Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

This week we have learnt about Hannah as told in *1 Samuel 1*. She had faith that her prayers would be answered and they were. The children told us how they pray and many of them said they do so at home. Why not ask them if they want to share what they say to God?

7th October 2022

Harvest is a Time for Gathering

It was a real pleasure to finally be able to hold our Harvest Festival in the church again, with so many parents, carers and relatives in attendance. I think we all appreciated the feeling of being a cohesive community once more. The children showed a deep understanding of how their donations, however small, really were going to make a difference. Thank you to all those who came along and everyone who gave something. The food items will be collected by staff from Vinnie's Diner and will allow their local food scheme continue to serve those in need.

Goodbye Mrs Bax

I am sad to announce that Mrs Bax has decided to step back from her teaching role at Bodsham. She is moving on to a new position and even though we are all really sorry to see her go, I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the very best. Mrs Bax has been an inspirational Early Years teacher for many years and our children have been lucky to benefit from her warmth and expertise. She played a very important part in helping the school obtain its Outstanding Early Years judgement from Ofsted last summer and her new school are very lucky to have her! Her last day at Bodsham will be Wednesday 2nd November. Please contact the office if you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for her.

So, the Sparrows will need a new teacher after half term and I'm delighted to announce that this will be Ms Joanne Hughes. Ms Hughes is a very experienced Early Years teacher who lives locally and knows Bodsham well. She joins us at an exciting time when we are looking for ways to enhance our curriculum, as directed by Ofsted, and I know her expertise will be a real asset to the school.

More New Faces Join Bodsham's Team

I'm also really pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Jenna Carmichael to our fantastic team of Teaching Assistants. She will be helping children and teachers in Woodpeckers and Owls this year and I know Mrs Allen and Miss Skinner will waste no time in showing her the ropes!

I'm also happy to say that Mrs Bilobrodska is now also part of our staff team. She and her son arrived in the UK from Ukraine last term and she is proving to be invaluable in supporting the learning of the little community of Ukrainian children that have joined our school this year.

Bodsham's String Ensemble Assembles!

This year, as part of our wider opportunities for music work, we are hoping to put together a Key Stage 2 string ensemble at the school. This would include violin, viola and cello. Children who sign up will hire their instruments through the school and receive regular lessons with our visiting music teacher Stelios with a view to preparing performances to children and parents later in the school year. Please email admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk if your child is in Woodpeckers or Owls and would be interested in this opportunity.

Can you help drive our Minibus?

We make good use of our school minibus, it allows us to take short local trip and keeps costs to parents to a minimum. We do rely on volunteer drivers however and this year our current team of helpers has reduced considerably. If you would like us to train you to drive a minibus so that that you can offer to drive our children from time to time, please get in touch. Training is free and it's a useful skill to have!

Half Term Holiday Course Now Available

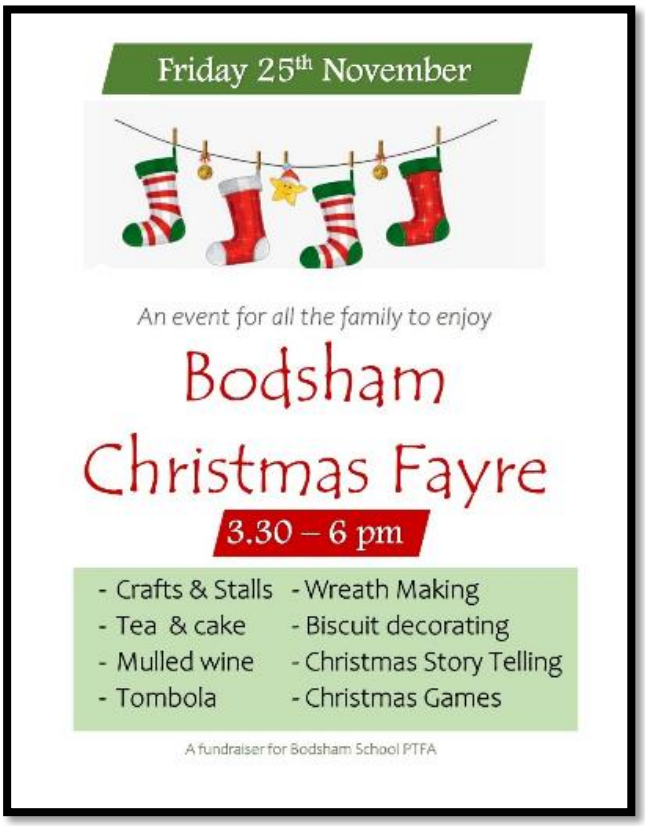
As usual, our friends at Elite Community Coaching will be offering an exciting half term club at Saltwood over the October break. Parents can book online directly with Elite through their website, but be quick as these courses are very popular!

Author Visit at Bodsham

We were delighted to welcome local author, Jo Clarke, to school last Friday morning. Every class participated in a 'writers' workshop' and learnt all the ingredients of a good story. Children had the opportunity to purchase Jo's latest book, **Spellboda**, and enjoyed meeting Jo to have their copy signed.

Diary Dates – PTFA Christmas Fayre and AGM

The PTFA are running a Christmas Fayre after school on the 25th November 3.30-6pm. They are taking table bookings for anyone wanting to sell their wares. A table costs £20 or it's free if all proceeds are being donated to school. Please email ptfabodsham@gmail.com to secure a table.



The PTFA will also be holding its **AGM on Monday 17th October** at 9am in the school. All parents are automatically members of the PTFA so please feel free to come along if you would like to participate. There are some key roles on the committee to fill and opportunities to help out on a more informal basis.

School Tours Now Booking

If you have a youngster due to start school in September 2023 then now is the time to start thinking about applying for a school place. Applications open in November, but we are already running tours for prospective parents each week. See our website for details and get in touch to book!

Your Reading Can Help The School!

We like to promote a love of reading here at Bodsham, and that ambition extends to our parents as well as our children. **LoveReading** is an online bookstore that sells all the most recent fiction and non-fiction for all age groups, but also donates 25% of the proceeds to a school of your choice. So next time you are thinking of starting the latest blockbuster, why not have a browse on their website so that your reading can support the school as well!

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher