Bodsham Church of England Primary School

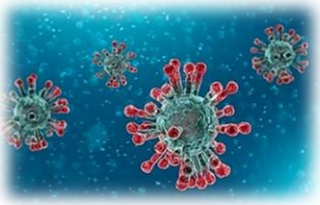
Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother and fell down and worshipped him" *Matthew 2.* We have taught the children the meaning of Epiphany. Can they explain it to you?

7th January 2022

Testing Times!



A shorter newsletter today to welcome you back to the new term and a new year. I hope that Bodsham families managed to get some quality rest and recuperation over the Christmas period. I am aware that several cases of Covid-19 were detected in children and I hope that didn't affect your celebrations too much. Having asked all parents to give their children a Lateral Flow Test before returning to school on Wednesday, we have started the term with low numbers of Covid cases in the school. However, it is clear that the new variant is spreading like wildfire and it would be unrealistic to expect that situation to last for long.

If we hear of a positive case in any class, we will inform parents in that class and suggest daily Lateral Flow Tests for a set period. The latest guidance has reduced the amount of time children need to stay off school if they test positive from 10 to 7 days, as long as they record a negative LFT on day 6 and day 7. These last two tests must be taken at least 24 hours apart.

The requirement to undertake a confirmatory PCR test after a positive LFT is being removed from 11th January, but self-isolation is still necessary. It is important that parents continue to report positive and negative LFT results and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace regarding self-isolation periods. I feel there is an increased risk of confusion and error because guidance is changing so quickly, so it is important that parents take great care to establish the correct self-isolation period if children become infected.

If your child has any of the main Covid-19 symptoms, they must not come to school – they must isolate and get a PCR test - that rule has not changed since the start of the pandemic!

Improving access to homework for all

Following our parent survey last term that asked you for your views on homework, we have decided to make some significant changes to the way it is set. For children in Key Stage 1 and 2 we will be sending home a dedicated work book that contains questions and activities for children to attempt at home. Each week, teachers will inform children and parents which sections of the books should be attempted. Children should then return the books with the work completed for teachers to mark before the next week's work is set.

I hope that this makes it easier for all families to access homework. The issues around the use of Seesaw, our online platform, seem to have mostly been about having to print worksheets at home and then remembering to send them back electronically for feedback, so these new books will help with that.

I should remind parents that Seesaw will remain our system for delivering home learning should schools need to close or a bubble be sent home for Covid reasons. With that in mind, please ensure you keep your Seesaw logins to hand!

Volunteers Needed!

You will know that after school care at Bodsham takes the form of Elite Sports Clubs on Monday and Tuesday and Badgers' Bridge Activity Club on Thursday and Friday. The staff at Badgers Bridge are seeking some extra help on a Thursday after school and I wondered of any Bodsham parents (or older siblings) would like the chance to gain some valuable work experience. Sessions run until 5.15pm and the school will pay for any necessary DBS checks to be carried out. If you think you may be interested, contact Mrs Albertini via office@bodsham.kent.sch.uk

Woodpeckers Make a Splash!

Henry: Today was our first visit to Hythe Swimming Pool, and we completed some swimming exercises like front-crawl and back-stroke.

Eliana: Our group had fun diving down under the water to collect toys and floats!

P.S. As we were returning, the R&J Coach Driver took the time to tell us that "In 25 years of driving school children on buses, these are the best children I have had on one of my coaches." I am so proud of our Year 3,4 and 5 children!

Discovery Day Menu

If you've never tried school dinners, Thursday 20th January might be a good day to give them a go!

Reminder

When paying cash for anything in school, the best way to do so is by putting payments into a named envelope and posting into the letter box outside the hall. This helps our office staff manage cash much more easily. Thank you!

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher