Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

Ofsted have recognised how the values at both of our schools give the children a strong sense of moral purpose. We have chosen the story of the paralysed man from Luke 5:17-27 to embody these values. Can your child explain why this story is special to our schools?

8th July 2022

A Summer to Celebrate…

I hope you've had a chance to read the Ofsted report which was released this week. I'd like to thank all the parents who have sent messages of congratulations and support to the school. It has even been suggested that the inspectors got their maths wrong and the school's overall judgement should have added up to Outstanding as so many of the other judgements were! Unfortunately, it doesn't quite work that way with Ofsted, and the action points they have given us to work on are fair in the context of the inspection framework they have to apply to each school. Nonetheless, I continue to be hugely proud of our schools and the education we are offering to our children, which helps them to grow into confident young people with a belief they can go out and change the world. That's what we'll all need in the future, I think!

The last term of the year is invariably the most hectic but still the most enjoyable. It is when all the work that has taken place over the year comes into its own and there are fantastic chances to celebrate what the children have achieved. You should receive your child's report today in the book bag and having read the teacher comments on each one I think we can be very pleased with how this year is coming to an end. I am also delighted that we will be able to hold a full leavers' service for Year 6 in church this year, to which parents are invited. Bring tissues as it can get emotional!

Teaching arrangements for September

On Thursday 14th July, children will spend the morning in their September classrooms, with their new teachers. This always helps children feel more confident about the coming new year. Our teaching team next year will look like this:

Sparrows (Year R) – Mrs Bax and Mrs Stephen
Robins (Years 1&2) – Ms Rushton
Woodpeckers (Years 3&4)– Miss Skinner
Owls (Years 5&6) – Mrs Allen

Our team of amazing teaching assistants will be supporting each and every class.

A Full Diary At Bodsham

There has been so much going on since my last newsletter it's hard to keep up. Here are a few of the highlights!

On 24th June the whole school celebrated a day of Pilgrimage and Prayer. The day started with a special service at Evington Hall and the children were encouraged to write their worries on a Post-It and stick it onto our huge 'hands of God' display.

By 'casting their cares upon the Lord' it helped them forget their worries and enjoy a day of outdoor and activities in God's creation. The whole school walked back to Bodsham, leaving special messages of hope on decorated stones along the way. The lovely weather helped to make a great day for us all!

On Saturday 2nd July we held our first Summer Fair since 2019. Again, the good weather was a blessing as parents and children enjoyed the stalls, cakes, inflatables and games on the field. We are very grateful for all the contributions of time and effort, along with the wonderful food on offer. Thank you also to Mrs Sturman and her ambulance for providing an added attraction. The fair raised around £2000, but the fact that the whole community had such an enjoyable time was just as important and is great credit to the PTA who helped to pull the whole thing together.

On Thursday 7th July we sent a squad of elite athletes to the District Sports event at the Three Hills Sports Centre in Folkestone and they did us proud! A team of children from years 3-6 were invited to participate in the event, where they could demonstrate their running, jumping and throwing events against many different schools in the Shepway district. There were plenty of brilliant performances from Bodsham children, but what really stood out was the amazing team spirit. I'm told that the little contingent from Bodsham were easily the noisiest when cheering on their friends!

...and it's not over yet

There are still lots of important things that need to happen before the end of the year. Here are some reminders and diary dates for parents

Today
End of Year reports come home to all parents. Please check book bags!

Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th July
Drop in sessions for parents after school if you wish to discuss reports with class teachers. Classrooms will be open until 5pm. No need for an appointment.

Tuesday 12th July - afternoon
Sports Day. Parents can arrive at 12pm for pre-games picnic.

Thursday 14th July
- Class swap day. Children will move up to meet their new teachers this morning.
- Dress up day for Kent Air Ambulance – see below!

Monday 18th July
Owls production for parents at Evington Hall at 2pm. Tickets only!

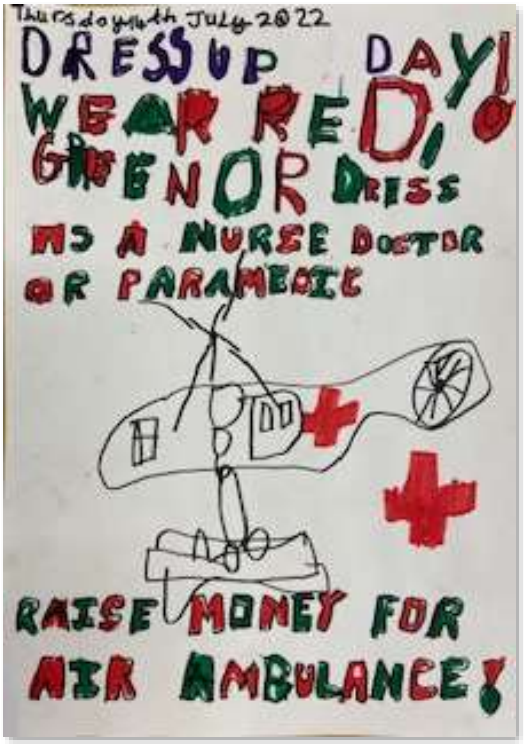
Thursday 21st July
Year 6 Leaver's Service – 2.15pm at Elmsted Church. Please can parents collect ALL children from school at 2pm to arrive at church by 2.15pm

A Gift from The Queen

Another celebration of the Queen's Jubilee will be making its way home to you before the end of term. To mark Her Majesty's 70 years as monarch, all primary school pupils in the country are being presented with a special book to keep and treasure. Simply entitled 'Queen Elizabeth' it tells the story of what a young girl finds when she opens up her Great Granny's box of memories – all of which tell the story of our Queen's amazing life's work.

Dress up for Kent Air Ambulance on Thursday.

The Robins are hoping to raise funds for the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance. Wear red, green or dress up as a paramedic, nurse or doctor. Make a donation of whatever you can afford. This is a courageous advocacy project for Ms Rushton's class – helping them to see what a difference they can make in the world!



Sad Farewells and Happy Welcomes

There are always some sad farewells at the end of a school year, and 2022 is no exception. Mrs Bingley, our longest serving Teaching Assistant, is moving to Saltwood school. Bodsham's loss is Saltwood's gain and I'm pleased she is staying in our Federation. Nevertheless, I know she will be greatly missed by children, staff and parents alike.

Mrs Bannister will also be leaving us at the end of this year. She needs to spend more time with her family at the moment, but we all hope we will be able to welcome her back in the near future.

Please contact the school office if you'd like to make a donation towards leaving presents.

On a happier note, I am delighted to welcome some new faces to the school team. Mrs Lane-Sims will be joining us as a full time Teaching Assistant and Mrs Poulter will be with us three days a week also. I know you'll help to make them feel very welcome at Bodsham.

Thank You Badger's Bridge

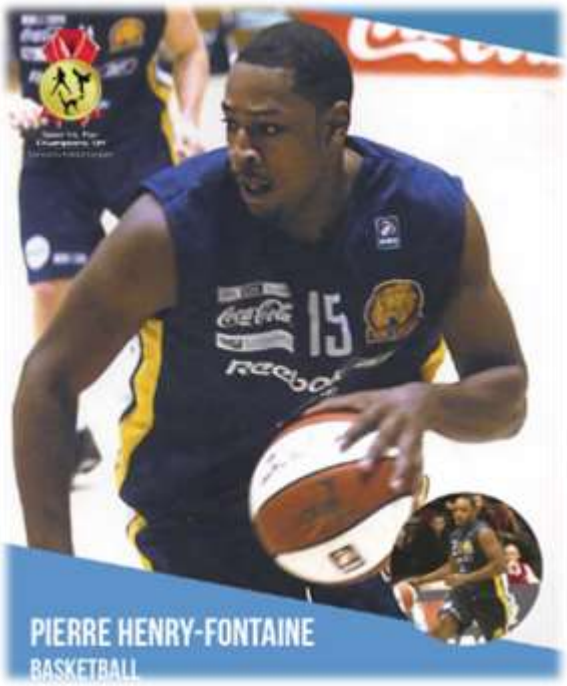
Another sad announcement as we end this school year is that Badger's Bridge are not able to continue to offer an After School Club at Bodsham next year. Reduced levels of staffing, and rising transport costs have meant that it is not economical for Julie and her team to come all the way out to Bodsham. I'd like to thank them for the great work they have done providing top quality childcare after school.
Next term, Mrs Wenham will run an after school club at Bodsham on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This can be booked via the school office (admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk) at a reduced price of £6 per session. Elite will continue to run sports clubs on Monday and Tuesday, which can be booked directly with them.

Last Day of Term

Please note that the last day of term is **Thursday 21st July**. School will be closed on Friday 22nd July thanks to the Queen's Jubilee.

Sports for Champions Visit

On 28th June we were lucky enough to be visited by Pierre-Henry Fontaine, an international basketball player. Pierre-Henry came as part of the Sports for Champions scheme which offers outreach to local school and raising funds for Unsponsored Athletes. Thank you to all the children who collected sponsor money – more than £500 was raised which will be split between the school and Sports for Champions UK



Summer Offers and Events

Free Places at Summer Holiday Activity and Food Clubs with Elite

Elite are delighted to announce that we will be a proud provider of the successful **HAF** project this Summer. Having secured funding from the Department for Education to arrange a programme of school holiday-time activities, Kent County Council is working with local providers like ourselves to coordinate a programme of free activities and healthy meals for the school holidays for children.

The aim of the scheme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition as well as be more engaged with school and other local services.

FREE Family Bus Pass

Free Reconnect Family Bus Pass is back for Summer 2022, thanks to our local bus operators. These passes, for use between 23rd July – 31st August 2022, are intended for families who cannot attend summer activities due to a lack of transport. All families with children who live in Kent can apply for a digital pass on the Reconnect website from 20th July. If you do not have a smartphone, you will be able to pick up a printed pass from a collection point from 20th July whilst stocks last. Visit our website for more information or contact reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk 03000 423423

Summer Reading Challenge Returns!

Children can find out more about the Gadgeteers and their special skills by signing up to the Summer Reading Challenge and reading six library books over the summer period. They can read anything from the library, including stories, information books, audiobooks, eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and more. When they have read their six books and completed the Summer Reading Challenge, they will receive a medal and certificate (while stocks last). And it's all for free!

Find out more at your local library, visit bit.ly/Gadgeteers2022, our dedicated Summer Reading Challenge page or follow Kent Libraries social media pages – Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to find out more about the Gadgeteers and all the exciting events and activities happening this summer in Kent Libraries.

Get Back to Nature at Brockhill Country Park

We are all set for a summer out in nature here at Brockhill Country Park! We can't wait to welcome you along to our children's events, running every Tuesday & Wednesday throughout the summer holidays. From animal handling sessions and crafting with woodland tools, to fire lighting and campfire cooking, there is plenty of forest school fun to get stuck into.

Poo Pioneers – Create a poo slingshot (to take home) while learning about why poo is so important to eco systems, then explore the park working out who did which poo on our 'poo-ineers' trail. Figure it out to earn your chocolatey prize ready for a campfire cook up!

Noisy Nature – Each child will create a journal while learning about the sounds of nature before setting off to discover what can be heard in the park. They will then gather in our forest school to have a go at creating music on our woodland stage, before using tools to make a natural windchime to take home.

Bugs @ Brockhill – Join us for a creepy crawly exploration! Meet exotic insects in our animal handling session before heading out for a mini beast safari to discover the bugs at Brockhill. Then saw a wooden disc and create your own clay minibeast to take home

https://bookings.kentcountryparks.co.uk/events.html#/kcp_event_list?park=brockhill

Paul Newton, **Executive Head Teacher**