as well.



## Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.



Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

**[kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](https://kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)**



*I'm really looking forward to seeing you all again next week!*

Paul Newton,  
Executive Head Teacher



## Information for parents

### Please arrive at school between:

Reception, Year 1 & 2	8:30 – 8:40am
Year 3, 4, 5, 6	8:40 – 8:50am

### Please collect your child at:

Butterflies (YR) & Robins (Y1&2)	3:20pm
Woodpeckers (Y3&4)	3:25pm
Owls (Y5&6)	3:30pm

It is very important that parents adhere to these timings as much as possible and leave the site promptly. Please consider our neighbours.

If your child has siblings who are required to arrive/leave at different times, you need only come onto the site once. Please arrive at the earliest time and leave at the later time **and avoid waiting with young children on the playground.**

Please send your children into school wearing their PE kit on days when it is being taught.