

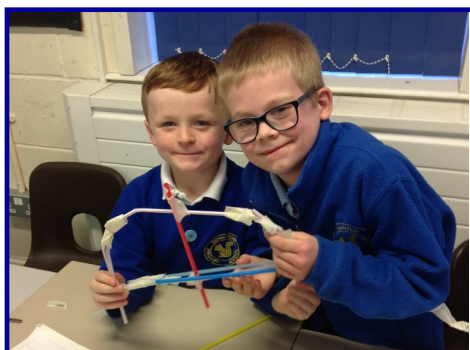
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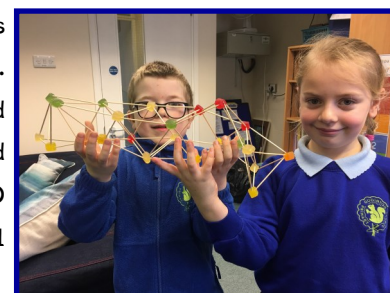
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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

One of the things I enjoy most about my role in school is sharing the children's special achievements with them. Already this week I have had 18 children visit my office with a 'gold card' and I am sure that similar numbers have found their way to Miss Collins or Mrs Stein. Children receive a gold card when they have done something amazing—this is as diverse as a wonderful piece of written work, a stunning piece of art or showing great understanding and application in maths. The children share their work with me and talk about what they have done. Without exception they are proud of their accomplishments and can't wait to share the good news with you. Today's visitors included Noah and Leo who had created an information book all about London and Jasmine and Andrew who had been exploring 3D structures by creating a bridge out of cocktail sticks and midget gems!



Celebrating the children's successes is an important part of our ethos at Godinton. Our weekly celebration assemblies continue to highlight individual achievement and those children who come to our weekly tea party having received our 'Star Award' enjoy talking about the things they are doing at school and what they get up to at the weekend. I have been educated in what happens at 'Flip Out' and which films are worth watching at the cinema. We want our children to be confident and well rounded individuals and we endeavour to give them an enriching educational experience that makes them excited about learning.

As the academic year progresses we have lots more exciting things to look forward to—we will be celebrating World Book Day in March and fund-raising for Sport Relief. We plan on concluding the year with celebrations for the school's 40th anniversary. I hope that these events will give the children further memorable experiences to enjoy.

Safety

We are immensely fortunate to have a road crossing patrol operating in Loudon Way. Mrs Humphries valiantly stands out in all weathers, safely seeing children and parents across the road. Please can I encourage all parents and children to make use of this valuable service rather than crossing at unsafe points, particular the corner bend in Loudon Way. The designated crossing point provides the clearest point for getting across the road and we want to ensure that all our children arrive at school safely.

You may well have noticed the PCSO, Catherine Stevens, completing patrols in the area. Catherine is part of the Police force's neighbourhood policing team, supporting warranted officers and community action teams to solve local problems. We report any local concerns that we have to the PCSO. We are keen to develop greater links with Catherine and are hoping to invite her into a school assembly to talk to the children about her role next term.

Safeguarding

Next week is Online Safety Week, an opportunity for the children to engage in activities promoting staying safe online. Tuesday 6th February is National E-safety day but throughout the week, the children will be reminded of the importance of staying safe online through age appropriate activities and given strategies to help them do this.

The online safety pages on the school website provide good guidance for parents in supporting their children with use of the internet at home. We will be sending out further information to parents about online safety in the next few days including the importance of setting filters on IT equipment (including smart phones and tablets) and managing social media usage with their children.

Miss Talbot is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and any concerns about child welfare should be brought to her attention.

Class Assemblies

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for Bumblebee and Eagles class assemblies. I know that it means a lot to the children to have parents and grandparents come and watch.

Ancient Egypt provided a great focus for Bumblebees' assembly including intricate detail of how to mummify a body whilst Eagles explored the topic of evolution through song and drama.

Thank you to all the children for the hard work that went into creating their assemblies.



KS1 and KS2 SATs

Information Meetings

At the start of term 4 we will be offering parents the opportunity to come along to KS1 and KS2 SATs information meetings. SATs are the statutory national tests which children undertake in May of Year 2 and Year 6. The children complete tests in reading, maths, grammar punctuation and spelling and their writing is assessed. We always aim to make the testing process as painless as we can for the children and ensure that they are prepared appropriately for the questions they will complete.

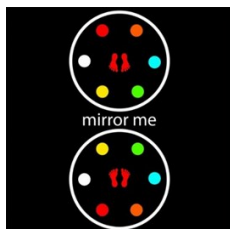
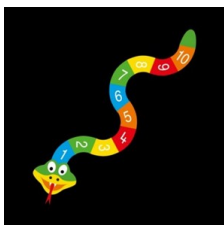
Parents often ask what they can do at home to support their children. The meetings will take parents through the testing process, show examples of what the children are asked to do and provide advice and information about how parents can help at home. We are in the process of finalising dates with the Year 2 and Year 6 teams and will notify parents of these in due course.

Mini Management Team



Our Mini Management Team have been working hard this term to gauge the interest of children in their class about how we can improve playtimes. Our PTFA have kindly agreed to fund the development of the playground to make it a more engaging and stimulating environment for the children. The classes have had lots of amazing ideas which have been shared with me.

Feedback from the children is that they would like to have some playground markings created, including games such as an adventure trail, 'copy me' dance markings, hopscotch and target activities. The MMT will be coming outside with me next week to measure the playground in order to make a final decision as to where these could best be installed and how they can best use the best budget set. The children have also said that they would like some new signs in the playground as well as benches and tables so this will form the second part of the project.



All our children are encouraged to share any ideas for school development with their Mini Management Representatives or to put them in the gold box outside Butterflies classroom. It's unlikely that we will be able to install a hot tub or roller coaster as requested but we can do something about issues raised such as improving the soap in the toilets.

As you can see, our MMT also now have their own logo, kindly designed by Mr Foss.

Coming Soon – Look out for the Mini Management Team's 'healthy eating poster competition'. Details will be sent out before half term.

Arts News...

Guitar Assembly

We were delighted to welcome Buster Gibbons into school last week to lead an assembly starring all our children who have guitar lessons in school.



We have a lot of talented musicians in school and the assembly proved to be a fantastic opportunity for the children to showcase their talents to the school and their parents. If anyone is interested in guitar lessons with Buster, please contact the school office.

In other musical news, we wish all our children taking part in the Young Voices choir at the O2 on Friday the very best of luck. The experience for the children is incredible and I know that they will have an amazing time.

We also have a musical theme to our assembly next week, when some classes will perform one of the songs from their class music lessons.

Staffing News

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Champion who is standing down from her gate guardian role at the end of next week. We thank Mrs Champion for all her efforts in keeping our children safe at the start of the day.

Miss Holt will be joining our Teaching Assistant team at the start of next term, working with children in Year 4 in the mornings and delivering

Breakfast Club

Godinton offers a thriving Breakfast Club where children are able to socialise over cereal and toast in the mornings from 7.50 a.m.

The cost of the session is £3.30 per day which is payable in advance via Parentmail. Parents will be sent reminders when their account requires topping up.

Spaces are available at Breakfast Club. For further information please contact Mrs Taylor in the school office or email: breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Can I take the opportunity to remind everyone that Breakfast Club opens at 7.50 a.m. and that parents must not leave children unattended on the school site before the club opens.

Disabled Access

We have a number of disabled parents and children who require special assistance on the school site. This includes support with parking in the form of access to the disabled parking bay in front of the nursery. This area is for disabled access only and **must not** be used by other parents. We are working with the nursery to ensure that the same message is communicated to their parents.

Only parents accessing the nursery or those with a blue disabled badge are allowed access to the school car park. Please can I ask that all other parents refrain from coming into the school car park.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability and Equality pages on the school website provide further details for disabled parents or parents with disabled children or those with Special educational needs, including the school's accessibility plan.



World Book Day

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day and to celebrate, the children will be engaging in book related activities

during the course of the day.

We will be asking children (and staff) to come to school dressed as a book character—and look forward to seeing the likes of Harry Potter or Mary Poppins coming into school. Year 3 will be able to get changed into their costumes when they come back to school after swimming.

The emphasis of the day will be to promote reading. All children are encouraged to read at home every day. We appreciate that this can be difficult to fit into busy home lives but the benefits of regular reading at home are enormous.

Further details will be sent out after half term.

School Uniform

The lost property box was bulging before Christmas with lost property items, including coats, all of which were un-named. Please help us to return property to its rightful owner by ensuring that it is named.

A few uniform reminders:

- children must wear plain black shoes to school. Girls may wear flat heeled black ankle boots.
- Grey or black trousers, skirts or pinafores should be worn. Children in Year R are permitted to wear jogging bottoms.
- Please save large colourful Jo-Jo bows for the weekends or after school. Whilst they look lovely they are often distracting, particular in assembly. Smaller bows in the school colours are fine.

Governor News

In order for parents to get to know more about our Governing Body, we will be including information from our Governors in each newsletter.



Message from the Chair of Governors: Steve King

Through this and future articles we will introduce you to the members of the

Governing Body, outline the role we play in the management of the school and share with you our successes.

The Governing Body is made up of 11 governors supported by a clerk who is not a governor. Governors provide strategic management supporting the work of the headteacher and staff. The role is often said to be that of 'critical friend' whereby governors challenge the schools results and actions with the view to ensuring the best possible education for the children at Godinton Primary School.

Here at Godinton we are very fortunate that we have a strong senior leadership team supported by good and dedicated staff, which makes it easy to fulfil our role. We aim to work in partnership with the headteacher and staff to provide a fully rounded education for the children in our school, enabling them to reach their full potential. The governor team share their wide range of skills while working with the senior leadership team to ensure the smooth running and future successes of the school and we take pride in the schools many achievements.

The Governing Body is made up of different types of governor although their role is the same despite the different categorisation. Our Governing Body is made up of the Headteacher, 1 x Staff Governor, 3 x Parent Governors and 6 x Member Appointed Governors.

Member Appointed Governors are individuals appointed by the Academies Members (The Godinton Primary Academy has a panel of 3 members who, amongst other duties, have the

ability to appoint up to 6 governors to the Governing Body). The appointments are made from people in the community who express an interest in the education of children at Godinton Primary School and whose skills meet the needs of the role. We will explain more about the other types of governor in future articles as we begin to introduce you to the Governors.

Getting to know our Governors

Governor Profiles

Steve King (Chair of Governors)

Steve first became a governor at the school in January 2001 and has been Chair of Governors since May 2005 and is currently a Member Appointed Governor. Steve has provided the following detail about himself :

I have recently retired having completed 40 years in the civil service, most recently working for the Home Office as a budget manager.

I was keen to become a governor at Godinton to enable me to put my skills to good use in support of the school in recognition of all they were doing for my children. By 2005 my children had left the school but its continued advances made me want to stay and share in its future successes. My experience in financial management, property management and health & safety assist me in my governor role and in leading the schools team of Governors.

As Chair of Governors I have a number of responsibilities in addition to the usual governor role including chairing meetings and taking the lead for health & safety. I also have joint lead responsibility for safeguarding and finance.

I am married with two grown up children who both attended the school and I have lived on the Godinton Park estate since 1988. My spare time activities include gardening, woodworking and, due to advancing years, long naps in front of the television.

Other News...

- Please could we ask that parents of children in Year R and Year 1 do not bring large school bags into school. I know that some of the children were given lovely rucksacks for Christmas but these do take up space in the cloakroom and there simply isn't enough room. A book bag would be perfectly adequate.
- The attendance of children at Godinton is generally good with parents taking a very common sense approach as to when they must bring their child into school and when they need to keep them at home due to illness. As the season of coughs, colds and tummy bugs continues, 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.



Sports Report

Our football teams have been very busy over the past two weeks with a series of matches taking place. Our players have put together some match reports...

On Monday 29th of January, Godinton Primary School girls' football team played a match against Beaver Green girls' football team. Narin Y, Godinton's team captain led us to a victory! Ruby Ades scored a smashing hatrick, Grace Staples scored two brilliant goals, Elena K-T scored screamer in the bottom corner in the first minute of the match and our captain scored a goal too . We had a very strong team which paid off a lot. We hope we will win other games in the future. We also give thanks to all the people that came to watch. Team: Narin Y, Aimee M, Ruby A, Elena K-T, Grace S, Rhiannon P, Ameerah K-C and Katie S. **Written by Aimee M & Narin Y**

On Wednesday 24th of January our league team played their first league match at St Mary's School. We started in horrible conditions but just before half time Oliver scored a cracking goal soaring into the top corner putting us 1-0 up. Shortly after the second half started Joshua O'B scored a fabulous goal from just in front of the half way line getting past the keeper and putting us 2 up. Finally Archie scored an awesome solo goal weaving past the defenders and slotting the ball into corner. 3-0. Unfortunately for us we might have scored a lot more if we didn't hit the post about 10 times but still couldn't get another goal. Hopefully we will carry on our winning streak and will win the league. We thank Mrs Ades and Mrs Atkins for arranging the match and managing us. We also thank the parents for standing in the horrid weather. Finally we thank the team for participating in the match which consisted of: Joshua Cleaver (captain), Samuel Storey (goalkeeper), Rhys T, Liam W, Archie D, Josh O'B, Tom B, and Oliver W.

Godinton football team played Beaver Green last week and won 3-2. James S scored the opening goal from a penalty putting Godinton 1-0 up. Not long after that Beaver Green scored a goal making the score 1-1. We had a half time break, when we came back on the pitch Beaver Green went 2-1 up. Liam B made some brilliant saves and with only 5 minutes left to go James scored a goal then about 1 minute later went on to score another goal to complete his hat-trick. We thank Mrs Ades & Mrs Atkins for arranging the match. Our team was: James S (captain), Harry W, Liam B, Jenson R, Owen G, Oscar G, George B **Written by James S & Liam B**

Congratulations also go to all the Year 1 children who took part in the Cricket Tournament at the North School last week. The children took part in a series of matches against other local schools and were supported by 2 of our Upper School Sports Captains. The team work between the children was exceptional and they were a credit to the school.