Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

We have been talking about King David and trying to learn lessons from what the Bible tells us about his life. He was not perfect, but God loved him. When he made mistakes, he wrote Psalms asking for forgiveness. How easy does your child find it to say sorry?

26th November 2021

Coming to School is the First Priority

As we edge ever closer to Christmas I'm sure we're all keeping a close eye on Covid numbers in the area. I hear that a local school has been forced to close temporarily due to the number of cases there. We remain lucky at Bodsham in that our case numbers are relatively low. As I write there are no children with Covid, but there are some families that are affected.

In a letter to schools this week, the Secretary of State for Education instructed head teachers to make school attendance a priority. He reminded us that the harm caused by disrupted education outweighs the risk of serious illness due to Covid for almost all young children.

Clearly there is a need for balance. At Bodsham we have seen parents choosing to keep their children away from school as a precaution. The Secretary of State would argue that, unless they are ill, they should come to school. I can see both sides!

Next week some families may receive a letter informing them that their child's attendance so far this year is well below the average. I'm sending these letters for information only at this stage, so you as parents can make your decisions about sending children to school with that knowledge.

An Important Message about Medicines

At Bodsham our aim is to help ensure we meet the health needs of our children by agreeing to administer medication (prescription and non-prescription).
Our policy requires parents to deliver all medicines to the school office, where they will be kept securely. Children must not be sent to school with medicines in their bags. Parents must sign a consent form each time medicine is left at school. This will allow us to carefully monitor dosage and timings, to ensure children are kept safe. Children with asthma inhalers kept in school must also be in possession of an Asthma Plan which is drawn up by the child's GP. Again, parental permission is needed for our staff to administer such medicines according to the needs of your child. We will keep careful records of dosage because if the child needs an increasing amount of medication to feel well, paramedics may be needed.

The True Meaning of Christmas

Mrs Gilling has asked us to highlight the work of a local charity that will be helping to make a real difference to the lives of others this Christmas.

Unleashing Lives is a charity working to support homeless people in the Ashford area. Their latest appeal is for items packed into a shoebox that they will wrap and distribute to the homeless at Christmas. The following items which would be ideal to fill your Christmas shoe boxes with are: Deodorants, shampoo, socks, hats/caps, flannels, tooth brushes, tooth paste, chocolate bars/sweets, disposable razors, shaving foam, women's sanitary products, pyjamas, hair accessories, wind up torches, books/crosswords.

You might like to create a Christmas Shoebox at home with your child – to help them to see how they can make a difference to those less fortunate than themselves. Perhaps they'd like to include a Christmas Card in the box with a happy message. There are several drop off points for the boxes around Ashford, but if you can't reach one of them feel free to drop your box at school and we'll pass it on.

Full details of the charity, their work and the shoebox appeal can be found here:

https://unleashinglives.org.uk/littlehouse/

A Message from Foster for Kent

The ongoing pandemic has had an overwhelming effect on some families and Kent County Council are actively trying to recruit new foster carers to help support our vulnerable children and young people. If you feel that you would be able to help us or if you would like any further information, please do get in touch

Call 03000 420002 or visit www.kentfostering.co.uk for more information

Christmas At Bodsham 2021

This is our Christmas Programme this year, all being well!

Monday 6th December at 2pm
Sparrows (Year R) and Robins (Year 1&2) will perform the Nativity at Evington Hall. Numbers will be limited to parents of children in these classes only. Please note this is a change of date from that published in the PTA newsletter due to availability of Evington Hall.

Friday 10th December at 2.30pm – Carols on the Playground
Parents are invited to join an outdoor whole-school carol concert on the school playground. Mince pies and mulled wine on sale! The PTA will also be selling Christmas Jumpers – you'll need one!

Tuesday 14th December – Christmas Cave
Our traditional Christmas Cave will return, giving children a chance to buy presents for their family. Details will follow from the PTA.

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Children can have a traditional Christmas dinner at school for the usual price of a school meal. Please place your order through Caterlink as usual. Children can pay £1 to wear their brightest Christmas jumper to get us all in the festive spirit!

Thursday 16th December – Class Christmas Parties and Father Christmas
Children will celebrate in class this year and, if they've been good, there may be a special visitor! Don't forget to drop a wrapped and labelled present at school for your child!

Friday 17th December at 2:30pm – Christmas Service
It has not yet been decided whether we will hold a church service with parents this year. If Covid numbers continue to rise we will try and gather on the playground.

On Friday 3rd December *there will be a dress rehearsal of the Nativity production at Evington Hall in the morning. We are asking parents of Sparrows and Robins to drop children at the hall in the morning please, and would gratefully accept any offers of parental help during the morning!*

Thank You!

Our sparkly non uniform day raised £104 for Children in Need last week! Thanks to everyone who took part!

Woodpecker's Rock!

Miss Skinner took the Woodpeckers on a walk around our local area last week, to help the children understand the rocks and soils in our locality. They noticed a lot of chalk, that we also find on our school site and which is often used for drawing on the playground! The children also noticed the when you have a chalky soil, there is always a lot of flint. I wonder why?

Amazing Result from Sponsored Read

As a result of all the reading the children did earlier this term we have now taken delivery of over £1,000 of new Usborne books. These books will be distributed between the classrooms and library and will really help to make reading even more interesting at Bodsham. Well done to Henry (Y1) and Isabella (Y5) for the most minutes read, and to Sophie (YR) who raised the most money!

21st Century Nativity

We are all hoping that Sparrows and Robins parents will be able to attend our YR and KS1 Nativity on 6th December at Evington Hall, but there is always the chance that Covid cases will mean this is not possible. We are planning to film the performance and parents can purchase a DVD as a permanent keepsake. We have had several parents mention that, these days, DVDs are fast becoming an out-dated technology and they do not have any way to play them at home! With that in mind, anyone purchasing a DVD will also receive a private link to the video on our You Tube channel so that you can stream it onto any device as long as you like, for ever!

If you need a breakfast club place on 6th December, please sign up in the usual way. The cost is £3.50 including breakfast!

Information Notices

- If you need to pay by cheque for school clubs or trips, please make them out to Bodsham Primary School (not the PFA) thanks!
- If you are returning a permission slip, it is better to post them in the outside post box rather than put them in book bags where they can get buried.
- Please don't bring dogs onto the school site at any time.

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher