Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." *Luke 2:11*
What does your child say brings them the greatest joy at Christmas – is it ALL about the presents?

10th December 2021

Creeping Cautiously to Christmas

This is my last newsletter before Christmas and I am very relieved that Covid-19 has not affected the school too much this year. Although we've had to call off events at the Church, most of our planned Christmas festivities are still going ahead, thanks to our PTA. At the time of writing there are no cases of Covid among children at school. Thank you to all parents who have been vigilant for symptoms and taken children for tests when needed – it has made a real difference.

Happy New Year?

With the end of term in sight, thoughts turn to the start of the new term in January. Assuming the government doesn't make a last minute U-Turn (!) then we will all be mixing with loved ones over the Christmas period. Given the prevailing conditions at school and in the wider community (Folkestone and Hythe currently has an infection rate well above the average for England) then there is a good chance that numbers will rise over the holiday period. **I would like to ask ALL parents to make sure children have undertaken a Lateral Flow Test before returning to school on Wednesday 5th January.** The school email account will be monitored over the Christmas holiday so please report any positive cases among children if and when they occur.

Diocese of Guildford Online Advent Calendar 2021

This is to share with you the brand-new online Advent Calendars for schools that we have been showing to the children in class this December. You may want to continue opening the doors at home after we break up. The content behind the doors links to the theme 'Everyone is Welcome', with chosen Bible passages that demonstrate welcome and inclusion. Each day you will find an image and a Bible reference with some wondering questions to think about together. The doors will not open until the actual day in December.

Click here to open the advent calendar

Is Homework Working for Your Home?

Over the last two terms we have been using a new system to set homework via the Seesaw platform that proved so useful during the last school closure. However, teachers have noticed that fewer children are completing homework at present, compared to last year. It could be that Seesaw is not the easiest way for parents to access the homework, so I have created a very short survey about homework at Bodsham that I'd be grateful if you could complete.

Click here to start the survey

Great Job, Sleepy Shepherd!

It was great to see our Reception and Key Stage 1 children performing their Nativity – 'The Sleepy Shepherd' at Evington Hall on Monday. Thank you to all the volunteer helpers who made it possible! I was delighted that the production went ahead as I know how important it is to both children and parents. DVDs will be dispatched soon as will a link to the show on You Tube.

Wrap Up Warm – But Stay Smart!

An important precaution against Covid transmission is to improve ventilation in the classrooms. We have been supplied with CO^2 monitors to help keep an eye on the air quality while the children are indoors. However, in winter increasing ventilation inevitably means classrooms are a bit chillier that usual. We would encourage children to wear layers to keep warm, but to stick to our school uniform policy. On PE days, please wear jogging bottoms rather than shorts with skins, and conceal layers with school jumpers!

Sad Farewell

We will need to say goodbye to Mrs Marwood at the end of next week. She has finally reached her well-earned retirement and intends to sail off into the sunset at the first opportunity. She has been providing invaluable pastoral support for the children of both Saltwood and Bodsham for many years and will be sorely missed by all.

Happy Hellos!

I'm excited to announce the appointment of Mrs Johanna Thompson as the Federation's new Mental Health Lead. This new role will combine the pastoral support offered by Mrs Marwood, with a remit to promote positive mental health for both children and adults. I look forward to welcoming her to the team in January.

I'd also like to welcome Mrs Abi King to our team of teaching assistants. She will be joining the Sparrows class for two days a week next term.

And Finally...

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I will be writing to all parents about the Covid situation at the end of next week if there is a need for parents to take any action. In the meantime, I wish you all a very merry Christmas. School reopens on **Wednesday 5th January**

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher