"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" Matthew 5:9
While the country remembers those who sacrificed their lives in war, we have been talking about people who devoted their lives to making peace. Can your child remember their names?

12th November 2021

Coughing our way to Christmas!

We need to be clear on the rules to keep us all safe. Today there are several children absent from school because they have a cough. It's up to parents to determine whether a cough could be a symptom of Covid-19. The NHS guidance says:

- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

It's important to remember that a Lateral Flow Test is **not sufficient** to determine whether this is Covid-19 or not. If you suspect your child may have Covid then you should get a PCR test to confirm whether the virus is present or not. Children should stay at home until these results are received. We can send home learning if your child is well enough to do it.

Lateral Flow Tests are useful when your child has come into contact with Covid19 but is not displaying any symptoms. In this situation a negative daily LFT will mean it is safe to send children to school. Children do not need to stay off school if a member of their household has Covid-19, but we do ask that daily Lateral Flow Tests are done while they remain symptom-free.

The government's main priority is to avoid further disruption to learning and so we are no longer sending home whole class bubbles when a case is confirmed. However, local cases of Covid among children in the district are at the highest level I have seen since the start of the pandemic. It will only take a small number of cases at Bodsham for the school to be required to implement our outbreak management plan – which will include cancelling Christmas events that involve parents.

All the usual precautions of enhanced handwashing, anti-viral cleaning and respiratory hygiene remain in place at school. We now have air quality monitors in the classrooms that help teachers maintain adequate ventilation which will also reduce the risk of transmission between children. Please help us keep the hope of a 'normal' Christmas alive. Later in the newsletter you will find details of how we hope December will look!

Bishop Rose's visit

Last week we were lucky to have a visit from the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkins. Bodsham was chosen as one of the first schools for her to visit in this Deanery. Bishop Rose met with our School Council (who asked her some challenging questions such as "are you a good person?" and "do you want to be Archbishop of Canterbury?"), then she blessed our Spiritual Garden to encourage the children to use this space for quiet reflection if they want to talk to God. Finally, she joined us in a joyful sung worship where she was impressed by the enthusiasm of our singing! Bishop Rose is an inspirational figure and I am sure our children gained a great deal from meeting her!

Kindness Beats Bullies

Next week is Anti-Bullying week and our children are taking a lead in getting the message across. Each class will have a special lesson about Kindness during the week and there will be a 'One Kind Word' display in each classroom where acts of kindness will be celebrated all week.

Please can all children wear odd socks to school on Monday to support our Anti-Bullying week!

Reading, Reading, Reading

We have always said that the single most important skill to learn while at Primary school is how to read. The evidence is striking that, no matter what kind of background they come from, children who regularly access books grow up to do better in life. The development of reading skill is something that will always be done as a partnership between home and school, so we are very keen to support parents in promoting reading at home. The government have published some useful guidance for parents to help children develop a life-long love of books

Christmas At Bodsham 2021

This is our Christmas Programme this year, all being well!

Monday 6th December at 2pm
Sparrows (Year R) and Robins (Year 1&2) will perform the Nativity at Evington Hall. Numbers will be limited to parents of children in these classes only. Please note this is a change of date from that published in the PTA newsletter due to availability of Evington Hall.

Friday 10th December at 2.30pm – Carols on the Playground
Parents are invited to join an outdoor whole-school carol concert on the school playground. Mince pies and mulled wine on sale! The PTA will also be selling Christmas Jumpers – you'll need one!

Tuesday 14th December – Christmas Cave
Our traditional Christmas Cave will return, giving children a chance to buy presents for their family. Details will follow from the PTA.

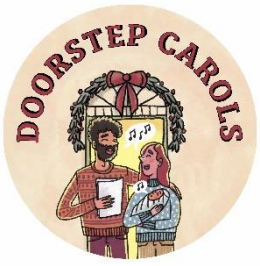
Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Children can have a traditional Christmas dinner at school for the usual price of a school meal. Please place your order through Caterlink as usual. Children can pay £1 to wear their brightest Christmas jumper to get us all in the festive spirit!

Thursday 16th December – Class Christmas Parties and Father Christmas
Children will celebrate in class this year and, if they've been good, there may be a special visitor!

Friday 17th December at 2:30pm – Christmas Service
It has not yet been decided whether we will hold a church service with parents this year. If Covid numbers continue to rise we will try and gather on the playground.

World Record Carol Attempt – Britain's Big Sing!

Bodsham is supporting the Door Step Carols world record attempt on the 15th December. We had considered holding an evening event after school but we have realised that it will be problematic for many families to return to our school site so late. Instead we will be teaching the children the carols they need to know and encouraging everyone from Bodsham to get involved in their street! Full details can be found here.



Bodsham Sparkles for Children in Need

Friday 19th November is Children in Need and, as always, Bodsham will be supporting this event. The School Council have asked that children be allowed to come to school in their sparkliest outfit on Friday in return for a donation of (at least) £1. I'm sure they'll look fabulous!

Beautiful Bodsham Event Tomorrow

Thank you to all parents who have signed up to help with our Autumn Beautiful Bodsham event tomorrow (Saturday 13th November). I am truly grateful to all parents who give their time at the weekend to help with jobs around our site. Autumn in particular is a time when our rural location really creates a lot of work, so the support you give us makes a real difference. It's not too late to join in the effort – volunteers will be gathering between 9:30am and 2pm at the school. There are plenty of jobs to sign up to!

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher