

Contents

Teaching Staff News	2
Visits to Canterbury	2
Parking	3
Year 1 India Day	3
Clubs	3
House Quiz	3
Attendance	3



Other News	4
Sports Report	4

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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

With Christmas now just around the corner, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas from everyone in the team here at Godinton.

The last few weeks have certainly been busy with many exciting festive activities taking place. Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fair at the start of the month—this provided a great start to our Christmas celebrations and raised almost £2000 for the school. This money will go towards the development of our school playground. Breakfast with Santa also proved a huge success and it was lovely to welcome so many of you to the school for a sing-a-long breakfast. My sincere thanks go to the PTFA and all those parents and staff who support these events by giving their time so generously.

A highlight of the past few weeks were undoubtedly our Christmas performances. I am always immensely proud of our children but felt especially so when I saw the hard work and enthusiasm that went into making their Christmas plays so memorable. It is always a pleasure to see the children act and sing so confidently and so enthusiastically and I know how much it means to them to perform in front of family.

Our school choir entertained in the town centre last week, performing a medley of carols in the shopping centre. They also sang to the residents of Loudon Court who were invited over to school yesterday for carol singing and mince pies. Our retired neighbours are always very grateful for being included in our Christmas activities.

Finally our annual Christingle making morning was as lovely as ever and it is always a delight to see our Year 6 children support the younger children so thoughtfully.

On behalf of all the staff can I thank you for the kind gifts and cards that we have received and once again, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy and restful Christmas break.

We will see everyone back in school on Thursday January 4th 2018.

Teaching Staff News

I know that you will join me in wishing Mrs Fisher and Miss Marsh well as they leave us this term for their exciting new adventures.

We are delighted that Mrs Fisher's class will be taught two very familiar faces for the remainder of the year. Mrs Tinker will teach the children on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Collins on a Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Tinker has been teaching at Godinton for several years now. She has previously undertaken job-share teaching positions in Year 2 and Year 5 in which she has prepared the children for KS1 SATs and PESE respectively. Currently she job-shares with Mrs Pemberton, Teaching in Year 6 on a Friday and carries out supply work across the school. Mrs Tinker is an immensely hard working and highly regarded member of our team and I know that the children will continue their success this year under her guidance.

Over the last few years, Mrs Collins has had a break from her teaching career and has worked at Godinton as a Teaching Assistant and most recently a Higher Level Teaching Assistant covering classes when teachers have their PPA non-contact time. We are delighted that Mrs Collins has decided to return to teaching and know that she will also provide excellent direction and support for Cuckoos class.

Mrs Tinker and Mrs Collins will both be relinquishing their current positions at Godinton in order to focus on their new roles. In Term 3, Mrs Tinker's Friday role will be filled by Mrs Norman. Mrs Norman has been completing supply work at Godinton so is another familiar face at school. Mrs Collins' HLTA role will be filled by Miss King who is already a Teaching Assistant at Godinton and is currently completing her teacher training. Miss King will be covering the teacher's PPA non-contact time in the same way that Mrs Collins has been this year.

This does mean that we will also have a temporary teaching assistant vacancy which we will be filling in due course.

School Visits to Canterbury

In the last few weeks, two very successful visits have taken place to Canterbury.

Year 2 visited Canterbury Cathedral last week as part of their 'Grand Designs' topic. They participated in workshops which explored building techniques used in the construction of the cathedral and had a tour of the cathedral, spotting architectural features. As always, the children were very well behaved and I know that they thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Year 6 made Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales' the focus of their visit to Canterbury visiting the Canterbury Tales experience as well as the cathedral. The children have been studying these tales in class and the visit helped to bring the texts to life.



Parking

Please could I ask for parents cooperation with parking around the Godinton estate. We have had several reports of parents parking inconsiderately on junctions, making it difficult for those who are walking to school to cross the road. We all know how tricky parking can be and I would encourage everyone to walk to school, rather than use the car whenever possible.

Year 1 India Day

Year 1 had a fantastic finale to their geography topic 'Around the World' by holding an 'India Day' last week. The focus of the day was to learn more about the country which they had been studying in class. The children dressed up, sampled some Indian food, tried some Indian crafts and had a go at some Bollywood dancing. I know that the children all had a wonderful time.



Club Reminder

The new club timetable provides details of the clubs and activities being offered to the children next term. We are fortunate to have such a good array of opportunities available and would kindly ask for parents' cooperation in ensuring that children are collected promptly at the end of each session. We have had some occasions when parents are considerably late for pick up which we are unable to accommodate.

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, guess the staff and get to know your Headteacher.

In our morning Upper School quiz, Walmer 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.



Attendance

We know that it is the season of coughs, colds and tummy bugs and of course we do not expect the children to be at school if they are unwell. Please help to ensure good attendance by not taking your child out of school at other times which could be avoided. Thank you.

Attendance figures to the end of Term 2 are as follows.

Year R— 96%	Year 4— 97.5%
Year 1— 97%	Year 5— 95%
Year 2— 96.4%	Year 6— 96%
Year 3— 96%	

Other News...

- Don't forget to get up a little earlier on Wednesday mornings for our 'Wake Up on Wednesdays' – our new wake up, shake up activity from 8.35 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. on the playground led by Mrs Ellis.
- Please remember that the external black post box to the left of the entrance doors can be used to post any items / letters for the school office. It is secure and is emptied daily.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Multi Skills Tournament

Well done to some of our Year 1 and 2 children who took part in a Multi-skills competition at Towers School earlier this month. The children, who all attend our after school multi-skills, competed in a range of activities against children from 16 other schools in Ashford. There was excellent team work from all the children involved and they all worked immensely hard in each event. Well done to everyone who took part.



Sports Hall Athletics

We must also congratulate our Year 5 and 6 children who participated in the Sports Hall athletics competition at The Stour Centre at the end of November. The children competed against 25 other Ashford schools in a series of indoor track and field events including hurdling, javelin and relay. The team again demonstrated excellent team spirit and worked hard to secure sixth place. Our congratulations go to all the team.

Cross Country at Detling

We were also very proud of all the children who participated in the county cross country event at the Detling Showground at the end of November. Over 200 children from across the county joined in with each of the set races. Our team of 30 children did exceptionally well, with all the children doing their very best in each event. Particular congratulations must go to Lily Rose O'B who came second in her event out of over 200 children and Josh O'B who came fourth out of a similar number of children in his race.

