



Bodsham Church of England
Primary School

Federation
of



Saltwood Church of England
Primary School



"You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance." Psalm 32:7-8

22nd January 2021

Keep on Carrying On!

It seems hard to believe that we are now half way through this term! So much has changed since we were preparing to return to school after Christmas it's only now that I feel able to stop and take stock. It's bitterly disappointing that we can't all be together again in school, especially as there was such a positive feeling about the progress being made by the children since September. I remain hopeful that this period of closure will be shorter than the last, but the notional return to school after half term mentioned by the Prime Minister seems a little optimistic.

So it is of increasing importance that we offer as much support as possible to families as they once again struggle with home learning while trying to juggle everything else life throws at us. We chose the Seesaw home learning platform because it seems to be the simplest one available for children and parents to engage with and I hope you are finding it manageable. Thank you for all the feedback we have received so far – teachers appreciate hearing about successes and things you are finding difficult. At the end of the first full week of using the system, here are some useful nuggets that might help:

- If your child (or you!) is finding the amount of work set by the teacher each day a struggle to get through, then feel free to prioritise. The DfE suggest KS1 children spend 3 hours a day on home learning and 4 hours for KS2. These are only guidelines. It is also important that children get out of the house for daily exercise if they can and are given some time to themselves. As always, reading is the most important activity. Maths and English work should also be a priority.
- Not every piece of Seesaw work needs a comment or response from your child before sending back to the teacher. In fact, teachers will struggle to respond to every single piece of work. Don't forget that, after you have completed the work, the fact that it has appeared in your child's Journal means the teacher has seen and approved it.
- Not every piece of work needs a written response. Seesaw allows you to record a verbal answer, or send a video or picture back to the teacher. Rather than print out an answer sheet, it is fine to complete work on paper and send back a pdf scan or photograph of finished work – be creative! You can use phones and tablets for this purpose.
- Lastly, a plea to parents. Seesaw is for your children to use to keep in touch with their teacher. If you have a message for the school please use the usual admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk email, and if you have a question for your child's teacher about home learning please use the ask...@bodsham.kent.sch.uk email address set up for each class.

Tell us what you think

This has been the first week of Seesaw and the initial response from parents and children has been very positive. I am pleased with the way it enables a useful 'feedback loop' between home and school and allows teachers to adapt their tasks to the needs of the children as they can see how each child is doing.

We will be contacting families who may have been having problems engaging with Seesaw next week. I would also like to know whether the daily Zoom sessions are manageable in your household, as some parents report they are difficult to fit in. Please could I ask ALL parents to complete the very short survey below so we can be sure we are meeting your needs as best we can!

[Click here to take the survey](#)

A Message from Mrs Thomas

Dear parents,

In this second enforced period of national school closure, to all but critical worker children, I would like to remind you that I am contactable by email (senco@bodsham.kent.sch.uk) should you have any specific concerns regarding your child/ren's learning or mental health. I will also be in school every Wednesday and am happy to arrange phone or Zoom calls with you.

Please stay safe and remember to appreciate the little things to try to avoid the big things overwhelming you. [This resource may be useful!](#)



Keeeeeeep Reading!

The most important thing to keep doing while school is closed, is to keep reading. I am aware that we can't send home reading books at the moment so we have subscribed to the Oxford Owl e-library to give parents access to hundreds of high quality texts at home. An email is on the way with login information for each class. Please let us know if you haven't received yours.



www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Be Prepared!

Primary School staff will begin regular Lateral Flow Device testing next week, using home test kits supplied by the NHS. A positive result on these tests will necessitate a second, confirmatory, PCR test, which as we know can take 2-3 days to complete. If a member of staff tests positive on a LFD test, then their bubble would close as a precautionary measure while waiting for the PCR result.

Finally, we are not in a position to offer any holiday club or child care over the half term break (15th to 19th February), so please be aware of the need to organise child care for this period.

Born in Lockdown!

Turning our attention to happier matters, children have been watching the Port Lympne Lion Cub Cam. Some cubs were born last week and everyone can watch them live at home! [Lion Den Cam - Bedroom 3 - YouTube](#)



Helping Hands!

There is support out there for parents and children during school closure:

[Kent Resilience Hub](#) - Supporting 10-16 year olds to cope better with the pressures of everyday life

[Young Minds](#) - when emotions explode - a supporting parents help finder

Stay safe everyone!

Paul Newton,
Executive Head Teacher