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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone for all your patience and cooperation with the snowy weather this week. We understand the disruption it causes to everyone when the weather is bad and the uncertainty it brings as to whether school will be open or not.

We will always try to keep the school open for as long as we can and decision to close will only be made if the site or access to the site is hazardous or if we have insufficient staff able to attend school and supervise the children.

With further unpleasant weather forecast this week, please can we remind parents of the snowy weather arrangements. Parents will be notified via ParentMail, as soon as possible, as to any full closure of the school or if the school will be closed to certain classes or year groups. An alert will also be put on the KCC Closures Website which can be found at www.kentclosures.co.uk. Parents can also sign up for an SMS/Email alerts on the Kent Closures website; this service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if our school is closed. This alert will trigger announcements on local radio stations (KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM) as well. The school website will also be updated with any announcements.

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat and suitable footwear. The children will be expected to wear their coats at playtime. In the event of a good downfall of snow, providing it is safe to do so, we will allow the children the opportunity to play on the school field as long as they have wellington boots to wear.



Young Voices



It was a privilege to be able to accompany the school choir to the Young Voices event at the O2 at the start of the month.

This is the third time we have attended the event and it has always proved to be an amazing experience for the children.

Under the guidance of Mrs Fagg and Mrs Kelleher, our children had been busy learning a variety of songs over the past 4 months which ranged from 1970s cartoon theme tunes to a Stevie Wonder medley. They joined 7,500 other children from the south east at the O2 for a spectacular performance to a packed stadium.

As always, our children were impeccably well behaved and represented our school admirably. I am sure that the experience is something they will never forget.

We will be joining in with another musical event in the summer as well. In collaboration with 7 other Ashford schools, 20 of our children will be forming a CATS (Central Ashford Town Schools) choir. Each of the schools involved will work with choral tutor, Josh Cadman from 'Sing Academy' to practice a selection of songs in two workshops this term. All the schools will then join together for a performance to parents at St Mary's church in Ashford in the summer.



A28 Road Widening

I am sure that parents will be aware of the A28 Chart Road improvement scheme. This scheme will see the existing stretch of the A28 Chart Road between the 'Tank' and 'Matalan' roundabouts widened into 2 lanes each way. Work started this month with tree clearance and the project is expected to continue until the autumn of 2019

It is unclear what disruption this will cause to access to the Godinton Park estate but parents are advised to keep up to date with the development of the project and to allow additional time for their journeys to school if they are coming into the estate in the morning or at pick up once widening work has commenced.

Further details of the road widening scheme can be found at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/road-projects/planned-road-projects/a28-chart-road-improvement-scheme>

Tesco—'Bags of Help'

We are delighted that our garden project has received a donation of £2,000 thanks to the Tesco 'Bags of Help' project. You may remember that before Christmas we were asking parents to keep an eye out for the token collections at the front of the Ashford Tesco stores as our school's project was included in the December fundraising.

Thank you to everyone who allocated their tokens to the school—£2,000 is a fantastic achievement and one that will be put to good use by Mrs McGoldrick, Mrs Paggett and their team of children and parent helpers.

SEN Coffee Shop

Our coffee shop for parents with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will next take place on Monday 5th March. Please meet at the school office at 9.00 for a coffee and a chat. Mrs Stein our Assistant Head for Inclusion will be attending.

School Dinners

We have been very proud of our Year R children recently as they are now collecting their own lunches at the serving hatch, rather than having their meals brought to their tables by the midday supervisors. The children are not only feeling very grown up but it also enables them to see the food on offer more clearly and to engage with Jo and her team in the kitchen. The Year R children will be using flight trays for their food in order to minimise spillages as the children carry their trays from the hatch to their tables but will have plates on trays when they move into Year 1.

We now have more children than ever having school dinners with the kitchen serving 260 meals on popular days. We are very happy with the quality of the meals and Jo and her team have worked hard to ensure that meals are served hot. Children are regularly reminded that they should not change their minds about their meal choices once they have ordered in the morning, in order to ensure that there are adequate portions for everyone.

As soon as we are able to clear storage space, we will be receiving our salad bar which will be available for children from Year 2 to 6. Salad pots will still be available for the younger children.



sQuid

Please can we ask that those parents who pay for school dinners, keep their sQuid accounts in credit and do not run into arrears. Parents will be notified by Independent Catering when accounts are in debt and children will not be able to have further school meals until the debt has been settled. We still have some small arrears of £2.20 / £4.40 showing on accounts and would be grateful if these outstanding payments could be settled as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a new online government service to help parents to pay for childcare. For every £8 a parent pays into their Childcare Account, HM Government will add an extra £2 to their Childcare Account. Parents can then use that money to pay for childcare.

We have registered Godinton Primary School as a provider, so any of you wishing to benefit from this service can do so to pay for breakfast club fees. You will need to register using the online service and select us as your childcare provider, you will then be able to make payments directly to our bank account from your childcare account. It will be imperative that you provide us with your reference number once you've signed up, or we will be unable to identify which payments relate to which child.

You can find out more information by visiting www.childcare-support.taxservice.gov.uk and checking your eligibility to sign up to the service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Claire Williams at:

financemanager@godinton.kent.sch.uk who will do her very best to help you.

FLO Update

Tracey Jones, our Family Liaison Officer, will unfortunately be off work for the rest of this term. Although she is desperate to return to work, and feeling much better, Tracey is still undergoing tests to diagnose the issues she has been experiencing. Until she has a treatment plan in place she is still being advised to rest. I have sent everyone's best wishes to Tracey and she is immensely grateful for all the messages and cards that she has received.

In Tracey's absence, coffee shop will continue to run on Wednesday mornings as of next week (7th March). Please come along for a cup of tea and a chat with other parents between 9.00 and 10.00.

Staffing News

Miss Mason will be replacing Mrs Champion as one of our gate guardians. Miss Mason is already known to the children as a new addition to our team of midday supervisors. Miss Mason will supervise the Springwood Drive gate and Mrs Williams will move to supervise the Chimney's footpath gate.

PTFA news

Mother's Day Shop...

Thank—you to everyone for your generous donations to the PTFA's Mother's Day present shop. Don't forget that if your child would like to go 'shopping' in the shop on Wednesday 7th March they must bring in their £1 by this Friday, March 2nd.

In order to ensure that we have everything we need for all the children who wish to take part, any money brought in after this date will not be accepted.

Disco...

The children's disco is due to take place on Friday 9th March. If any parents are able to help out at this event, please see Mrs Ellis or leave your contact details at the office.

Change of Date...

Please note that the date of the non-uniform day to bring in an Easter egg for the PTFA Easter Bingo has changed to Friday 16th March.

Details about the Easter bingo will be sent out this week. It's always a very popular event so make sure you grab your tickets as soon as you can.

Talent Show...

Plans are under way for this year's Talent Show. Watch this space!

Miss Rickett's Mosaic



Next month, we will be welcoming mosaic artist, Oliver Budd into School to work with some of our children on the memorial mosaic for Miss Ricketts. We have taken ideas from the children and staff and created a design which we feel represents what Miss Ricketts meant to the children at Godinton. We are looking forward to proudly displaying this at the front of the school in the summer.

Creative Homework

Well done to all the children who took part in our most recent 'Creative Homework'. The theme of 'Achievements' fired imaginations and resulted in some stunning pieces of work. After presenting their homework to their classes on Monday, one child from each class has been selected to show their homework at a special tea party with Miss Talbot. You can see some of the Year 1 homework below. Well done everyone.



Governor News

Please see our latest update about the Governors' involvement at Godinton Primary School.



Message from the Chair of Governors: Steve King A Governor's Role in Safeguarding

Governors undertake many tasks but perhaps the most important is our strategic and managerial responsibility regarding Safeguarding. We feel that by ensuring our children feel safe we are putting them in the best place to learn effectively and achieve the best outcomes.

Safeguarding includes ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances allowing the provision of safe and effective care. To achieve this, our responsibilities as a school are to identify, and take action against, potential abuse or neglect of a child and to ensure the school environment is a safe place in which to learn.

All staff and governors have a part to play in Safeguarding but certain named individuals have a specific role in the process as follows :

Designated Safeguarding Lead (Jill Talbot) – responsible for leading on safeguarding issues including receiving details of concerns and liaising with outside agencies to assist in resolving identified issues.

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Sarah Stein and Tracy Jones) – responsible for supporting the Designated Safeguarding Lead and providing cover for them in their absence.

Governors with Lead Responsibility for Safeguarding (Steve King and Simone Williams-King) – responsible for monitoring adherence to Safeguarding legislation and guidelines.

Recently, Steve and Simone met with Jill Talbot for a “Safeguarding Walk” which concentrated on the following :

- A review of Safeguarding Procedures
- The Single Central Record – this is a record of recruitment and vetting checks.
- Staff Training
- Bullying and Racial Incidents

The report produced after the meeting confirmed that Safeguarding in Godinton is being well managed, up to date procedures are being followed and clear records are being maintained. The Governors were also pleased to note that there were few recorded allegations of bullying both of which received appropriate action and were quickly resolved.

If as a parent / carer you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact Jill Talbot.

If you would like more detail on our approach to Safeguarding please refer to our Safeguarding Policy which can be found on the school website.

Getting to know our Governors

Governor Profiles

Ivor Duffy (Vice Chair of Governors)



As promised in our last article we would like to introduce you to another of our governors, this time our Vice Chair of Governors, Ivor Duffy.

Ivor was appointed as a parent governor in 2013 and currently has a child at Godinton in Year 5. He has had two periods as vice chair, the latest since September 2017.

Ivor works for NHS England in Kent, Surrey and Sussex and previous to that he was the Chief Finance Officer of Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group. Professionally Ivor is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and brings strong financial rigour and challenge to the Governing Body and other School committees.

Ivor moved to Kent in 1992 and following university he trained as an accountant in the NHS and has worked in a number of health organisations in Kent Surrey and Sussex.

He is married with three children, and enjoys walking, cycling and spending time in the countryside and local National Trust Properties with his family. He coaches the under 7s at Ashford Rugby Club (who are always keen on new members) and if time allows the occasional game of golf.

Other News...

- Don't forget that Thursday 1st March is World Book Day where children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Look out for our World Day Book Challenge that the children will be bringing home from school and can complete at home over the next few months.
- Next week (Monday 5th March), children from Years 2–6 will be enjoying some cookery workshops as part of the Roots to Food campaign which encourages children to develop an interest in cooking and where food comes from.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Sports Relief Week

During the week commencing Monday 19th March, we will be supporting **Sport Relief** through a series of sports related activities in school. Our Sports Leaders are busy planning activities for the week which will include a sponsored 'Walk a Mile' event to raise money for both the charity and the school and a series of athletic challenges which children will complete during their PE sessions. We are also asking that on Friday 23rd March, the children come to school in wild and wacky sportswear—maybe a favourite football shirt, dressed as a famous sports star or retro sportswear—perhaps a 1980s shell suit complete with leg-warmers; the choice is yours! Magpies class have their assembly during this week and will be holding their own fundraising activities for the charity too.

The theme of this year's Sport Relief is—Whatever Moves You! More details can be found on the Sport Relief website: www.sportrelief.com

Family Sports Events

We are interested in the possibility to organising some **family** events to Wimbledon or the Women's FA Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday 5th May. Group bookings attract significant discounts with tickets for the Women's Cup Final for example, coming in at £7.50 for adults with children going free. We would then arrange coach transport too. In order for us to consider whether this is possible, please express your interest by completing and returning the slip below to school by Friday 9th March. We will then investigate possibilities and let parents know.

Family Sports Events—Register of Interest

Please indicate the number of tickets you may be interested in. This is only an expression of interest at this stage.

I am interested in family tickets and transport to the Women's Cup Final (Saturday 5th May) ☐

Wimbledon (Monday 2nd—Sunday 15th July) ☐

Name of Child: _____ Child's Class: _____