Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

Learning how Jesus described himself while he was on Earth gives the children a chance to think about the power of metaphors to educate and inspire. Why did Jesus call himself the 'bread of life' or offer his followers 'living water'?

31st January 2025

New Wrap Around Care offer for Bodsham Children

For many years now, Mrs Wenham has run her excellent After School Club on Wednesdays and Thursdays, giving Bodsham children an opportunity to relax after school with creative activities and tasty snacks. As we begin 2025, Mrs Wenham has decided to step down from this role and I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking her for the amazing work she's done for our children.

This gave us an opportunity to look again at the after school offer for Bodsham and I am delighted to announce that we have located a new partner to work with our families to run an extended after school club next term. TeachSport Canterbury are an established after school club provider who work with several schools in our local area. After visiting Bodsham, their Director Elliot Bensted, was excited about the opportunities our school site offers children in terms of engaging and creative activities that children will be able to take part in. His club will offer extended hours (to 6pm) and run on a Friday, which is something we have not been able to offer at Bodsham to date. Elliot has written a letter of introduction which you can read here.

TeachSport are a commercial organisation, so their pricing has to reflect the costs associated with running a club in a small, rural school such as Bodsham and I am aware that £12 a session represents a considerable increase on the current charge. However, unlike Mrs Wenham's club, TeachSport will be fully registered with OFSTED which will allow working parents to sign up for Tax Free Childcare vouchers, which will reduce the actual costs significantly.

Safety Week Begins 10th February

The last week of this term will be 'safety week' at Bodsham. We are planning activities and lessons that are designed to help our children keep themselves safe in today's complicated world.
Monday will be NSPCC Speak out, Stay Safe day. Teachers will lead sessions for both KS1 and KS2 groups using the NSPCC PANTS programme which gives children important messages about personal safety in a sensitive and age appropriate way. Younger children will enjoy the Pantasaurus song!

Tuesday 11th February is Safer Internet Day. The children will take part in an assembly focussing on keeping safe in the online world. There will be safer internet activities in each class as well and a Safer Internet Day display will go up in the computer room.

On Thursday 13th February we will have Phil Marsh from The Dog's Trust visiting us for workshops designed to help children be safer around dogs and increase their confidence with animals. Phil will lead a whole school assembly and each class will get a special visit!

Friday 14th February is Fire Safety Day where I we will have a whole school assembly around fire prevention at home and at school!

This week provides a great opportunity for parents to discuss these important safety issues at home too!

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

Celebrating Good Mental Health

On Monday, the children will receive a special assembly to mark Children's Mental Health Week. Using the characters from Disney's Inside Out film, the assembly will help the children to be mindful of their own emotions. As Socrates said "the most important thing is to know yourself"

PTFA Valentine's Tuck Shop

The PTFA want to share the love on Valentine's Day by running a tuck shop on the last day of term (14th Feb). Bring some cash along and bag a treat for that special someone!

Fair Warning! World Book Day is approaching!

We will be holding our annual celebration of all things literary on Friday 7th March. The Theme is 'READ YOUR WAY' and we would love the children to dress as their favourite book character on for a playground parade. Half term is a great time to look for a costume!

Come and see the children's work

We will be holding our next Drop in Zone on Monday 10th February after school. Books will be on display in the classrooms, so please come in with your child and ask them to show you something they have done recently that makes them really proud!

Elvis The Attendance Aardvark is a Big Hit!

Bodsham is a school where children achieve well in almost everything they do, but in recent years we have seen our attendance rate drop below national averages. While we recognise the challenges of getting children to our rural school, every day of learning is important so Elvis The Attendance Aardvark has been rewarding the class with the best attendance each week. So far this year, Bodsham's overall attendance rate this year is **94.8%**, which is in line with National averages. The Woodpeckers had the best attendance last week – well done!

Half Term Holiday Club – places available to Bodsham children

Paul Newton

Executive Headteacher

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