



**Bodsham Church of England
Primary School**

**Federation
of**



**Saltwood Church of England
Primary School**



"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

8th January 2021

Changes to Home Learning

When the children left school on 18th December to begin their Christmas holidays, we were fully expecting to welcome everyone back on 5th January to continue the successful work we had been doing since September in class - helping children make progress with their learning and providing support to catch up if it was needed. All that changed at 8pm on Monday 4th January when the Prime Minister announced that all schools will close until at least the February Half Term.

Because we are now facing another extended period of school closure, it is clear that we will need to make changes to the methods we use to deliver our curriculum to all children, whether at home or at school. With that in mind we will be rolling out new systems over the next two weeks that will:

- Provide all children at home with regular face to face time with their teacher
- Allow us to monitor engagement with learning for all our children
- Give teachers a chance to assess the progress children are making while at home and provide useful feedback to both children and parents on a regular basis

We propose to do this in two stages. **From Monday 11th**, all children will receive an invitation to join a daily Zoom session with their teacher. These sessions will be scheduled at the same time each day so parents can plan accordingly and will be designed to ensure that siblings in different classes do not need devices at the same time.

Zoom Session Time	Class
9.15	Robins
10:00	Woodpeckers
11.00	Owls
1.30	Butterflies

These sessions should not be seen as live lessons, but instead a valuable opportunity for the class to come together as a group and share ideas and questions. In time, we hope to be able to make the recorded sessions available to watch again if you missed them.

As this will be an important change to the way our teachers communicate with our learners at home, we will need all parents to read the [Remote Learning Code of Conduct](#) that is included at the end of this newsletter. The necessary Zoom links will be included in a separate email to follow.

Home learning will be distributed by email for the last time this week.

From the week beginning 18th January, our home learning offer for Years 1-6 will move to a secure online platform called Seesaw. Butterflies will continue to use Tapestry as their learning platform. Seesaw is a tried and tested resource used by many Primary Schools in the region. It will allow teachers to easily set tasks, distribute resources, give instructions and record video and audio to help children work independently. Seesaw also allows children to submit completed tasks back to the teacher for comment. The platform can be accessed on laptops, tablets or smartphones, which should make sharing of devices easier at home.

It will take some time for all of us to get used to this new system, so please bear with us over the coming weeks as we explore what Seesaw can offer. [You may wish to view this video explaining how the system works in preparation for 18th January.](#)

To access Seesaw, each child will be given a unique code which will take them to their own personal learning area on the platform. These codes will be distributed towards the end of next week, but before we can do so, for GDPR reasons, we will need permission from ALL parents for the Seesaw platform to hold some personal information. [Please complete this consent form.](#)

Note that we will not be able to send out Seesaw codes for your child until this form has been completed.

Minimising the risk to us all

It is upsetting to have to acknowledge that our school may remain closed for several weeks as we ride out the most dangerous and challenging time of the pandemic so far. The Prime Minister has reminded us that he considers schools to be safe places for children, but acknowledges that by attending school, children increase the risk to others through contact with many other households. For that reason, we should seek to keep numbers in school to an absolute minimum.

The offer of school places to the children of key workers is made so these parents can continue to carry out work that is vital to our national response to the pandemic. The offer of school places to those children considered vulnerable is made because it is known that these children will not be able to access home learning in the way that most others can. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR A PLACE IN SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD CAN BE SUPERVISED SAFELY AT HOME.

I have asked our teaching staff to spend most of their time planning and delivering learning to the large majority of children who remain at home.

I'm sure that, once established, this home learning offer will represent a considerable improvement on previous methods. The aim is for us all to feel more connected through a period of enforced separation!

I hope you all remain safe and well.

Paul Newton,
Executive Head Teacher



THE FEDERATION OF SALTWOOD AND BODSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Remote Learning Code of Conduct

For Parents and Carers

- Our staff will use only approved online platforms to facilitate remote live learning sessions with children. Our school has currently approved Zoom, Seesaw, Purple Mash and Tapestry for this purpose.
- Links to live learning sessions will be sent directly to the parental email addresses provided to the school and not to children. These links should not be passed on to third parties.
- Children and parents should not use school learning platforms to communicate with others in ways not approved by members of school staff.
- Live learning sessions will be recorded by the member of staff for Safeguarding purposes.
- A record will be kept of those attending all live learning sessions.
- Parents and carers are responsible for supervising and supporting children while live learning sessions are taking place. The usual standards of behaviour are expected for all online learning and these will be established by the member of staff at the start of each session.
- Images or screen shots of home learning sessions should not be captured at home.
- Children should not alter or delete work that has been uploaded onto a learning platform by others.
- All participants will wear suitable dress, use suitable language, and ensure backgrounds of videos (live or pre-recorded) are neutral and appropriate.
- Parents should be mindful of the background during all live learning sessions. Home learners should ensure personal information and/or, inappropriate or unsuitable personal items are not visible. Where possible, other household members should not be in the background or shot; if this unavoidable, they should follow appropriate language and behaviour expectations. Children unable to keep to these expectations will be removed from the session.
- Staff leading the session will control the 'mute' feature during any live learning session. Children should not be permitted to override this feature unless directed to by the member of staff

Participation in any live remote learning session constitutes acceptance of this Code of Conduct