



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



This week we introduced the children to the story in Luke 5:17-26 which tells how four friends worked together to overcome a problem and bring their paralysed friend to Jesus. This story, we feel, embodies our school values.

25th September 2020

Coughs and Sneezes....

At the end of the third full week of term it has become clear that seasonal coughs and colds are going to be an issue as we move towards the winter. The school office sounds more like a GP's surgery each morning as Mrs Thrupp and Mrs Albertini take calls from parents whose children have developed symptoms. The advice we will give you has not changed and can be summarised like this:

If you, your child or any member of your household has:



- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

... then your household will need to enter self-isolation. The person with the symptoms must seek a Covid19 test and isolate for 10 days, and everyone else in the household must isolate for 14 days. When a negative test result is confirmed then the isolation can end and your child can return to school. We will send you home learning materials while you are waiting for test results.

I am aware that booking a test may prove challenging – but the good news is that the overwhelming majority of families have managed it when needed and children are returning to school relatively quickly. Trying the [NHS website](#) after 8pm is a tip I have been given. I'm sure it is frustrating when, as a parent, you are sure these symptoms are nothing more than a bug, but it is increasingly important that we stick to this guidance as the number of cases rises across the country. I am pleased to report that not a single case of Covid19 has been recorded to date at either Saltwood or Bodsham. A Public Health England letter to parents [has been added to our website](#).

Parent Consultations – bookings open next week

Sadly, we can't invite parents into school to have face to face talks with teachers at the moment. Instead we will be offering telephone consultations over the final two weeks of this term to give your child's teacher a chance to let you know how they have settled back into school life. Please keep a close eye on your inbox as the appointment options will be emailed out next week.

Starting School in September 2021?

No sooner have we welcomed this year's Reception children to their new classroom than we have



to start thinking about next year's Reception intake! We will be offering 'Covid Secure' tours of the school to parents of children who are due to start in September 2021, along with live video presentations from myself during the Autumn term (wish me luck!!). Full details are now available [on our website](#).



Harvest Festival Next Week

The fact that we are not able to invite you all to the church for Harvest Festival won't stop us celebrating this important time in school. All week the children will be considering the importance of sharing God's bounty with others and Friday will see a whole day of Harvest activities. Rev. Lorraine will be sending in a special message to the children. Please send in the usual tinned and dried goods for Vinnie's Dinner – an Ashford based charity that supports the homeless – on Thursday 1st October. Goods will be collected and quarantined before being donated.



Kent Test Arrangements – Correction

Well done to all Year 6 parents who spotted the mistake in my last newsletter. The date of the Kent Test is, of course, Thursday 15th October. This week we received guidance from the Local Authority on how to safely administer the test. The format of the day will be unchanged from previous years: children will first sit an English and Maths Test (1 hour) and then a Reasoning Test (1 hour) with at least a 20-minute break between the two. In the afternoon the children will be given a written task to complete which involves 10 minutes of planning time and 30 minutes of writing time. The Local Authority has also made arrangements for children who are absent on the day to be tested later if they are required to isolate due to Covid-19

Help put Bodsham School on the Map

As a small school, I often hear prospective parents say they didn't know we were here. With that in mind it's particularly frustrating when the road sign to Bodsham has fallen down at the junction with Thorn Lane on Stone Street. You can help by reporting this to [KCC Highways on their website](#) and requesting a specific sign to Bodsham Primary School as we have – something KCC have promised will be done in the past but not yet delivered. Let's see if parent power can make it happen!



School Meals Going Down Well



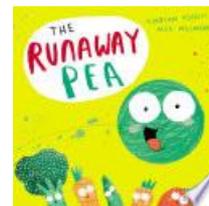
I've been very pleased to see that children are choosing to enjoy a hot meal at school each day. [Caterlink's Autumn menu can be viewed on our website](#). We always try to increase the number of children who take a school dinner on Census Day, which this year is **Thursday 1st October**, as it boosts our funding. Caterlink have put on this special menu to tempt new customers to try them out on that day. Parents can book on the [Caterlink website](#) using the code we supply if they'd like to give it a go!

Open Events for Year 6 Pupils

Secondary schools are starting to publicise their open events for next years' Year 7. Brockhill Park Performing Arts College have a [virtual open evening now available on their website](#). There are also a small number of prospectuses at the school office if you'd like to drop in and request one. St Anselm's Canterbury have also [published a virtual tour this week](#).

The Runaway Pea!

Each year BookTrust donate a story book to our Reception children to help them develop their love of reading. This year's book is The Runaway Pea, which will not only be great fun to read but it might also encourage healthy eating! Watch out for it in Butterflies' book bags.



A Bodsham Cook Book – coming soon!

In collaboration with a local company, we are planning to publish a book of Bodsham recipes to raise money for the school. Keep an eye on your inbox as full details will follow by email next week. You could start to think about your family favourites. Do you have a recipe so good you'd love to share it with the whole school – and beyond? Time to get cooking!

The Never Ending Story...

Parking outside of schools is a problem wherever you go. There are inevitable tensions between parents and local residents and, sad to say, Bodsham is no exception. Recently placed boulders by the phone box mean that it is hard to park there without blocking the road. The fact that we are now staggering our arrival and home times should help reduce congestion. Parents are also reminded they can 'drop and run' by letting the children out of the car by the school gate in the morning – Mrs Fagg is there each day to ensure the children head in the right direction. Please keep social distancing in mind at all times and respect our neighbours' property as you would your own. Thank you!



The Music Returns – Canterbury Choral Youth Choir seeks members

As a society we are starting to find ways to carry doing the things we love, while being very conscious of the need to keep safe. The Canterbury Choral Youth Choir have written with details of a great opportunity for any child who enjoys singing.

COME AND JOIN A GREAT CHOIR!

The choir is open to children aged 7 to 16 (unbroken voices). If you have ambitions for your child to sing in a high-quality choir in Canterbury Cathedral with some of the great professional orchestras, then have a look at <https://www.canterburychoral.co.uk/youth>

We are a classically-trained group of boys and girls aged 7-16 connected to the adult choir, Canterbury Choral Society. We have been silent since March due to the pandemic, but are hoping to be able to return to singing on Tuesday 29th September, 6.15-7.15 pm at St. Stephen's School, Canterbury. (At some point in the future we plan to return to our normal time of 5.30-7.00pm. at St. Edmunds School).

Rehearsals are taken by Music Director of Canterbury Choral Society Richard Cooke www.richardcooke.org, a leading conductor and singing coach. We hope to reinstate planned performances in 2021 which we have had to postpone from this year, including concerts with the English Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The Youth Choir provides an outstanding opportunity for developing your singing, confidence and general well-being. Have a look at our website for more general information and how to join.

We will be holding auditions in the near future. Auditions are very simple and no preparation is necessary. Please look at our website for details about how to apply. You're welcome to come along to a rehearsal to see what it's like before taking a simple audition (no preparation necessary). Please contact us in advance, also via our website.

We look forward to meeting you!

Recommendation from a singer: *"I have been singing with the Youth Choir since I was 9 years old. I learn so much every rehearsal about music and composers and I love to come along and be with other people who are interested in the same things as me. I do not get the opportunity to have this kind of music teaching at school because my secondary school offer music only as a private option, which not all children have access to. I am lucky enough that I found out about the youth choir from attending local events where my parents saw an advert. The choir has boosted my confidence - even at school people notice me as I sing so well! and I get stronger with each session I attend with Richard's guidance."*

Yours Sincerely

Paul Newton

Executive Headteacher