Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

"He allows seasons to change and new beginnings to arise." *Matthew 5*
We have encouraged the children to think about the chance they have to make a new start this year, but also reminding them of the things that always matter when you are at our school. Can they tell you why the story of the paralysed man in Luke 5 is so important to us?

13th September 2024

Back Together Again!

Children often look forward to the long summer holiday as a special time, free from the demands of school. But I have come to understand just how much families value the security and routine that school life offers. For that reason, I expect that most parents were pleased to see their children returning to school last week. We have made a very smooth start to the new school year and are delighted to welcome new families and also new members of staff to our Bodsham community. You should have received a newsletter from your child's teacher at the end of last week that contains full details about classroom routines, homework and the curriculum that is planned for the children this Autumn. All these newsletters can be found on our website if you missed them! And you can find the year's diary dates here!

Welcome to all our new families

I have been very happy to see our new Sparrows Class settle in so quickly and confidently. Welcome to all the new families joining our school community this year – you are starting on a seven year journey through primary school and we're delighted that you've chosen Bodsham. See below for details of our PTA's invitation to afternoon tea and cake!

As part of our welcome, Miss Hughes will be holding an information session for parents to explain how we teach phonics at the school and give ideas on ways you can help to develop those early reading skills at home. Anyone is welcome to come along on **Wednesday 25th September** at 3pm in school.

Our Reception children will also soon be starting the national Reception Baseline Assessment. This assessment takes the form of some simple tasks and questions undertaken with Ms Bailey which the children won't notice as being any different from normal classroom activities. The Standards and Testing Agency have produced this leaflet for parents with full details of this national assessment programme.

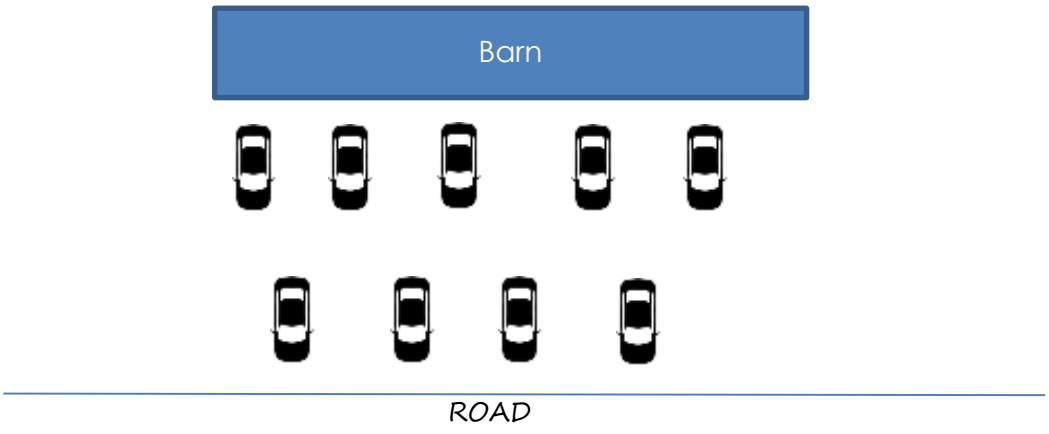
Top Marks for Bodsham

I strongly believe that exam results and league tables are not the best way to judge a school's effectiveness, but I am still very proud to say that Bodsham's SATs results last year were really excellent! 100% of our Year 6 children reached the expected standard in reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling in May and 60% achieved the higher standard. Well done children and teachers both! The full set of outcomes can be seen on our website.

A Plea for Careful Parking

The start of the year seems like a good time to issue our regular plea for considerate parking. All schools have issues with congestion at drop off and home times, but because Bodsham is such a small place, the impact our cars have on the local residents is greater. We are very lucky that the Bodsham community help us by allowing parents to park on the concrete skirting next to the barns of Great Holt farm and owner of The Yard public house is also permitting our staff to use her car park, which frees up a lot of extra space. The area in front of the pub is common land, so can be used by all – but please be careful not to block driveways.

If cars park in front of the barns in an organised way, we are able to fit many more cars in. I suggest this configuration…



…and remembering these simple considerations when arriving will make a world of difference:

- **Please do not block any of the barn doors or gates into local properties.**
- **Please do not park on grass verges.**
- **Please leave room for farm and residential vehicles to have access at all times.**
- **Please park a little further away from the school if necessary and enjoy the lovely walk to our building at the start of the day and at home time!**

Talking About Behaviour

Ofsted recognised that the children's behaviour at Bodsham is outstanding and I believe that has a lot to do with the fact that we spend time helping children talk about disputes from both points of view. This year, our behaviour policy uses three simple words to help children understand how they need to be

Ready – to do as well as they can in class and at home
Respectful – by being kind and polite to others
Safe – in their actions, both for themselves and others

Bowles Trip 2024

As we welcome our new children into their Reception year, we are also preparing our oldest children for their residential week in October. Bowles is a fantastic Outdoor Adventure Centre near Tunbridge Wells and Class 6 will be joining children from Bodsham between **14th and 18th October** for an activity packed week there. Mr Thomas, the trip leader from Saltwood, recorded his Zoom information presentation for Year 6 parents which took place this week – you might find it interesting to watch if your child is in closing in on Year 6! Click here to see the video.

A Chance to Say Hello

Our wonderful PTA would like to invite all parents to afternoon tea next week as a great way of getting to know all our new families!

Looking For A School Place Next Year?

Even as we are welcoming our new Reception class, we must turn our thoughts to next year's children! We will be holding two open days and offering school tours for parents of children who are due to start school in September 2025.

[Click here to find out more about story time with Barley the Bodsham Bear!]

Try School Dinners on 3rd October

On set days each year a count is taken of the number of children taking a school meal. The more children that do, the more funding the school receives! On October 3rd this year, Caterlink are putting on a special menu to encourage as many children as possible to try a school meal on that day! Click the picture to find out what's on offer.

Woodpeckers Go Swimming

We are very lucky to have the use of the fantastic pool at Sibton Park during the Autumn. The Woodpeckers will be starting their swimming lessons on Monday (16th) so don't forget your kit!

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher

Community News

Folkestone Junior Chess Club

Following the closure of Folkestone sports centre we are now based at St John's Hall, 2 St Johns Church Rd, Folkestone CT19 5BQ and would be delighted to welcome any children who would like to take up the game. The club continues to grow and the game of chess is always popular. Visit our website here

cubs

LEAP FORWARD

1st Brabourne and Smeeth have spaces for new Cubs (aged 8-10.5) from September.

We've been helping young people have the time of their lives for nearly one hundred years. Be part of another century of fun and friendship and as much adventure as you can handle.

Contact us on brabourne.smeeth.cub.scouts@gmail.com or search "1st Brabourne and Smeeth" to find out more

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only £60 for 7 hours of cricket coaching

10% discount available for siblings or for signing up with a friend

Head Coach Chris:

- **ECB Core Coach**
- **Kent Cricket Girls' County Age Group Coach**
- **Qualified Youth Strength and Conditioning Coach**
- **Qualified Primary School Teacher**

Cricket coaching for girls in Key Stage 2

CRICKET COACHING FOR GIRLS

Unleash your daughter's potential!

An exciting opportunity for girls in Key Stage 2 to hone their cricket skills throughout the Winter.

Our dedicated team of ECB trained coaches will provide the girls with the skills and knowledge to be the best players they can be. The indoor sessions will be fun and tailored to meet the needs of all the players.

Whether your daughter is new to cricket or looking to build on existing skills, all enquiries are warmly welcomed.

Dates and time (all Sundays) 11am-12pm

29/9, 6/10, 27/10, 3/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11

Find us on Facebook at CGCricketcoaching and X at CGCricket2 Or Instagram at cg_cricket_coaching

Three Hills Sports Park
Cheriton Road, Folkestone, CT19 5JU

For more information or to book a place contact Head Coach Chris

Email- cgccbook@gmail.com
Mobile - 07359 343474

5th OCTOBER 2024

OUTDOOR EDUCATION ADVENTURE

CALLING YEAR 5 PUPILS

JOIN US FOR AN EPIC OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!

ARCHERY

POND DIPPING

BUSH CRAFT

(FIRE MAKING AND COOKERY)

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR SPACE

ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

10AM - 1.30PM

The Canterbury Academy
A School for all the Talents
Open Evening
Wednesday, 9th October
Open Saturday
12th October
Open Mornings
15th, 16th, 17th and 18th October
In partnership with The Langton Grammar School for Boys to provide
a grammar school band for boys and girls in a comprehensive school for all the talents