Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

"So don't be afraid, you are worth more than a whole flock of sparrows" Matthew 10:30
We have been talking about what the children do if they are worried. Christians are comforted by Jesus's words that explain how much we each mean to God.

22nd October 2021

End of Term 1 Already!

As we approach half term I feel particularly pleased with the way school life has returned to something very close to normality. Attendance is very good, children are playing and eating together again. Our youngest children have settled very well and are making friends in other classes. Our curriculum is back to full strength and there have been lots of exciting school trips already. Rev Lorraine has been visiting us for regular worships and After School Clubs are popular again. Our teachers are offering a good range of free lunchtime activities to extend the curriculum even further.

Covid hasn't gone away however. You will no doubt be aware that case numbers are increasing at a worrying rate, driven largely by infections in secondary schools. Families with an older child who is unfortunate enough to contract Covid are told by the latest guidance that any Primary age siblings are still able to attend school. This national policy allows more children to have an unbroken education this year, but obviously increases the risk to us all. If this is the case in your family, we would ask that any children attending Bodsham are given **daily lateral flow tests** while their siblings are in isolation. Our hopes for a 'normal' period of Christmas celebrations seem to be fading, but we will keep you informed as decisions are finalised.

We have also spent this term waiting for the phone call from Ofsted. Schools like Bodsham are now right at the top of the inspection priority list, so I anticipate we will have our long overdue visit around Christmas. You can help support the school by leaving your views at any time on the Ofsted ParentView website.

Attention ALL Year 6 Parents – SCAF deadline approaching!!

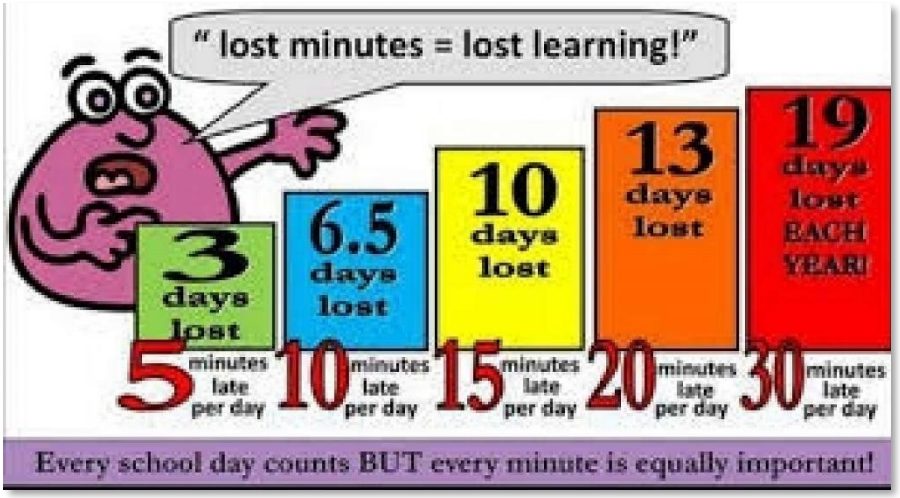
You will, by now, have received the Kent and Shepway Test results if your child sat either of these exams. You now have until **Monday 1st November** to complete your Secondary School Application Forms (SCAFs). It is vital that all Year 6 parents do this before the deadline. KCC have produced a helpful booklet to guide you through the process which can be found here.

Arriving at School

Now we have returned to a normal school day, without the staggered start times for each class, there have been some issues around how children arrive at school in the morning.

We open our doors at 8.40am and school starts at 8.50am. This ten-minute window is designed to allow parents to space out their arrivals somewhat and avoid congestion. There is a single parking space outside the school gate which can be used for parents to very quickly 'drop and go'. If you need to get out of the car to walk your child to the playground gate, please park elsewhere!

I would also like to stress how important it is for children to be at school by 8.50am. This term there have been too many children who regularly arrive after the school gate is closed. These late marks are recorded and will impact on your child's attendance. More importantly, it means they are missing the vital first few minutes of morning work. Often this is time when teachers can hear readers, or help children to complete work they struggled with the day before. I appreciate Bodsham is a highly rural school and the roads can be unpredictable, but that just shows how important it is to leave an extra bit of time for the journey.



Can we also ask that dogs are not brought past the top gate as they are not permitted anywhere on the school site. Thank you!

Badger's Bridge After School Club

We are very lucky to have Badgers Bridge running our After School Club on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It's a lot more than just childcare as the team at Badger's Bridge are committed to giving children a wide range of creative and enriching activities in the evening. Recently they visited our local farm to meet the animals, and yesterday was SLIME DAY where the children enjoyed making their own sticky creation and taking some home for the family! Currently the club is only two days a week but demand is increasing. If you would like to book – or would be interested in a Friday session as well - then please contact Badger's Bridge directly:

badgersafterschoolclubbodsham@gmail.com

Elite are also running their sports clubs on Monday and Tuesday. Full details of next term's offer can be found in their latest letter to parents.

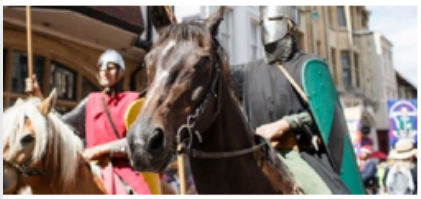
A Christmas Date For Your Diary

We are excited to have been invited to join in a World Record carol singing event on Wednesday 15th December.

Please make a note in your diary – more details will follow next term!

Mystery Of The Missing Conkers

Those of you with an eye for such things may have noticed that there have been almost no conkers at all from our magnificent horse chestnut tree this year. Staff who have worked at Bodsham for many years cannot recall this ever happening. We have done some research with the Woodland Trust and think we have an answer to this mystery, but I wonder if the children can think of their own reasons? I'd love to read any creative stories written at home about what's happened to our conkers! We will celebrate the best one in Gold Book next term



HEAR YE HEAR YE!

You - young knight! Have you ever heard of the Canterbury Medieval Pageant and Trail? This is the perfect way to start your half term holiday!

Join us on Saturday 16th October for some FREE medieval madness for all the family, in Canterbury city centre.

This year we help launch the **Canterbury Festival** and commemorate the **850th anniversary of Saint Thomas Becket** in a big way! Local school children have competed and collaborated to design a giant - **yes a GIANT!** - which you will see paraded through the city centre as part of our colourful pageant.

Thomas will be joined by a giant Henry II and Queen Eleanor, knights on horseback, an army of knights in shining armour, medieval musicians and more. They will be entering the city from the Westgate Towers at **11am**. The parade will pass through the city centre and will finish in the Buttermarket at approximately 11.40am.*

Then, spend the afternoon visiting 14 different locations in the city center for the **Medieval Family Trail**. This year the offer includes a real live archaeological dig, the newly opened viewing gallery at Canterbury Cathedral, the beautifully restored medieval Franciscan Gardens, The Westgate Towers, St Augustine's Abbey and even two medieval encampments within the city centre!

Each venue will be welcoming visitors with a range of activities including craft, performances and a chance to meet medieval characters. Visitors can also get their leaflet stamped and if they collect at least 5 stamps, they will receive a **FREE giant chocolate coin** at the Cathedral Shop in the Buttermarket. Leaflets will be available to collect from each of the trail locations on the day, The Beaney in advance, or accessed online here: canterburymedievalpageant.co.uk

We do so hope you can join us for a historical day!

Best wishes from
The Medieval Pageant Team at Canterbury BID

STOP PRESS – Exciting News of a Special Visitor at Bodsham

We have just received word that Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the new Bishop of Dover, will be visiting our little school on the first day of next term. Bishop Rose has chosen Bodsham to be one of the first schools she visits after taking up her post in the summer. We are all looking forward to welcoming her and asking her to bless our Spiritual Garden!

I hope you all have a restful and happy half term. School reopens on **Monday 1st November**

Paul Newton, **Executive Head Teacher**