



**Bodsham Church of England  
Primary School**

**Federation  
of**



**Saltwood Church of England  
Primary School**



*We love because He first loved us. John 4:19*

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **All in this together**

Our school values of Love, Creativity and Strength have been useful inspiration during the Coronavirus crisis. The many messages of support from parents for the school have been much appreciated by teachers and myself. As restrictions are eased across the country and more parents are being asked to return to work I am particularly grateful to those critical workers who have chosen to continue to care for their children at home, rather than ask the school to step in. We now have very limited capacity to offer further places to children of critical workers. By making the effort to keep your children with you at home you are helping our community in a way that makes a real difference for others.

### **Love is all you need...**

My worship for all the children this week is on the theme of Love. The important idea that we can demonstrate love by our actions as much as our words, putting others before ourselves. Please find some time to show it to your children this week.



[https://youtu.be/f-t7sLC\\_xwY](https://youtu.be/f-t7sLC_xwY)

### **Routemap to September**

One of the hardest things about school life at the moment is navigating the ever changing guidance being passed down from the government. It was announced this week that the intention is for schools to be able to expand their 'bubbles' of children from 15 children to 30. This will, at last, give us the ability to welcome back every child. This change will not be taking place until September however, and will remain dependent on the prevailing conditions in the local area and country as a whole. My letter to parents of YR to Y5 on 22<sup>nd</sup> June outlined how we will make sure all children are comfortable entering their new classrooms in September, but also spelt out ways in which school may still not be completely back to normal at that time.

Our governors have agreed that term will end for all children on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July**. This will allow us to use staff development days that have been missed to plan our 'Recovery Curriculum' for next year and spend valuable time reorganising the school ready for full classes again in September.

The government has recently announced that schools will not offer free child care to the children of critical workers over the summer period. I know that many parents rely on some summer holiday provision so I'm pleased to say that Elite Community Coaching will be offering an extended summer club at Saltwood from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> August. Parents can book places directly with Elite from today.

## Remember snacks for Butterflies.

Mrs Bax has asked me to remind parents of the Butterflies that children will need a snack – ideally fruit – for the morning as the free school fruit scheme is not operating at present.



## Kent Test Update

I wrote to Year 5 parents on 15<sup>th</sup> June with information on the Kent Test application procedure. Since then KCC have announced a [proposal to delay the test until October](#), which is now being considered. However, deadlines for parents have not changed. Parents must register for the Kent Test and the Shepway Test separately if they wish their child to sit them. Kent Test registration can be done [here](#) and Shepway Test registration is completed directly with the school concerned. The deadline for registration is **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July**.

If you think your child may need special arrangements for taking the test (such as tests being copied onto coloured paper) we will need to make an application to KCC for permission to do this. Please contact [Mrs Thomas](#), our SENCo, if you wish to discuss these arrangements. KCC require applications to be accompanied by evidence such as medical reports. The deadline for us to submit these applications is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**.

## Bowles Update

Because of the speculation over the Kent Test date we are arranging for our Bowles Trip for Year 6 children to be moved to the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October. This means, if it is able to go ahead, the trip will be after both the Kent and Shepway tests and in the week before half term. Ideal!

## From Bodsham with Love ...

As I mentioned in my transition letter this week our teaching team will look a little different next year:

Butterflies Year R	Mrs Bax & Mrs Coley
Robins Year 1 & 2	Mrs Stephen & Mrs Rushton
Woodpeckers Year 3 & 4	Miss Skinner
Owls Year 5 & 6	Mrs Allen
Senco	Mrs Thomas
Deputy Head Teacher	Mrs Stephen

There will be sad goodbyes to Mrs Smith, and Mrs Billingsley – both of whom are moving to join the team at Saltwood. Mrs Thomas is stepping down as Deputy Head but remaining as our SENCo. Congratulations to Mrs Stephen who becomes Bodsham's next Deputy! Please contact the office if you'd like to contribute to leaving gifts.

### ***A Message from Mrs Billingsley***

*It does seem strange that our current Butterflies Class parents might not remember Mrs Billingsley as she has spent the last year on maternity leave, thanks to young Stanley here. I know that all the parents whose children were taught by Mrs Billingsley will want to wish her goodbye and good luck as she starts her Reception Class job share at Saltwood in September. She has sent a message to the school:*

*Can you add a note to say just how grateful to all the children and their parents for making my time at Bodsham so enjoyable and happy? (I am also happy to share the above picture of Stanley if people are not sick of the sight of him!) I am sure everyone has plenty of other things to think about but I just feel like I should say thank you as it has been my favourite teaching experience by miles.*



*I'm sure we'd all like to send our thanks back to one of the most naturally talented and caring Reception teachers I have known!*

*Yours Sincerely  
Paul Newton  
Executive Head Teacher*