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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

I am really sorry to have missed out on all the fantastic Christmas activities that have taken place over the past few weeks – it is always one of my most favourite times at school. I have heard that the children have been, as always, utterly amazing, and have put on some splendid Christmas performances. I am always full of admiration for the confidence that the children demonstrate when performing on stage and the enthusiasm with which they sing. I hope that you have enjoyed coming to watch our performances. I would like to thank the staff for all their efforts in pulling these productions together – it is no easy task to ensure that so many children have their opportunity to shine and yet every year they bring together a wonderful show.

This time of year is also an opportunity to reflect on how fortunate we are and to consider how we can support those less fortunate. Our Christingle making, enabled us to look at the work of the Children's Society in helping vulnerable children across the world. We are grateful for all the contributions made to this charity through the collection envelopes. Our STAR Week this term, has also encouraged the children to think about how they can pay something back to the local community. Further details about the causes chosen by each class are described on page 2.

Finally can I take the opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the staff for all the kind gifts and cards received. We are immensely grateful.

I would like to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year when school starts again on Thursday January 3rd.

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Class News...

STAR Week

STAR Week this term has focused on giving something back to our community. At a time of year, when we are surrounded by a huge amount of indulgence, we think that it is important for our children to consider those who are not as fortunate and how they can help our local community. Each class chose a cause, charity or issue to support this Christmas time and have taken creative steps in doing so.

Year 1–Collections of the children’s unused toys to pass on to children in need.

Year 2–Christmas cards and donations to create hampers for the residents of Loudon Court.

Year 3–Litter picking around the Godinton Park Estate



Year 4–Christmas cards for the children on Padua Ward at the William Harvey Hospital

Year 5–Food Collections for Ashford Food Bank

Year 6–Fundraising for Porchlight (Kent Homeless Charity)

Learning Adventures

Our first Learning Adventures of the year have come to a close with some fantastic work created around each year group’s chosen topic.

Year 3 ended their Learning Adventure, ‘Show Some Flare’, with a Trashion Show, which saw the children modelling 1970s fashion made from recycled materials. In their show to parents, the children talked about how they had made their clothes and features of 1970s fashion.

Year 2 have completed their ‘Who lives in a house like this?’ topic with a visit from Considerate Constructors and Beardwell

Constructors who brought ‘Ivor Goodsite’ and ‘Brigitta’ to teach the children about health and safety requirements on a building site. The children also learnt about some of the equipment and machinery that is used to create buildings as well as being able to look at the plans for the new sports hall being built at the local Highworth site. The children were given goodie bags and were invited to enter a poster competition. They thoroughly enjoyed their information session.



Class Assemblies

It has been wonderful to see our class assemblies this term. Nightingales created a fascinating and exciting assembly that demonstrated how much they have enjoyed their Harry Potter topic this term and even included a piano solo by Mr Smith! The Dragonflies and Bumblebees treated us to their class trashion shows last week. These assemblies let the children show off their design and making skills as well as telling us about key facts from the political and cultural climate of the 1970’s and the impact of litter on the environment. Well done to all the children and staff for their performances and hard work. Thank you for your continued support with the parent performances of these assemblies. The children love to tell you about their learning through them!



Other News and Reminders...

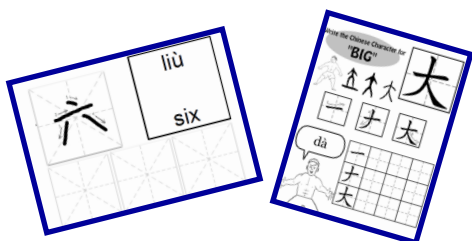
Lingotots



I would like to thank Mrs Herrera-Delgado for winning a languages day for us in school. We will be having the company 'Lingotots' joining us for the whole day on Friday 1st March 2019. They will be working with each year group providing an introduction to speaking Spanish, finishing with a whole school assembly at the end of the day.

A Visitor from China

Year 2 were also lucky to have a visit from a child who lives in China last week who was called Maia. She told all the children about what it was like to go to school in China and she showed the children some of her work. Maia also showed the children how to write some Chinese symbols and say some words and phrases. She answered lots and lots of questions when she was in school!



SEND Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning for parents of pupils with Special Educational Needs and or disabilities is taking place on Monday 14th January. Please come along to the school entrance at 9 o'clock and either Mrs Stein or Mrs McGibney will greet you there.



PTFA News



Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa on Saturday 8th December was a big success with over 200 children's families coming to see Santa Claus and receiving a present. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and it was a great way to continue your Christmas festivities. Thank you to everyone who offered their help in the preparations for the event and on the day. If you are interested in supporting our PTFA further, please come along to our next meeting which will be held at school at 6pm on Tuesday 8th January.

Staffing News

New Midday Meals Supervisor

We are delighted to welcome Sara Walker to our team of Midday Supervisors. Sara will be working with the children out on the playground. We wish her well with her new position.

Christingles and candle safety

Christingle making has become one of Godinton's Christmas traditions. Year 6 are always keen helpers and the children love working together to create their Christingle to take home with them. However, we mustn't forget that a Christingle does use a candle which is an open flame. Please ensure that you have read through the candle safety leaflets that have kindly been provided for us by Kent Fire and Rescue Service.



Congratulations and Success

Upper School Christmas Carol Service

Our thanks go to Cath Aldis and the team at St Mary's in Great Chart for enabling us to hold our Upper School Carol Service in the church. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for this special traditional Christmas celebration.



Lower and Middle School Christmas Productions

A huge round of applause goes to all the children and staff in both Middle and Lower school for their brilliant Christmas productions this year. As always, the children are very brave and confident when they perform for you and it is incredible to see children as young as four years old singing and speaking out clearly in

front of an audience. What a lovely start to the Christmas period!



Christmas Choir

Well done to our Christmas Choir. They have been singing to the public in County Square Shopping Centre as well as serenading the customers in Waitrose as they enter the shop. Look out for our letters about the Young Voices 2020



Christmas Inter House Quiz

Our House Quiz took place on Friday and saw our four quiz teams answering a range of questions which they hoped would lead them to victory. The different rounds focused on movies, sports, books, observational skills and guess the staff from a mix of photos.

In our morning Upper School quiz, Dover were the overall winners, whereas in the afternoon, a win was secured by Rochester. All the points scored in the quiz will be added to the overall House Point scores for the term which will be announced in our final assembly on Wednesday morning.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your generous donations to our recent charity event for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

We have successfully raised £287.36 for this worthwhile charity



Christmas Films

Two Christmas films were enjoyed by the children and mark the reinvention of film club in Term 3. Thank you to all the staff and helpers who enabled these events to take place and to Mrs McGoldrick and Mrs Ellis for organising them. £481.53 was raised which will be put towards purchasing further class based ipads.

Other News...

- Please can we remind you that the children return to school on Thursday 3rd January.
- Our next Star week commences on our return to school in January. The theme this time is **Stay Safe and Speak Out** including anti-bullying and e-safety.
- We would like to thank the local Co-op led by Mark (Store Manager) for their generous donations over the last few months. We have been lucky enough to receive sweets and 'pass the parcel' prizes that we have used for the Christmas parties, some sweets for our Year 3 litter pickers as well as further donations for the Breakfast with Santa event and tubs of chocolates to be shared with the children on the gate in the mornings. Look out for further links with the Co-op being shared in the next newsletter in January.



Sports Report

Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 have reached the end of their 8 week block of swimming lessons at the Stour Centre. For some, these swimming lessons have provided valuable top up to lessons undertaken out of school, whilst for others it has been a great opportunity to learn to swim. As well as the development of swimming skills, the block of lessons has provided the children with useful life skills – getting changed, remembering all their belongings and following instructions. The children have really enjoyed their lessons and the excellent behaviour of the children has been commented on by staff at the centre. Swimming currently forms part of our Year 3 curriculum and it will therefore be our Year 2 children who have the opportunity to do this next year.

