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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

This term we have started to trial offering some of our children a school packed lunch which is prepared in our kitchen by Independent Catering. This is something we have been considering for a while in response to suggestions from both parents and children. In the first instance this has only been offered out to children in Years R to 2. We felt that offering this to a trial group of children would enable us to iron out any teething problems, and would enable us to see the impact that this would have on the kitchen. When selecting their lunch choice during morning register, the children will either make a choice of hot meal or will select the option to have a school packed lunch and can have different options on different days of the week. The packed lunch consists of a roll (with the children being able to choose ham, cheese or tuna), a pudding and salad (including crudites and fruit) from the salad cart. The salad cart is available to all children who have either a hot or cold school lunch and includes items such as lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, pasta salad, coleslaw, olives, pickled onions, and fruit. All children in Years R to 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Government's Universal Free School Meal initiative. We hope that the addition of offering a packed lunch option will encourage more families to take advantage of this entitlement.

We will see how things go over the course of this term, and in partnership with Independent Catering, look at whether it is viable to offer the packed lunch option to all children in the school in the future, all year round or just in the summer months. All possibilities will be considered and any feedback from parents is always welcome.

The school is also in the process of developing a new policy to collate all our processes in the management of food allergies. This will be available on the school website at the start of term 6.



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Class News...

Year 3 Visit to Wingham Wildlife Park

Congratulations to all of our Year 3 children for their excellent behaviour during their visit to Wingham Wildlife Park at the end of last term. The children were as always polite and courteous and enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a series of animal workshops. The visit provided the children with an excellent end to their last Learning Adventure.



Reading Books

Our brand new reading books are now in circulation and offer a wide range of different texts for the children to choose from. We hope that the children will enjoy bringing these home and sharing them with you. The children are encouraged to read every day with an adult at home. We know that with hectic lives this can be difficult to achieve but would encourage you wherever possible to make time for reading.

Whilst we want our books to be well used, we have reminded the children about how to care for our new books and how they should look after them so that they can stay in circulation looking as appealing as possible for as long as possible.

Year 5 Residential Visit to Kingswood



Our Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic three day residential at Kingswood

Activity Centre in Ashford at the end of last term, taking part in all sorts of activities including zip wires and climbing walls. If you haven't had a chance to look at the photos on the school website, please visit the pupil section and have a look. I'd like to thank all the staff that also took part and ensured that the children had a wonderful time.

Sensational Starts to our new Learning Adventures

It has been exciting to see the different ways in which each year group has started off their final Learning Adventure of this academic year. Year 4 walked into bomb damaged classrooms to launch their World war Two topic, Year 1 started with a crime scene at the Three Bears House and Year 2 planted magic golden beans that Jack had hand delivered to their classrooms. We're all looking forward to seeing what happens next!



Congratulations and Success...

House Point News



Congratulations to Rochester who were our House Point winners again in Term 4. They enjoyed an additional break time with squash and biscuits at the start of this term. We are delighted that we have a number of children who are now in receipt of their silver house point badges. All children who receive their gold badge by the end of the year will be able to take part in a special activity in term 6. Last year it was a game of bowling at Ashford Bowl and the year before, a trip to the cinema. We hope that even more children than ever before will reach their gold badges.

Musical Celebration

Kingfisher class showed their musical talents off to the school and to their parents when they presented their class assembly last week. The children have been learning to play the ukulele and performed a number of pieces that they have been learning in class.



We have over 50 children now taking part in our Young Voices choir on a Friday after school. The choir sound amazing and will be practising until they have the opportunity to perform up at the O2 next year.

Other News and Reminders...

Safeguarding– Operation Encompass

Our school has signed up to a joint countywide operation between Kent Police and local schools, known as Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass has been set up to help schools provide support to children who have been present, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. These types of incident can cause significant physical or emotional harm and therefore consider it to be of the utmost importance to support children in these circumstances.

The school will receive a confidential email from Kent Police before 12 noon the morning after a child has been exposed to, or involved in any domestic abuse incident. As the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Godinton, I have received training which allows me to use the information shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for the right support to be available for any child and their family. We are always keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this initiative will be beneficial to all those involved.

Of course, this does not replace the safeguarding arrangements that we already have in place. We would encourage all parents, to always volunteer information which may have an impact on their children's wellbeing with either myself, Mrs Stein or our FLO, Mrs McGibney and that any safeguarding concerns that parents might have about any child are reported swiftly.

Further details about safeguarding, including the school's safeguarding policy, are available on the safeguarding section on the school website.

School Perimeter Fencing

In December the school applied to the DfE for a grant to update the perimeter fencing for the site. Unfortunately the bid wasn't successful and although we will appeal, it is unlikely that the project would go ahead in this calendar year. We only missed out on funding by a small margin meaning that the DfE doesn't consider our need to be urgent. However I do feel that the site would be enhanced by improved fencing and that this would add significantly to our existing security measures. If our appeal fails, we will resubmit a further bid in December.

PESE Meeting for Year 5 Parents

Parents of children in Year 5 are invited to a meeting on Monday 13th May (at either 3.30 or 6.30 p.m) in which the process of registering their child for the PESE (11+ tests) will be explained. The meeting, led by Mrs Crowfoot, will also look at the process of considering a place at a grammar school for your child and the content of the PESE tests. After this meeting, parents will be provided with information of the consultation meetings which will take place on the 4th and 5th June in which they have the opportunity to meet with Year 5 and current Year 6 teachers in order to discuss recent test scores and how both these achievements and your child's attainment in everyday class work compares with that expected at a grammar school.

Book Fair Thank You

Thank you to everyone who purchased a book from the Scholastic Book Fair last month helping our overall commission from book fairs this year reach £400. Our next Book Fair will be in the Autumn.

Mobile Phones

The school does not allow children to keep mobile phones in their classrooms or school bags during the school day. We understand that some parents, of children in Year 5 and 6 who walk to school by themselves, like the reassurance of their child having a phone with them. In these circumstances, phones should be handed into the school office. Whilst every effort is taken to ensure these items are kept safe, items are left at the owners risk and the school takes no responsibility for any damage or loss that may occur.

Medical Needs

Please can I remind parents to ensure that they update the school office if there is any change to their child's medical needs. The school is happy to support children by administering medications during the school day but can only do so with those (including creams and lotions) that have been provided on prescription by a medical provider. Please bear this in mind as we enter hayfever season.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that any long term medications kept in school (e.g. asthma inhalers or epi-pens) are in date.

For any further information about supporting your child's medical needs, please see the school office.

Lateness

With road works still taking place on the estate parents are reminded to ensure that they allow adequate time for their journey if they are driving to school. Please also ensure that children have all their belongings with them ready for the start of the day. Thank you.

Other News and reminders...

- Our new PE wall bars have now been installed in the hall and will shortly be used in our PE lessons. Children will be required to use this apparatus in bare feet and both boys and girls will need to tie long hair back or clip long fringes out of their eyes (we would always recommend that they do this anyway during the school day). We hope that the equipment will provide a very positive dimension to gymnastic lessons in the school and are something that the children will enjoy using.
- Please can parents ensure that their emergency contact details are up to date and that the school office is made aware of any changes. All children should have at least two contact numbers who can be called in the event of an emergency, however three or four would be preferable.
- Congratulations to Miss Collins who has returned to school this term as Mrs Partridge. Have a look at some photos from her lovely wedding day below.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Transition Cycling Sessions

Later this term, some of our Year 6 children will be taking part in a special cycling project, helping to extend their cycling skills as part of their transition to secondary school. Knowing that in September, many of our children will be cycling to new schools or to friends' houses further afield, we have planned a series of cycling sessions run by Cycle Circle (who deliver our Bikeability and Balance Bike training). Some of the children taking part, who have already completed Bikeability level 2, will complete sessions that will see them using local cycle paths in the Ashford area and planning safe cycle routes. These sessions are being funded through our sports premium and so are being offered at no charge to parents. We hope these sessions will prove really beneficial to the children in helping them make the transition from primary school to secondary school.

Marathon Success

Congratulations to Mrs Norman who completed the Brighton Marathon earlier this month. She has been seen in school wearing her medal and says that this marathon may not be her last!