Pentecost reminds us that we all have gifts to share. Just as the Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage and confidence, children can learn that they too can make a difference by using their unique talents, supporting others, and working together as a community.

5th June 2026

Staffing Update for September

We would like to share an update on staffing arrangements for September.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Miss Morris, who will be taking up a Senior Early Years position at another school. We are very grateful for all she has contributed during her time with us and wish her every success in her new role. We also say farewell to Miss Dryland, a former pupil who has made a very positive contribution to Woodpeckers class. She will be beginning her teacher training and we are confident she will thrive in this exciting next step. Our final goodbye is to Mrs Thompson who is stepping back from her role at Bodsham as our Lead TA for Mental Health.

Following these changes, we have carefully reviewed staffing to ensure continuity and the very best provision for all children.

- Sparrows (Year R) – Mrs Anderson will continue to provide children with a strong and nurturing start to their school journey.
- Robins class (Years 1-2) – We are delighted that our experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs King, will be stepping into the teaching role. Having been part of our school community for many years, she brings energy, experience and a deep commitment to the children.
- Woodpeckers (Years 3-4) – Miss Skinner will continue to teach four days per week, with Mrs Stephen supporting the class one day per week.
- Owls (Years 5-6) – Ms Allen will continue to lead the class, supporting pupils as they prepare for their next steps.

Our children continue to be supported by our highly experienced teaching assistants Mrs Carmichael and Mrs Norris, along with our HLTA Mrs Wenham, who make a significant difference to children's learning and wellbeing every day. We are also currently recruiting two part-time Teaching Assistants to further strengthen our team. These roles will be advertised on Kent Teach shortly. Do please share these opportunities when they go live.

These arrangements allow us to maintain our four-class structure and ensure stability and consistency for the year ahead.

Improving Attendance Together

This week, you will have received a letter regarding your child's attendance this academic year. Attendance remains a national priority and a key focus for our school.

Over the coming months, we will be working closely with attendance officers at Kent County Council (KCC) and OCMAT to support improvements in individual attendance. Together, we will continue to develop effective strategies to ensure all pupils can fully access the high-quality education they are entitled to.

Free School Meals – Eligibility Changes

From September, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals will be extended, meaning more families will qualify. Families in receipt of Universal Credit will be able to apply.

If eligible, children may also benefit from additional support, including a reduced-cost Kent County Council Travel Saver bus pass when moving on to secondary school, and access to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

In addition, pupils who receive Free School Meals help schools secure additional funding, which is used to enhance learning and provide targeted support.

To check eligibility and apply, please use the link below. The process is quick and straightforward, and in many cases children can begin receiving meals within 24 hours of approval.

Apply for free school meals - Kent County Council

Step Into Strings – Free Music Opportunity

We are delighted to offer KS2 pupils the opportunity to try a string instrument through our school ensemble. As part of our wider music provision, children can learn to play the violin, viola or cello completely free of charge.

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore a new skill in a fun and supportive environment. Learning a string instrument helps build confidence, focus, discipline and teamwork, while also developing creativity and musical expression.

Whether your child is a complete beginner or simply curious about music, this is a great opportunity to try something new and discover hidden talent. Many children go on to develop a real passion that stays with them for years.

Places are free but limited, so please register interest via the school office as soon as possible. Please note there is a small annual charge for instrument hire.

A New Chapter for Our School Community

At the most recent Federation Board of Governors meeting, our long-standing Chair of Governors, Liz Chapman, stepped down from her role.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for her outstanding service. Over many years, Liz has given her time, wisdom and unwavering commitment to our schools. Her leadership has played a vital role in shaping our success, and her positive impact on pupils, staff and families will be felt for years to come.

We are delighted to announce that Sam Slee has been appointed as the new Chair of Governors for our Federation. Sam has served as a Foundation Governor for the past two years and is a familiar and valued presence across both Bodsham and Saltwood. She is deeply committed to our shared values and passionate about supporting school communities to thrive.

Sam brings a strong background in education and business leadership, with over 10 years' experience in the education sector. Alongside her governor role, she is Head of People for a local digital media company and has experience in the FMCG sector. This combination of strategic leadership and educational insight will support the continued success of our schools.

A note from our new Chair

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Foundation Governor over the past two years. There is something truly special about the spirit of both Saltwood and Bodsham – from the dedication of staff to the energy and enthusiasm of the pupils. I am honoured to take on this role and look forward to working closely with families and leadership teams to ensure our schools remain places where children love to learn."

Please join us in warmly welcoming Sam to this role. We are fortunate to have such a committed and experienced advocate leading our governing body as we look ahead to the future of both schools.

Summer Fair

Just three weeks to go until our spectacular Summer Fair on Saturday 27th June!

Our PTFA are working hard behind the scenes to bring together another fantastic event, with favourites including the fire engine, Sponge Kev, the children's tent and the ever-popular bouncy castle.

We would love your support in helping to make this year's fair a great success. Please keep an eye out for ways to get involved and do help us spread the word by inviting friends and family.

And don't forget The Bodsham Bake-Off — get baking!

After School Club Booking Now!

In the final term of the year we are working with our partners TeachSport to ensure our After School Club offer covers every day. You can book either through their website, or through Arbor – if you can't see the dates you need, do check in with the office who can help you navigate the bookings for the summer term. We expect to bring news of September's clubs to you towards the end of the term. [Teachsport Bookings]

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

Wild about Learning

This week, we have begun awarding children with certificates that celebrate the qualities and skills we are nurturing across our school. Using beautiful illustrations and stories imagined by Sam Thompsett and Rebecca Smith, all based on the native animals found around our school, we proudly presented our first set today. Keep an eye out for these special certificates coming home!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Mary Stephen

Headteacher

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

Community News

Win a fabulous prize at the

Bodsham Bake-Off!

With guest judges from the Hastingleigh WI

Two categories: adults and 12 years & under

o

Entries by 12 pm on Saturday 27th June at the Bodsham Summer Fair, ready for judging at 12.45 pm

o

Free to enter

o

All entries sold post-competition

SCHOOL HILL | ASHFORD | TN25 5JQ

A PTFA Fundraiser
Registered Charity No. 1122123

Open Farm Sunday

Visit a farm & discover the world of farming!

Sunday 7th June 2026
1–4pm

Brockhill Park Performing Arts College
Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4HL

- Cows and calves
- Sheep and lambs
- Chickens
- Rabbits
- Guinea pigs
- Pigs
- Donkeys
- Goats

FUN AND GAMES!

- Pets Corner
- Tea Tent in the Walled Garden
- Demos of spinning and weaving
- Fun and games!

AHDB · Arla · BASF · Co-op · Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs · Frontier · John Deere · LEAF · M&S EST. 1884 · McDonald's · NFU · Sainsbury's · TESCO · Waitrose & Partners

www.farmsunday.org
@Openfarmsunday
LEAFopenfarmsunday
openfarmsunday

Open Farm Sunday is managed by LEAF (Linking Enviroment And Farming). Charity no. 1045781

KENT JUNIOR SQUASH STARS

Exciting opportunities for all children to have fun and play squash.

Regular weekend junior squash coaching and after school are being run at the following clubs:

Hythe - juniorsquash@hythecsc.com
Canterbury - juniors@csquash.org

All coaches are fully qualified and will provide the relevant kit.

ENGLAND squash

www.kentsra.co.uk

KENT JUNIOR SQUASH STARS