



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



**"The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Numbers 6: 24-26
[Click here to see Canterbury Cathedral Girls' Choir Perform this beautiful John Rutter
hymn, performed and recorded during lockdown!](#)**

5th June 2020

One School Together, Apart.

On Monday, with great happiness, we are opening our doors to children in Years R, 1 and 6 whose parents have decided it is time for them to return to school. We will also be caring for the children of critical workers in other year groups, some of whom have been attending Saltwood School since we closed at the end of March, all those weeks ago. I have already written in detail to those parents who have decided to send their children back to us and I'm confident that our staff and site are ready to receive them safely.

In total we are expecting 24 children on Monday. While this is a big increase on the very small numbers we have seen over April and May, it is still only a third of our school.

That means, of course, the large majority of our children will remain at home for the time being. I wish I could give you some idea of when the children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be able to return to school, but government guidance is still not clear on this point. It only takes some very basic maths to work out that as long as each year group needs a whole room to itself, there is no way our school will be able to accommodate all our children at the same time.

I want the children at home to know how much we miss them and are thinking of them. We have recorded some messages to them which I'd be grateful if you could show them on Monday or before:

[*Click here to see Mr Newton's Message to Children Learning at Home*](#)

[*Click here to see Mrs Thomas's Message to Children Learning at Home*](#)

[*A Message to the Butterflies from Mrs Bax*](#)

[*A Message to the Robins from Mrs Stephen*](#)

[*A Message to the Woodpeckers from Miss Skinner*](#)

[*A Message to the Owls from Mrs Allen and Mrs Smith*](#)

We will continue to offer children support with home learning and contact with their teacher via email, although it may take teachers a bit longer to reply to requests as they will now all be working in class during the day. I am hopeful that before long, we can all be together again as a loving Bodsham community.

Thank You to Mrs Fagg

Over the last 11 weeks, our site manager, Mrs Fagg, has been working on site. She has ensured every classroom and corridor in the school has been deep cleaned, repairs have taken place that were long overdue and the school has been decluttered and prepared for a new way of working. We have even been able to install a new boiler in the school thanks to Mrs Fagg being available to open the site to workmen when they needed to come in. I'd like to say a personal thank you to this unsung hero!

School Meals – Monday 8th June

Caterlink are offering a cold meal service to children from Monday 8th. Parents who would like their children to have a school meal, rather than supply their own packed lunch can make payments using Caterlink's online service as normal. For all children in YR and 1 this will be a free meal as usual.

Kent Test Registration Opens

At the time of writing, uncertainty around the Kent Test remains, I'm afraid. KCC have opened the registration process from 1st June and I feel the safest assumption for Year 5 parents at present is still that the test will go ahead as scheduled in September. Any parent who is considering the Kent Test for their child is advised to register now. Your decision on taking the test can wait until just before the test date. There are no penalties if you choose to withdraw but you must have registered to have that option. Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/ola before the 1st July to do so.

Grammar Schools in Dover and Folkestone also offer their own Shepway selection test, which usually takes place on a Saturday in September following the Thursday on which the Kent Test takes place. These schools require parents to register separately for their tests. Details are now being published on their respective website so Year 5 parents are encouraged to check each school and register there as well.

Do You Live Near Hothfield?

We have been contacted by the Hothfield Education Foundation who are keen to offer grants to parents and children who live in their area. They write:

"We have in the last year made grants for extra-curricular activities like music, swimming, dance and sports; for educational school trips; for school uniform when changing schools and text books. We have considered lending tablets or laptops, which may be a requirement if remote/distance learning continues for much longer but have as yet no such requests. Application is very easy. Applicants should send an email to the address at the bottom briefly explaining what the grant would be for and how much is involved. Alternatively, a letter can be left with the postmaster Jay at the Hothfield post office."

I would encourage any interested family to contact the Foundation directly at hothfielddeduction@gmail.com

Here's looking forward to next week – it will be an unusual time for us all, but I am confident that our school values of Love, Creativity and Strength will guide us through!

Yours Sincerely

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher