



Bodsham Church of England
Primary School

Federation
of



Saltwood Church of England
Primary School



"Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again." Acts 9: 18 The children have been learning about Saul's conversion and how Jesus gave him a second chance at a new life. What has been the biggest change in your child's life?

18th June 2021

Keep Calm and Carry On – again!

We have all been disappointed that the planned lifting of all restrictions on June 21st is now delayed. The DfE have been in touch with all schools this week to confirm that we must not ease any of the system of controls that we have in place until at least 19th July. This has consequences for the rest of our school year:

- **We are not able to allow visitors into the school.** This means we will not be able to invite parents to watch the Year 6 production or come to Sports Day. We will video the production and make it available forever for parents to view and share with relatives. We will make sure the children still have an enjoyable day of competitive games on Sports Day.
- **We are not permitted to allow a gathering of more than 30 people outside.** This means we cannot hold our PTA summer event on the school field. The PTA will continue with their fund raising in Covid secure ways, as has been the case throughout the pandemic!
- **Children must stay in their bubbles for the remainder of the year.** This means we are not able to hold our Year 6 leaver's service at the church as usual. We will be holding an outdoor event in school on 20th July which will allow all the children to say goodbye to the Year 6's on their final day. I hope to be able to invite Year 6 parents to this service, but numbers will have to be carefully limited.

The Local Authority have also contacted schools this week to stress the seriousness of the impact the Delta variant is having on case numbers across the county. This is being reflected in schools, with reports of large numbers of children being sent home to isolate after contact with a positive case. I share your disappointment that, once again, we are not able to offer our children the usual experience of school life but I'm sure you will understand the need to keep our children and families as safe as we can.

Goodbye Captain Graham

It is with great sadness that I have to inform parents of the passing of Graham Nunn. As part of the Church Army 'Captain' Graham would visit our schools regularly to lead worship. The children loved his fun and engaging assemblies, in which he would use both music and magic to teach the message of the Bible. He was dearly loved across our Federation community and the whole Diocese. You can read further tributes to Graham [here](#).



Residential Trips Still On!

Under the current Covid guidance children are permitted to take trips out of school, and residential stays are also allowed, as long as Covid guidelines are followed. This means that the Bowles trip planned for our Year 6 children on 14th July is to go ahead as planned. Bodsham children will be forming a bubble with 32 children from Saltwood and there will be no other schools at the Bowles site for the duration of the trip. We will be holding a Bowles Briefing for Year 6 parents via Zoom on **Wednesday 30th June at 4.30pm**. Mr Thomas, the trip leader, and I will outline the programme for the stay and parents will have a chance to ask questions. It is not essential that parents attend if you feel the Bowles pack contains the all information you need! The Zoom link will follow via email.

Attention Year 5 Parents! – Kent Test Registration Open Now!

KCC have indicated that there is every likelihood that the Kent Test will take place as normal this September for the children currently in Year 5 who wish to sit it. If you are considering a grammar school for your child in Year 7 then you should register for the Kent Test before the closing date on 1st July this year. Parents should register online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola



If you are considering a grammar school in Folkestone or Dover, then you may also like to register for the Shepway or Dover tests, which are administered separately. Please see the relevant school's website for information about registering for the Dover or Shepway tests.

Some secondary school have started to publish online open events to encourage Year 5 parents to consider them for 2022. Please check the school's websites for further details.

The Olympics Come to Bodsham!

It is a real shame that we can't invite parents into school for Sports Day this year – but we will make sure the children get to experience the usual fun and excitement of a special day. Based on an Olympics theme, each class will take part in different activities while remaining in their bubbles. Please make sure ALL children come to school in their PE kit on Thursday (24th June) and that sun cream has been applied and water bottles are full!!



Attention Year 6 – Cancellation of Secondary School Transition days

Another victim of the continuation of Covid restrictions is the plans made by secondary schools to invite Year 6 children to attend for their usual transition days before the summer holidays. All local Secondary Schools have now made the decision to offer an alternative welcome to their new children in September. Please check the website of your child's destination school for details.

The Anna Freud Centre have produced [this useful video](#) that might help children who are anxious about this big step in their school careers!

Meet Your New Teacher

We made some changes to staffing this year and I've been really pleased with how these have allowed us to support our children. From September we will build on these changes and strengthen our teaching team even further!

Sparrows Class Reception Year	Mrs Bax (3 days) Mrs Stephen (2 days)
Robins Class Year 1 & Year 2	Mrs Rushton
Woodpeckers Class Year 3 & Year 4	Ms Skinner
Owls Class Year 5 & Year 6	Mrs Allen

You will see that Mrs Rushton becomes a full time member of our team as she moves onto the Early Career Framework for newly qualified teachers. She will be supported and mentored by Mrs Stephen as she completes this important, 2-year period.

Mrs Stephen will be sharing our new 'Sparrows' Reception class with Mrs Bax. Parents may know that we are expecting our largest intake of Reception children for many years in September, so this will be an exciting new class to welcome!

Mrs Bingley, Mrs Coley and Mrs Wenham will remain as our dedicated support staff. We will also be hoping to recruit a new Teaching Assistant to join this excellent team as Mrs Martin has taken the decision to start her well-earned retirement!

Because children will need to stay in their bubbles for the foreseeable future, it won't be possible for them to visit their new classrooms before the end of this term. But we will make sure their new teacher gets a chance to visit them on 8th July. They will be able to spend the morning with next year's teacher and have a good chance to get to know each other!

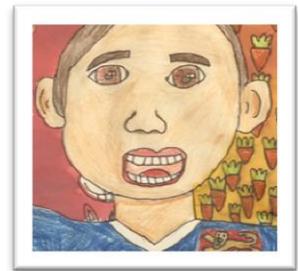
End of Year Reports and Parental Consultations

You will receive your child's end of year report on Friday 2nd July, so keep an eye on book bags! We will be offering parents the opportunity to discuss this report with your child's teacher (via telephone or MS Teams) on 6th July and 8th July after school.

Parents only need book an appointment if you think there will be something in the report you would like to talk about. Bookings will be opened via email on the week beginning 28th June.

Bodsham's Art Work on Display

You might be interested to know that artwork from Bodsham children will be on display at the Beaney Museum in Canterbury soon, as part of their ['What Makes You Unique?' exhibition](#). Children across east Kent were asked to think about what makes them special and to create a work of art which expresses their individuality.



Mind Your Language Please

It's very rare for me to have to report bad behaviour at Bodsham to parents, but our staff have been disappointed to have to deal with an increase in the use of bad language by some children recently. The problem has arisen in Woodpeckers and Owls class and, of course, teachers have intervened each time it is reported to them. I have spoken to both of these classes to remind them of the school rules, but also to let the children know that if someone is heard swearing, they can expect the school to contact their parents to let them know. I'd appreciate it if you could have a talk at home about which words should not be used at school! Thank you!

Paul Newton
Executive Head Teacher