Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you" Ezekiel 36:26
We have been showing the children how a new school year gives them a chance to build our school community even stronger than before!

8th September 2023

Welcome Back One and All

So we've made it to the end of the first week of our first term and I expect for you, as it is for us, the summer break is already feeling like a distant memory. It's been a really happy and positive start to our new school year and I've enjoyed hearing what the children have been up to while we've been apart. After a rather soggy summer, the weather is now treating us to the inevitable September heatwave, so please continue to send the children with sun cream applied for the next few days!

Hello to our new Reception Class

I have been very happy to see our new children settle into class so quickly and confidently. Welcome to the new families joining our school community this year – you are starting on an important journey through primary school and we're delighted that you've chosen Bodsham. As part of our welcome, Miss Hughes will be holding an orientation session for Reception parents to explain how we teach phonics at the school and give ideas on ways you can help to develop those early reading skills at home. Please come along to Sparrows Class at 3:40pm on Monday.

Our Reception children will also soon be starting the national Reception Baseline Assessment. This assessment takes the form of some simple tasks and questions undertaken with Miss Hughes and Mrs Stephen which the children won't notice as being any different from normal classroom activities. The Standards and Testing Agency have produced this leaflet for parents with full details of this national assessment programme.

RAAC Concerns Over School Buildings

You can hardly have failed to notice the national concerns around the state of school buildings that came to light literally days before children returned to school after the summer break. Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) is a cheap and lightweight construction material used in many public buildings between the 1950s and 1980s which is now proving to be unsafe. The body responsible for our buildings is KCC and we are waiting for a full site survey, but we have been told our school is at very low risk of containing RAAC due to the age of the buildings. Sometimes, the old ways are the best!

Keeping Up to Date

Notable events for parents scheduled for Term 1 include:

Bowles Week for Year 6 children – 11th – 15th September
Orientation meetings for Sparrows and Woodpeckers parents – 11th September 3:40pm
Orientation meetings with Robins and Owls parents – 12th September 3.40pm
Individual School Photographs – 26th September
Harvest Festival at Elmsted Church – 29th September 2:15pm
Owls Trip to Kent Life – 28th September
Parents Evenings – 16th and 18th October – appointments to follow
Kent Test Results to Parents – 18th October

All Parents Invited to a Welcome Meeting

At the start of each year we hold an 'orientation' meeting for parents with their child's teacher so that rules and routines can be set out and the forthcoming curriculum discussed. Everyone's invited so please come along to your child's classroom for a 20 minute chat:

Sparrows (YR) and Woodpeckers (Y3 & Y4) – Monday 11th September 3:40pm
Robins (Y1 & Y2) and Owls (Y5 & Y6) Tuesday 11th September 3:40pm

Children need not attend. There will be supervision by school staff so they can play on the field while you talk in peace!

Enjoy yourselves Year 6!

On Monday we will be waving goodbye to our Year 6 children as they set out on their residential trip to Bowles Outdoor Centre near Tonbridge Wells. After the pressure of the Kent Test this week, the children really deserve this opportunity to experience rock climbing, a dry ski slope, kayaking, abseiling and swimming - not to mention toasting marshmallows round the campfire and staying up late! We know that this week builds confidence and self-belief and gives our children a chance to make new friends with the Year 6 boys and girls from Saltwood.

Volunteer Readers Needed

We try to make sure children have opportunities to read to an adult as often as possible at Bodsham. Teachers and TAs regularly hear children read, but we also rely on our wonderful volunteer readers to help with this task. If you think you might be able to spare a hour or two each week to listen to children read, please email admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk to get in touch! Thank you in advance!

Please Drive Carefully Outside the School

I was shocked to hear that a car drove over the foot of one of our children at the end of school before the summer holiday. I am confident that the driver did not realise what had happened as they drove away without stopping, but it does highlight the need to take extra care with vehicles outside the school gates at home time. The larger cars we are all driving these days can make it harder to see little people!

Start as we mean to go on!

The start of a new year gives us all a chance to set out our expectations for school uniform. Children should be wearing full school uniform on non-PE days and come to school in their PE kit when PE is on the timetable (details are on the school website). Long hair must be tied back and no jewellery should be worn to school – except for small, stud earrings which will need to be removed for PE lessons. Shoes, not trainers or boots, should be worn on non PE days please. Children may wear a watch for telling the time, but please do not allow any kind of smart watch into school.

Consultation on new Family Hub Services in Kent by Kent Family Services Closing Soon

You may have taken part in our previous Community Services Consultation about what Children's Centres and Youth Hub buildings we keep. Now we need to hear your views on what services you need as we develop Family Hub Services.

We are seeking residents' views in an 8-week consultation closing on 13 September 2023. Kent was identified as a Transformation Authority and selected by the government as a Trailblazer for the national Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme in October 2022. The programme will support the council to transform Children's Centre services, Youth Services, Health Visiting, and work alongside Community-based midwifery care, bringing them together and making them easier to access.

Family Hub Services will offer support to children and families from conception through to age 19, or up to 25 for children with special education needs or disabilities.

This consultation also includes a proposal to stop funding the youth clubs and activities currently commissioned by KCC but run by non-KCC organisations. This is due to the financial pressures the council is facing. This means that some activities and clubs would stop unless the organisations are able to find alternative funding. We are keen to hear from service users how the proposed changes might affect them. For full information and to tell us what you think about our proposals visit www.kent.gov.uk/familyhubservices

Please Support our PTA

We are very lucky to have an active PTA who have in recent years helped us renew all our computers and provided brand new adventure trail for the children. The focus of fundraising now is to repair the pontoon over our school pond to allow pond dipping and other exciting science activities! The PTA run a school lottery which parents can quickly and easily join. This scheme alone has raised £562 for the school this year!

Paul Newton
Executive Head Teacher

ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 6.00–8.30PM

We warmly invite you and your family to attend our forthcoming Open Evening for September 2024 entry. Visit our subject departments, meet our staff and students, and learn more about our caring and inclusive community where everyone belongs.

There will be talks from our Headteacher, Mr Rowarth, at **6.15** and **7.15pm**

Our site is wheelchair accessible and we encourage applications from students of all faiths and denominations. Parking will be available free of charge at the Old Dover Road Park and Ride.

PRE-BOOKING NOT REQUIRED

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