Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Federation of

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

Churches have recently celebrated Pentecost – when the power of the Holy Spirit was granted to the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven, which gave them the strength they needed to continue His mission. We talked with the children about what gives them strength and comfort when they need it.

9th June 2023

The Final Countdown!

It's hard to believe that we are entering the final term of the school year. The children have been amazing and it has been a real delight seeing our curriculum engage and inspire them. Just yesterday, the Woodpeckers class had a fascinating day at Wingham to consolidate their learning about animals and their habitats, while the Robins spent the morning at Elham's Forest School learning about plants and enjoying a hot chocolate cooked over the camp fire. During worship, the Owls and the Sparrows impressed me with their understanding of the meaning of Pentecost. Just a typical day at our amazing little school.

Diary Dates for you to be aware of this term include:

Tuesday 13th June – Sports Day

Friday 16th June – Non uniform day – children's tombola donation

Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st June – Bikeability for Year 6

Saturday 24th June – PTA Summer Fete

Friday 23rd June – Day of Pilgrimage and Prayer

Friday 7th July – End of Year Reports coming home, followed by teacher drop ins

Monday 17th July – Year 6 Leavers' play at Evington Hall

Thursday 20th July – Year 6 Leavers' service at church – last day of term!

Like all schools, we hope to fill our Reception class every year as this helps to ensure a full and vibrant school. At Bodsham, we keep the size of our Reception class down to 13 as it allows teachers to pay really close individual attention to each child. Having said that, an issue that is frequently mentioned is that parents of young children simply don't know we are here. You can help be spreading the word! We are trying to increase our presence on Social Media so if you see a post from the school, please share it as widely as you can!

Sports Day on Tuesday

The forecast is looking good as the weather warms up next week, which means it's all systems go for Sports Day on Tuesday! Please can you make sure all children come wearing their PE kits, but also with suitable sun protection (sun cream and hat) and a water bottle. The children will run through a practice in the morning before the main event in the afternoon. Parents can arrive from 12pm for a picnic under the tree and the sports events will being at 1:30pm. The children will be competing for their House Teams in small groups in a range of fun activities. Siblings should all be together so parents can watch them together as they complete each event! There will be some races at the end to allow individual competitors to shine!

Can you help at Bowles?

Mr Thomas has almost finalised the arrangements for this September's residential trip to Bowles, but we are still looking for a final adult volunteer to come along. Bowles week is a fantastic experience for the children and the also adults who accompany them. It is a truly rewarding experience helping children take on challenges and achieve things they didn't think they could do. The trip takes place between **11th and 15th September**. The Bowles centre is set in beautiful countryside just outside Tunbridge Wells. All transport, accommodation and food is provided and helpers get the chance to try out all the activities at one of the country's leading outdoor centres. We are particularly keen to find a male volunteer and the experience would be of great benefit for anyone over 18 looking to gain experience in child development or outdoor education. If you think you could give your time please contact Mr Thomas via enquiries@saltwood.kent.sch.uk for further details!

Find Your Special Stone!

Our Day of Pilgrimage and Prayer is approaching! On Friday 23rd June the whole school will leave Bodsham for our annual pilgrimage through local countryside that inspires and enrich the children with its natural beauty. The aim of the day is for children to leave their troubles with God for the day and spend some mindful time on a special journey. We would like all children to find and bring to school a special stone by Monday 19th June. During the week the children will be encouraged to decorate this stone with a positive message, and then leave it for others to find on Pilgrimage day. Stones should be clean and about 7-10cm in size.

Your support provides new laptops

Thanks to all the hard work of our PTFA and the support you have shown them over the year, we are getting ready to purchase a set of new laptops for the school. We had originally talked about updating our collection of iPads, but teachers told me that a laptop allows them to offer better support for children in the classroom. We have been excited this year with the success of the latest speech recognition software as a way of helping children with writing difficulties for instance. Because Bodsham School has a very fast fibre broadband connection, we can access video and online curriculum resources with ease, which is another way the curriculum can be enhanced for all children.

Once this purchase has been made, the PTFA will be helping to raise money for our outdoor areas. We have plans for the school pond and spiritual garden that will improve our ability to offer children quality time in our beautiful grounds!

Who's watching who?

The Woodpeckers had an excellent day at Wingham Wildlife Park on Thursday! Celeste commented, "I loved meeting the real 'Pickle'' who our Class Mascot is named after. Pickle was so happy to see us and showed us some tricks, making us all clap! Teddie said, "This was the first time I had seen an orang-utan and I enjoyed watching the greedy one gathering all the food and ice-pops for himself!''

Hot weather alert

Summer is finally here and next week looks like it will be hot. Please can you ensure that children have applied sun cream before they come to school in the morning. If they are old enough, you can send in a personal supply of suncream for the children to apply themselves but please name sure the bottle is named! Sun hats and water bottles are also very important.

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher

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Sunday June 11th 2023

1 to 3pm

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