Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

We have been talking about how, for Christians, Advent is the season of waiting and getting ready. The children thought about what waiting feels like for them and what it must have felt like for Christians all those years ago, who were waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled.

13th December 2024

Happy Christmas Everyone!

As we move through December and the dark, dark mornings and evenings it has been heart-warming to see the bright lights going up in school. This week we were also lit up by the Sparrows and Robins nativity performance today. I was very impressed with the confident way our youngest children appeared on stage to tell the story. Well done to Miss Morris, Miss Hughes and our superb TAs who have worked tirelessly to make this a special performance for you. Thanks also go to the parents who supported the children at the hall today and yesterday, and to our PTFA for providing refreshments.

Next week the celebrations continue! On **Tuesday** we have our Christmas Lunch at which children can wear a favourite Christmas jumper (please don't buy a new one especially) for a £2 donation. On **Thursday** we have class parties with a special visitor from Lapland and on **Friday** parents are invited to Hastingleigh Church at 2:30pm for our traditional family Christmas Service. School finishes at 2:15pm, so please collect the children then and transport them to the church.

Thank you PTFA

Our wonderful PTFA have helped to enhance school life all through this year. They brightened up last week's Carols Round The Tree and today's nativity with mince pies and

mulled wine. The Giving Tree outside the office has allowed parents and families to support the school in a very festive fashion!

Keeping Safe Online Over Christmas

Children are likely to receive new devices for Christmas that will allow them to explore the online world in new and fascinating ways. However, we must all be aware of the dangers that can also arise when children have access to the internet, in whatever form. Kent Police have produced a helpful guide to parents that includes information on how to safely set up new devices for children with the right levels of protection and parental oversight. You can find the leaflet in the News section of our website

KCC Consultation

At the request of our governing body, Kent County Council have included Bodsham in their public consultation on schools wishing to reduce their Published Admissions Number from September 2026. The consultation proposes reducing Bodsham's PAN from 13 to 10 to reflect the falling birth rate that is affecting schools in our district. This consultation remains open until Monday 13 January 2025.

This is a Nut Free School

Nuts can cause severe allergic reactions. A person with an allergy does not have to eat nuts to have a severe reaction, this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles. Peanut allergy affects around 1 in 50 of children in the UK. Please do not send in any food or snacks that contain nuts or peanut butter

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As this is the last newsletter before we break up for Christmas, can I take the opportunity to wish all our families a joyful Christmas and happy new year.

Please note that we do not have a staff training day after Christmas, so children return to school on Monday 6th January 2025!

With festive wishes,

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher

Christmas Reading Challenge 2024

To help promote a love of reading throughout our school, our Reading Ambassadors have designed a Festive Reading Challenge for all the children in the school to enjoy.

Complete at least 6 of the activities below and return your completed entry, along with a photo of you taking part in one of the activities (printed or emailed to school office) **by Wednesday 8th January.**

All completed entries will receive a small prize and will be entered into a draw to win a £10 book token.

Read your book wearing something Christmassy.	Read and perform a Christmas poem.	Read by your Christmas tree.
Read with a Christmas toy.	Design a new cover for a Christmas book.	Build a den and read a story in it.
Read a Christmas recipe (you could try and make it if your adult lets you!).	Share a Christmas story with someone who doesn't live in the same house as you.	Have a whole family story time.