Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

Christians believe that nothing is impossible for God, as Abraham discovers in *Genesis 15*. In Worship, we encouraged the children to quietly think about something they are finding hard to deal with, and to share that thought with God if they wanted to.

25th October 2024

Bowled Over!

It was great to welcome Year 6 as they arrived back in Saltwood on Friday evening last week. Mrs King reported that this year's trip had been particularly successful with many children trying new things and pushing themselves out of their comfort zones to take on new experiences. Teachers often note that their class seems a bit more self-confident after the Bowles trip, and this year seems no exception! Well done to all and a particular thank you to Mr Caton who volunteered his time for the whole week!

Smashing Pumpkins!

Thank you to all children and parents who took part in the traditional Pumpkin Carving event this week. Your creations made an impressive spectacle around the tree on Thursday morning. This year the PTFA donated some lovely prizes and the children voted on their favourites in the afternoon – but in my view, everyone was a winner!

You can see all the entries on the News section of our website

Beautiful Bodsham Next Weekend

More volunteers needed please **Saturday 2nd November**.
Join us for another Autumn beautiful Bodsham.
Parents bi-annually take on the task of cleaning and clearing the outside of the school. This involves families, parents, carers, teachers and children coming together to make our fantastic school look beautiful again. The jobs involved include sweeping, cleaning, gardening, jet washing, planting and re-energising the gardens and playground. If you are unable to participate but want to donate a tool or two please get in touch. The day is supportive, welcoming and shows our kids what hard work and taking pride in the school is all about.

Please message Rosie on 07973381998 if you're keen to join in and help.
please come along from 10am- 1pm and bring your gardening tools and jet washer with you. We look forward to seeing you!!
Rosie Baur

Deadline approaches for Secondary School Applications

Now the children in Year 6 who took the Kent Test have been told the results, parents have until the end of October to make their decisions about applications to secondary school. KCC have published a helpful information leaflet which you can find in the News section of our website. I also recorded a briefing for parents last term about the application process which is available here.

Bag 2 School

It is time to clear out your cupboards while raising funds for Bodsham! Bag2School are here so please collect a bag by the school gate to fill with your unwanted clothes, and return on **Tuesday 12 November by 9 am** – no sooner please as we don't have anywhere to store them! Please note that bags must remain dry.

Drop In for a Chat – New parent invitation

We would like to invite our new parents to an informal drop in coffee morning on Thursday 7th November. Our SENCO Mrs O'Neon and our Mental Health Lead Mrs Thompson will host this in the Art Studio at drop off time and will be an opportunity to meet other parents and have a school related chat. If you are a Sparrow's parent or a new family to Bodsham please do come along we would love to see you. We would love to take this forward into a termly event.

Rock on Bodsham!

We have asked Rockademy Music Tuition to come and lead a musical assembly with us on **Wednesday November 27th**. After their assembly, Rockademy will be sending home information to parents about music tuition they could offer at our school. [Have a look at their website!]

Top Tips

- All our upcoming events are listed in the school's online diary, which can be found on our website. You can subscribe to this calendar on Outlook, iPhone and Android
- You can find a link to our Arbor parent information system at the foot of the homepage on our website
- The new Caterlink School Meals menu begins after half term. The menu can be found on our School Meals webpage, along with details of this year's Christmas Lunch for the children which will be served on 17th December

Half Term Holiday Ideas

BBC Five Hundred Words Competition

The BBC are running their very popular 500 word story competition again and are inviting children to "write a story you would love to read". This is an excellent opportunity for budding authors to stretch their imagination and create a mini masterpiece over half term! Full details of how to enter can be found here and the closing date is 9pm on the 8th November!

Half Term Holiday Club

Elite are delighted to announce that we are running courses this October Half-Term at some of our popular venues at Three Hills Sports Park (Folkestone), Saltwood & Lympne C of E Primary School (Hythe) and Shepherdswell Church of England Primary School (Dover) and one of our newest venues at The Stour Centre (Ashford). Click the image for booking details

PTFA News

Christmas Cave

While we appreciate we haven't even made it to Halloween, yet here we are talking about Christmas, as we know, the Elves in the North Pole get cracking well before December and the same applies to the Bodsham Elves!

For the newbies, the Christmas Cave is a Bodsham tradition where the Bodsham Elves set up shop in the art room for each child to buy presents for their family, friends and even pets. The pupils adore this annual festive shopping spree and the parents still can't get their heads around how it works, which is all part of the fun. So this year, for parent ease, we are going cashless with the printed instructions provided in every pupil's school bag on the first day after the half-term break.

The deadline for those wishing to participate is Monday, the 11th of November, which allows enough time for the Elves to make sure there are enough presents stocked in the Cave and to ensure the Elf accounts are shipshape. This is a really fun event that also needs some parent helpers on the day to wrap presents in the wrapping suite. So, if you are free on Tuesday 3rd of December from 12.30 'til 3.30 pm, please let us know - you'll only need some scissors and festive cheer!

School Disco

The first week back at school, after the half-term break, is celebrated with the Bodsham PTFA school disco in The Evington Hall, Lees Rd, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HR on Friday 8th of November. Doors open strictly at **3.45 pm** with the disco lights and tunes turning off at **5.45pm.**

A dress-down day on the same day means pupils can go straight from the classroom to the dance floor. There are two pricing options available for the children - fret not, parents enjoy the pleasure of a Friday night disco for free! Either **£5** for entry, a drink and a cake or **£10** for entry, a drink, a cake, then a choice of two of the following: face paint, coloured hair spray or nails painted. Further cakes and drinks can be bought at £1 a go.

Payment can be made in advance via bank transfer using the ref: DISCO followed by the child's name or on the day via cash or card. All pupils need to be accompanied by an adult, so while we encourage lift-sharing where possible and due to limited parking at the venue, please ensure that you have an adult present responsible for your child.

Finally, we heavily rely on cake donations for the event, so in true GBBO style: on your marks, get set, bake! and please, please bring any donations on the day directly to the hall noting that all require an ingredients label and that Bodsham operates a strictly no nuts or sesame policy. A copy of the risk assessment for the event will be at the hall for anyone interested or provided ahead of the event upon request. If you have any other questions, please email ptfabodsham@gmail.com.

Christmas Wreath Workshop

There are a few spaces left for the Christmas Wreath Workshop on 6 December. Not only is this an opportunity to get your festive on, but a chance to mingle with parents at a more leisurely pace than at school pick up! Open to parents, friends, and family but sadly no children (we need to enjoy ourselves too!), please email to secure your space.

Spending & Parent Survey
So far the PTFA have contributed £1,000 towards the running of the school minibus, a vital part of the school's infrastructure that gets used regularly for school trips and the Woodpecker's weekly swimming trips. Another £500 has been donated towards art supplies to ensure the monthly pilgrimage to Mrs Carter's art classes in the Art Room continues to be the highlight for many Bodsham pupils.

A reminder that the parent feedback survey is still open for all parents and carers to provide feedback on the suggested fundraising options and to share ideas of what other areas the pupils can benefit from with the help of PTFA funding. You can access the form following this link: Parent Feedback Form.

Thank you!
Finally, we want to share our thanks to all those who donated to our last cake sale, which made just shy of £150 and those who participated in the school lottery run by www.yourschoollottery.co.uk which has raised an extraordinary £914 since its inception in February 2023. An extra special shout-out to those who donate their winnings back to Bodsham - it doesn't go unnoticed, so thank you.

Looking Ahead!

Children in Need

This year's Children in Need appeal is taking place on Friday 15th November. Our School Council have voted to raise money by coming to school dressed as their favourite animal in return for a donation. During half term, you might want to ask which animal they would like to be!

Christmas Cards

Hopefully you have all seen your child's Christmas Card Designs that came home last week. You can order them as cards, tags and mugs too (lovely for that Christmas Eve Hot Chocolate, or gift for the grandparents!). Do get your orders in soon to raise funds for our school!

Open Morning

Our next Open Morning is on Wednesday 6th November - 9.30am to 12.30pm. Telephone or email to let us know you are coming and if your child is at a nursery, do let them know to invite other parents, or share the posts on our Facebook page to local groups and nurseries you know of. Barley Bear story times continue after half term on Mondays at 2.15pm.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week is coming up on 11th November and we will start the week with a Kindness Assembly. On Tuesday it will be Odd Socks Day, to help children remember they are all unique.

Book Fair

On Thursday 14th November, our each day Scholoastic Book fair will begin and run after school until Thursday 21st. The school received a percentage of the sales which will go towards new non-fiction books for the library.

And finally, I wish you all a happy and restful half term break. Children return to school on **Monday 4th November**

Paul Newton
Executive Headteacher

Bodsham C/E Primary School,
uk.arbor.sc

Community News

MEET AT
The Leas Cliff Hall
FOLKESTONE
Sunday 1st December 2024
RACE STARTS AT 12 NOON
WARM UP AT 11.50, 5km course!

Mental Elf

Festive Fun Run

or choose to jog, walk, wheel, or stroll your way around!

In aid of mind South Kent

Scan QR Code to book!