Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

Can you really be brave without being a little bit scared? We have talked this week about what it means to be brave, and how Christians feel their faith gives them courage. Daniel walking into the lion's den is a very good example!

19th September 2025

A positive vision for the future

You will have seen the letter from our chair of governors last week outlining the plans that are in place to secure our school's future in what are proving to be challenging times. While I am sad that I will not be part of the new team at Bodsham and Saltwood, I fully support the decisions of our governing body and am excited at the opportunities they will create for both our schools moving forward. I know Bodsham will be in good hands under Mrs Stephen's leadership and by joining OCMAT next year, all staff will benefit from a much greater level of professional development and collaboration with like-minded schools.

Along with members of our governing body, I have recently visited schools that are already part of this Multi Academy Trust and their leaders all reported feeling very well supported by OCMAT while being given real freedom to run their own schools as they see fit. At Bodsham we will continue to live by the values that define us, and I'm confident our children will not see any changes to the school they love!

On Monday 29th September we will be opening the formal consultation on the academisation proposal. There will be a dedicated page on the school website where all stakeholders can leave comments or ask questions, to which answers will be quickly published. We will also be holding a meeting in the school hall at **6pm on Tuesday 30th September** where parents and carers can come along to meet the OCMAT leadership team and hear from our governing body and staff. Please join us if you can.

Thank You and Goodbye Mrs Fagg!

We have known for some time that this would be the year that Mrs Fagg, our legendary caretaker and cleaner, finally decides to put down her hoover and begin a well-earned retirement. She will be saying goodbye to Bodsham at the end of this term and we are starting to miss her already! Anyone wishing to contribute to her leaving gift can do so at the school office.

An advertisement to help us find her replacement can be found here.

Parent Governor Elections

This is an exciting time for the future of our Federation and the involvement of parents as stakeholders in the strategic decision making is of vital importance. We have a vacancy for a Bodsham parent to join our governing body this Autumn and I will be sending out the paperwork at the start of next week. Any parent wishing to be considered for this role will need to send in a nomination form and if more than one nomination is received, parents will be asked to select the preferred candidate! Democracy in action!

After School Clubs Booking Now

Elliot and his team are now running their excellent after school club every day until 6pm. Children are offered a range of fun activities and games, along with a healthy snack. Bookings can be made directly with the TeachSport team.

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

Harvest Festival Friday 3rd October

We will be holding our traditional Harvest Festival service at Hastingleigh church on Friday 3rd October. All parents are invited. **Please collect the children at 2:15pm for a 2:30pm start at the church**. Parking will be both in the Church Car Park and at Hastingleigh Holiday Cottages as usual, with grateful thanks to the Gilson Family. Please collect any packets and tins that you might be able to spare for children to carry into church on Friday afternoon. All donations will, as always, go to the Bright City Church who provide food parcels and hot meals to vulnerable families in the local area.

Year 6 Secondary School Open Evenings

Now our Year 6 children have completed the Kent Test, the next step is for parents to consider which secondary schools will be suitable. The results of the Kent Test will be with parents mid-October, but now is the time to be visiting any school that might be of interest. Please keep an eye on any published open events, like this one at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School in Canterbury. Children can be granted permission to attend events during the school day if requested!

PTFA AGM – all invited

If you haven't had a chance to look through the PTFA newsletter this month you can find it here. Our PTFA make a tangible difference to the lives of the children at our school and they always have fun while they're doing it. Please come along to the AGM and get involved!

Please have a School Meal on Thursday 2nd October!

Our school meal providers, Caterlink, are laying on a special menu on Thursday 2nd October to encourage ALL children to take a school dinner on that day. It is the day of the Autumn Census, and the number of children taking a school meal will decide the level of funding the school receives for school meals for the rest of the year. So if you only have one school dinner this year, please do it then!

Christmas comes early at Bodsham!

Each year the children design Christmas cards that can be printed into a variety of Christmas goods, such as cards, labels, mugs and other Christmas goodies. These are a lovely way to celebrate your child's art as well as raising money for the school. We'll keep you updated as to when the cards come back from printer ready to order online. Jingle Bells!

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher

Community News

Folkestone Model Railway Club

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, CT20 2DZ

Sat 4th & Sun 5th October 2025, 10am-5pm

ADULT (16+): £8, CHILD(5-15): £4, FAMILY: £22