Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

This week we have been talking about the parable of the Good Samaritan found in the Gospel of Luke. The children thought about who they call their 'neighbour' and learnt that Christians understand this parable instructs them to treat everyone in need as a neighbour!

2nd February 2024

Safer Internet Day Next Week

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day and at Bodsham we will be focussing on online safety throughout the week. The theme of this year's S.I.D. is making a difference and managing change online. The virtual world has changed beyond recognition in the time I've been working in schools and the focus of online safety has shifted from finding ways to block and protect our children from harmful content, towards educating them in how to identify and deal with troublesome issues. As a parent I'm sure you'll recognise the difficulties in keeping track of what young people our doing online. The UK Safer Internet Centre has produced useful guidance for parents in this ever-changing landscape and next week would be an ideal time for you to have discussions about this issue with your children at home.

Speak out, stay safe

Another safety message this week has been about children's personal safety. The children have watched an assembly about different types of abuse, their right be safe, and who their trusted adults are. They have learnt the telephone number for ChildLine and met the NSPCC's mascot, Buddy the speech bubble. If you are worried about a child you can also call the **NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.**

Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

While all children in Years R,1 & 2 receive a free meal every day as part of national policy, older children may be entitled to a free meal if families meet certain criteria. You can check your eligibility here. It's worth doing this even if your children are in Reception or Key Stage 1 as this will also trigger other benefits that are distributed through schools such as supermarket vouchers and free access to the government's Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Help with Energy Bills

We have all felt the impact of rising energy costs recently but many parents may not be aware of a local source of financial support towards these bills. For families with a household income below £40,000, it is worth visiting the Kent Money Advice Hub where there is information about apply for grants of up to £500 towards energy costs. This support is funded by the UK Governments Household Support Fund – the scheme will close once all funds are spent or before the 31 March 2024.

Clubs for Term 4

Art Club for Key Stage 2 children will continue next term for the 6-week period up to Easter. This takes place on a Wednesday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm at a cost of £2 per session (£12 payable to secure your place).

The list is reopening to give everyone the chance to join. To secure your place, please let the office know that you would like a place and that payment has been made by bank transfer (or pay cash at the office) first come, first served.

Mrs Allen will also be opening the **choir** list up again for children to begin learning songs ready for Easter - let the office know if your child would like to join.

Mrs Rushton runs a **quiet club** on a Friday lunchtime, and the library is open to children three lunchtimes a week - no need to sign up for these, everyone is welcome!

Come and See Your Children's Work

As we reach the end of term we are holding another of our Drop In Zones after school on Thursday next week. All classrooms will be open between 3:30pm and 4:15pm and children's work will be on display. Please feel free to drop in with your child and explore what they've been up to!

Pancake Races

In worship next week we shall be exploring the start of Lent (which falls during half term this year). So of course no Bodsham School year would be the same without our famous Pancake Races, which the children will enjoy on Friday afternoon next week!

Federation Football Friendly

This week saw our first friendly football match between our two federation schools, when Bodsham's Woodpecker class visited Saltwood. The game was played over four 15-minute quarters and was a 7-a-side match (this enabled us to allow as many children to play as much as possible). There was a lot of excitement prior to the match with many Saltwood year 3 and 4 children making banners and pompoms to cheer on both teams.

In the match plenty of great skill was on show from both teams with lots of good football being played. Saltwood came out of the traps quickly with four goals in the first quarter, but Bodsham came back in the second quarter with a goal of their own. The rest of the game was a closely fought battle and everyone really enjoyed themselves in a fun and friendly atmosphere. The final score was Saltwood 9 (Jonas x5, Roman, Will x2 and Leo) Bodsham 1 (Archie). We are looking forward to organising more events together, allowing different year groups from our federation to come together.

And Finally…

As this is the last newsletter before half term may I wish you a peaceful break and happy travels if you are going away. Term ends on Friday 9th February and children return to school on **Monday 19th February.**

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher

Community News