Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

"Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege." *Psalm 31v21*

11th March 2022

Troubled Times

Our children have had a lot to cope with since 2020. The new and frightening disease that emerged in the Spring of that year caused real disruption to their lives. Old certainties such as going to school each day were brought into doubt. Adults around them changed the way they behaved and, worst of all, the children will have seen loved ones falling ill and many of them fell ill themselves.

Just as these clouds start to lift, children are now aware of adults talking about war. The invasion of Ukraine has brought up fears and questions that they will not have faced before. We have tried to keep school a 'safe space' where talk of war does not intrude, and our teachers tell me that they have not heard a great deal of discussion among the children so far.

As a church school, we are able to offer the children opportunities to use prayer as a way to ask for peace and to send comfort to others. If the children do start to show a need to talk collectively about the conflict, then this is the approach we will take. I will make sure parents are informed before we do.

How can we help?

The response of ordinary people to the crisis has been inspiring. Across the country individuals and groups have organised immediate and effective ways to send aid to those fleeing the conflict. There are details on the school Facebook page of efforts from Bodsham parents that you can support. The Kent Association of Head Teachers has also organised a local appeal. They are helping to send several freight containers full of donated clothes, medicines and supplies to Poland over the next few days. Parents can help this effort by making a financial contribution towards the transport costs involved in this huge undertaking.

Book Week had a happy ending

There were some fantastic reading related activities as part of Book Week last week. The Robins had a visit from Helen Janik-Foreman, an illustrator of children's books, who gave them ideas for creating their own mixed-media illustrations. The week was crowned by our celebration of World Book day on Friday. Thank you to all parents who helped the children become their favourite book characters for a day! You can view some lovely pictures of the Sparrows in costumes on the News section of our new website.

KIC Theatre – developing Self Belief

We are looking forward to our visit from KIC Theatre's Ian Crosher on Monday. Ian has worked with Bodsham children for many years, employing a drama workshop approach to help children explore issues around Self Belief and Resilience. Both of these are important aims of our school curriculum.

Thank You PTA!

Last week we took delivery of an interactive touch screen that we hope to install in the Sparrows classroom over Easter. This means we have reached the target of putting this cutting edge teaching technology into all our classrooms. We would not have been able to complete this project anything like as quickly if it were not for the work of our PTA. Their work has made a real difference to the provision for children at Bodsham this year and I am very grateful to all parents who have been involved.

Class Rep Needed in Year 3

While we're on the subject of the PTA, they do a very good job of recruiting parent representatives for each year group. The role involves helping with communications between parents and, this term, helping organise an Easter Hamper. We are currently missing a Class Rep for Year 3, so if your child belongs to that year group, please contact Nicola Phipps if you think you can help.

Bikeability for Year 6 – Summer Term

Every year we offer Year 6 children a chance to take part in a cycling proficiency course before they leave for Secondary School. This year it will be at the start of July. Now is a good time to make sure you have a suitable bike they can bring to school if they would like to take part!

Easter Holiday Clubs on Offer at Saltwood School

Our friends at Elite are running an Easter Holiday Club at Saltwood during the school holidays. Children always enjoy these 'courses' as the Elite staff know how to keep them active and engaged all day! Bookings should be made directly through Elite's website.

Red Nose Day Next Friday

Friday 18th March is Red Nose Day and as usual, Bodsham will be supporting this amazing cause. Because we have all had to dig deep this year, I think it is fitting that the children should come to school dressed as their favourite Super Hero! (but remember, not all heroes wear capes!). Please make at least a £1 donation on the day. Thank you!

Parent's evening appointments

Parents should have received an email with details of booking a parental consultation on 28th or 30th March. Please make sure you have returned your preferences asap. These are the first face to face consultations we have been able to hold since 2020 and the teachers are very much looking forward to seeing you!

Save the Date

If Covid allows, we are planning to hold our end of term Easter service in Church this year. It will be the first time we have done so since 2019! School will be finishing early on that day and we will be asking parents to collect children at 2:15. Families are then invited to join us at the church for our service.

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher