



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." *Martin Luther*

1st April 2021



It's Getting Lighter

Four weeks after the return of all children to school and I remain very proud of our whole school community and the way we adapt to change! Attendance has been fantastic and children and parents have really helped the school maintain the tight system of controls we have in place to protect us from Covid19.

Perhaps it's not surprising that, now the honeymoon period of relief is over, challenges start to emerge. Teachers have noted that the children in general are taking longer to complete work in the classroom and are already ready for the Easter break. There has been an increase in reports of underlying anxiety in some children and our staff work hard to provide a listening ear when this is the case. These are not normal times and so it is only natural for children to be feeling unsettled. As adults, our role is to listen and reassure. Children thrive when they feel safe and life is predictable, so we provide them with a consistent set of rules and boundaries that are clearly in place to ensure everyone is treated fairly, and with love.

There are changes to come, national restrictions are easing. We are waiting to hear from the DfE how these changes should be applied to the school environment. One day we won't need to wear masks in and around the school and one day we will be able to allow the children to mix freely at play and lunchtimes. Until then, life in school will continue the way it has been all year. When change is allowed we will need to do it in a thoughtful way as many children are now so used to thinking about Covid that it may even feel unsettling to be letting go of these safety nets.

On Yer Bikes

I'm pleased to announce that we will be able to help our Year 6 children feel more ready for secondary school by offering 'Bikeability' cycling proficiency in the summer term as usual. The sessions are booked for late June, so now is the time for Year 6 parents to check that bikes are in good working order and have not been outgrown! All children will need a cycling helmet to take part too please!





Swimming Trunks Needed for PE

Unfortunately we have been told by Simon Langton Pool that they are unlikely to be able to offer any swimming lessons to schools this summer. However, we have a statutory duty to offer swimming to children while they are in Key Stage 2, so we will instead be teaching basic skills and swimming stroke techniques on the school field. Children will need to wear swimming trunks and goggles. Non swimmers should bring their own arm bands. Full details will follow at a later date in April.

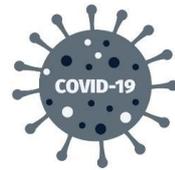


Please donate any unwanted reading books

As children get older their reading tastes mature with them. If your house is anything like mine then this can leave bookshelves full of lovely books that have been outgrown. We would love any donation of such books – we will certainly make sure they continue to be enjoyed!

Keeping Safe Over Easter

As school breaks up I must remind everyone that we must all do our bit to make sure Covid19 cases continue to fall. That means that if your child, or anyone in your household, develops Covid19 symptoms over the Easter period, then you must all immediately self-isolate and seek a PCR test. Lateral Flow Tests are not to be used when someone has developed symptoms. If your child develops symptoms on Friday 2nd April or Saturday 3rd April and later tests positive, then please inform the school immediately via admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk. This email address will be monitored for the first week of Easter. Our staff will continue to take Lateral Flow Tests over the Easter break, so will be confident that they can safely return to work on Monday 19th April.



Keeping Active After Easter

Next Term, after school Multisports will continue to be on offer for Key Stage 1 & 2 on Thursday. Parents can [book these sessions via Elite's website](#).



Appeal from the Rainbow Centre Foodbank

Our Federation does a lot of work with the Rainbow Centre. They have been in touch to say that stocks are again running low and in particular are in need of these items, which can be left in their supermarket donation bins. Financial donations can be made via www.shepway.foodbank.org.uk

Items we would appreciate are:

Jams & spreads



Instant mash



Tinned meat



Longlife



Longlife milk



Welcome to the Owls Mrs Wenham

I'm delighted to say that Mrs Wenham will be working for four days each week as teaching assistant in the Owls class. I know they will all appreciate her help and support.



Green Shoots Appearing for the Woodpeckers!

Miss Skinner is keen to get the Woodpeckers outside in our garden and is planning a full scale gardening and growing topic next term. The children have already been digging over the beds outside their classroom, ready for planting straight after Easter. Please could every Woodpecker bring in a pair of named gardening gloves and a zip up plastic sandwich bag so they can keep them in their trays. The usual requirement of a pair of Bodsham wellies will also be necessary of course.

If you are able to donate any gardening equipment to the Woodpeckers it would be very much appreciated. Miss Skinner is particularly keen to have watering cans, runner beans & peas and sunflower seeds, compost, canes and small pots. If anyone has an old wheelbarrow they don't need that would be very useful too!



Have a peaceful Easter everyone, see you all back on Monday 19th April

Paul Newton
Executive Head Teacher

Easter Activities

The two week break gives us a chance to try out new things and many organisations are being very creative about making offers in a Covid secure way:

Young Artists' Summer Show

Made possible by Robin Hambro

Call for entries
An exciting opportunity for students aged 5–19 to exhibit their artwork online and at the Royal Academy of Arts

Open for submissions
11 January – 26 April 2021

Find out more and enter
royac/youngartists
#rayoungartists

MANDARIN GO ONLINE HOLIDAY CAMP

Hello everyone, as spring is just around the corner. We are inviting children to join the Online Mandarin Lessons in March and Online Holiday Camps in April! Scan the QR code and join us. We will send you more information via email.

Online Mandarin Activities (Trial lessons)

- Mandarin Sing and Dance
- Cool Science for Children
- Fun Mandarin Arts and Crafts
- Let's Create a Story Together!

Sign up now!

Price: £10 for Per Trial Lesson

More information: bit.ly/MandarinGoOnlineCourses

- Students from 4 - 12 years old are eligible to sign up!
- Places are reserved on a first come first serve basis.
- FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MandarinGoUK/>
- Email: info@mandaringo.co.uk
- Website: <https://mandaringo.co.uk/>

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Includes Us 2 "Zoom Time" Groups

For parents & carers of children with a disability or SEN living in Ashford, Shepway & Dover

Due to the current need for increased social distancing measures, Includes Us 2 will be offering a series of "Zoom Time" support groups over the next few months instead of our usual face to face meetings. "Zoom Time" provides a relaxed and informal space for parents & carers of children with a disability or a special educational need to get together "virtually" and access information and support. Speakers are regularly invited to these sessions to provide information and advice about specialist services.

"Zoom Time" Virtual Meeting Dates for April—July 2021

April Meetings

- Thursday 22nd at 12.30
- Friday 30th at 10am

May Meetings

- Thursday 6th at 12.30
- Tuesday 11th at 10am
- Wednesday 19th at 12.30

June Meetings

- Thursday 10th at 10am
- Friday 18th at 12.30
- Monday 21st at 10am

July Meetings

- Tuesday 6th at 12.30
- Wednesday 14th at 10am

To log into all meetings, please use the following Zoom access code;
Meeting ID: 965 565 7908
Passcode: 8KxrrE

Meetings will be facilitated by Nicola, our Family Support Officer.
One to one appointments can be provided at designated times. For further information please call Nicola (term time) on 07525 589321 or email familysupport@includesus2.org.uk

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