



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



**And you will feel secure because there is hope; you will look around
and take your rest in security. Job 11:18**

1st May 2020

The New Normal

In adulthood, our brains are wired to resist change. Our neural pathways have developed to cope with and understand the world as we have constructed it around us. A new situation can often seem challenging or stressful as a result. Most (but not all) children on the other hand, have much more adaptable minds and can respond to change in more positive ways. That's why at school, for example, we try and help them to recognise that by leaving your comfort zone you make it larger.

It is worth keeping this in mind when we start thinking about how our lives will look in the future. It is becoming increasingly clear that many quite significant areas of our daily lives are going to take a very long time to return to 'normal' – if they are able to at all. We will need to learn to stop looking back at how we used to do things and instead start finding new, safe and effective ways to live the way we want to.

I feel that this will apply to school in a particularly noticeable way. It is encouraging that conversations have begun about schools reopening, but also clear that when they do our classrooms will not look the same. The idea of a 'phased' reintroduction has been mentioned by ministers, but they are still not able to say exactly what this means. To help us be ready for whatever it is we are asked to do we should first be willing to set aside old systems and habits and be prepared to try new and unusual ways of thinking. At Bodsham we have a fantastic team who are all desperate to get back to doing what we are here for – helping children to learn. It might not look quite the way it used to, but we will make it work together!

Remembering Mr Nancollas

We recently received word that Mr John Nancollas MBE sadly passed away recently. I am sure that many Bodsham parents will remember him as the head teacher of our school from 1954 to 1986 – one of the longest serving head teachers in the [school's history](#). I never got to meet Mr Nancollas, but was lucky enough to meet Sarah, his daughter, who visited Bodsham recently. She kindly brought with her a fantastic photograph album with a picture of Mr Nancollas with the children in each year of his time at the school. When lockdown permits I will find a way to show this to you all.



Speak To Your Teacher

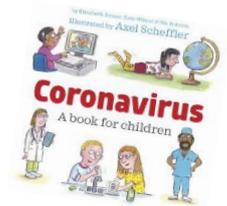
From next week all parents are able to book a telephone appointment with your child's class teacher. You should already have received an email with details of how to book a time. Please email the school office if you have not received your booking form.

Coping with Lockdown

As I have just said – not all children manage change the same way. Some will have difficulties understanding the current situation and find such change unsettling. There is an excellent leaflet that gives parents lots of really practical ideas and advice on ways to help children cope with anxiety and change. [Find it here.](#)

There is also a lovely book by Axel Scheffler (the illustrator of the Gruffalo) which will help children's understanding of Covid19 and how it has changed our lives.

[Find the book here..](#) Contact your teacher if you don't have yours yet.



Feeling Harassed by Home Learning?

Well if so, you are not alone! We've had several conversations recently with parents who are finding the task of motivating children to learn at home while juggling all the other things that need to happen during the day increasingly difficult. This then causes a worry that children will somehow 'fall behind' if they don't complete all the work being set. If you find yourself in that mental state, then try and take a step back. No children are learning at school at the moment – the idea of falling behind is not something that should be a worry. When we return to school, our teachers will spend many days and weeks making sure all children are ready to move on in their learning. It is clear that the most important thing is to try and maintain your child's well-being throughout lockdown. If home learning is causing stress in your household, then please adapt it to suit your child's needs and interests or reduce the amount of time you spend on it. Be kind to yourself! The most important thing is to keep reading. Some good news in that respect is the fact that [Oxford Reading Tree books are now free online up to Lime Level!](#) – all you need to do is register.

Keep Sharing the Love

Our ['Share the Love' project](#) is growing daily. Have a look at our special web page to see what your classmates have been up to!

All together – apart

One thing I'm really missing is the chance to speak to the whole school together at my weekly worship assembly. The children may not be missing my singing quite as much though! The new Oak National Academy is holding weekly assemblies for the whole country every Thursday if children like the idea of taking part in a community event. [The Archbishop of Canterbury led the assembly this week.](#) on the theme of hope.

Take care and stay safe,

Paul Newton
Executive Head Teacher