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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

It was a real pleasure to see all the exciting activities taking place in school earlier this month to celebrate World Book Day. Aside from fantastic dressing up costumes, one of the highlights was the opportunity that our Year 6 children were given, to read to our Reception children. The older children took picture books down into the younger classes and spent time sharing these stories with the children. Our Year 6 children were kind, patient and thoughtful ensuring that the children they were working with were engaged in the story and giving them the opportunity to join in as well. Our Year 6 children are excellent buddies to our younger children – supporting them in the playground with play activities and at events such as our Wild and Wacky Walk a Mile event in which they walked round the course together. Seeing our younger and older children working so collaboratively with each other makes me immensely proud.

I hope that inspired by classroom activities on World Book Day, lots of children will want to join in with our World Book Day challenge. The idea is to complete as many of the 50 tasks as possible which are all designed to encourage good reading habits and to discover new books and authors. Reading regularly at home is a key requirement in developing children's reading skills and we would encourage everyone to try and complete some of the challenges. If anyone needs another copy of the challenge, please pick one up from the school office.



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Ofsted

Our anticipated Ofsted inspection took place on Tuesday. This was a one day inspection with just one inspector who spent a very busy day analysing school assessment and test results, looking at the quality of work in books, observing lessons and talking to staff, pupils and parents. The outcome of the inspection is confidential at this stage but will be available to parents at some point after Easter once the report has been produced and has been through the process of quality assurance. Thank you to everyone for all your kind messages of support and to those of you who contributed to the parental feedback questionnaires.

Peer Review

Last week, our school participated in a Peer Review which enabled us to review our school practices and standards through observation and dialogue with Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers from other local schools. This has been arranged through the Ashford Teaching Alliance and allows participating schools the opportunity to validate their own judgements on standards and to share good practice with local colleagues. We were joined for a day by Headteachers and Deputies from Lady Joanna Primary School in Wye, Bethersden Primary School and Goat Lees Primary School who watched lessons, looked at books, talked to staff and children and visited classrooms. We received very positive feedback from the visit including praise for the quality of work and progression evident in the children's books, the behaviour of the children and the positive atmosphere of the school, concluding that Godinton is a good school. I am very much looking forward to visiting our colleagues in their schools over the next few months and completing their Peer Reviews. We can always gain a lot by thinking outwardly and sharing good practice with others so have very much welcomed this opportunity.

Staffing News

After twelve years at Godinton, Mrs Sharon Reed has decided to move onto pastures new. Mrs Reed has been a Midday Supervisor and a leader at Breakfast Club as well as helping out at numerous PTFA events over the years. Mrs Reed is going to pursue an interest in working with autistic children through a local charity and is taking on a position at Castle Hill School working in the nursery provision with a profoundly deaf child. We wish her all the very best of luck with her new endeavours and thank her for everything that she has done for our school.

Beanstalk Readers

For the last ten years we have worked in partnership with the Beanstalk Reading Charity who provide trained reading volunteers for schools. The volunteers work with individual children to provide targeted reading support to enhance children's progress in reading. Mr Mike Owen has been a Beanstalk volunteer at Godinton for ten years and his long service to the charity was recognised in a recent presentation. We would like to add our thanks to Mr Owen for all the support he has given to Godinton pupils over the years.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone for all their support to the school during the snowy weather and for the kind messages and gifts received by the staff. Our staff did an amazing job in enabling us to keep the school open. Let's hope that we have seen the last of the Beast from the East and that the spring sunshine will soon be upon us especially over the Easter holiday. I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful break.

Wildlife Garden

After starting our spring tidy up of the wildlife garden last Saturday, Mrs McGoldrick and Mrs Paggett are planning to restart Gardening Club next term. Please watch out for further details when we come back to school after Easter.

We are very grateful to the families who have become involved in the development of the garden over the past year, volunteering to clear, plant and shape this lovely outdoor space. We are always keen to get other people involved and if you would like to join in with the gardening experience at Godinton on one of our weekend sessions please leave your details at the school office so that we can make sure we include you.

Unfortunately we have recently had some unwelcome teenage visitors in the garden who have littered and caused some minor vandalism. We would kindly ask our neighbours to support us by being vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity to the police. The PCSO will be completing patrols of the school site at weekend and holidays and will take action if trespassers are spotted.

Roots to Food

We were delighted to welcome the Roots to Food Roadshow to school at the start of the month. The immersive and hands-on food workshops delivered in the school hall, encourage children to develop an interest and understanding of healthy and nutritious meals. Working in groups, the children demonstrated how to construct, from scratch, a balanced and nutritional dish.



Class Assemblies



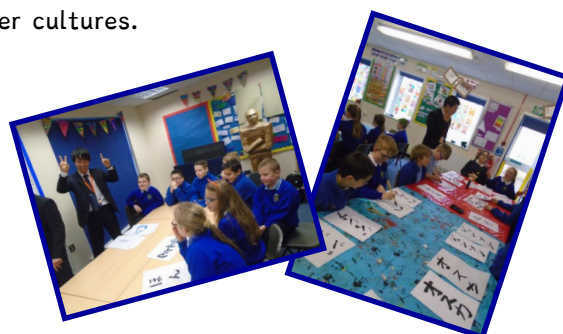
We have enjoyed some wonderful class assemblies this term and the children have very much enjoyed sharing their efforts with parents and grandparents. Ladybirds presented the story of Rama and Sita as part of their RE work on Hinduism, Dragonflies shared the myths and legends they had been working on in class and Magpies taught everyone

about the work of the Sport Relief charity.

We look forward to welcoming parents into school for more class assemblies next term: Kingfishers class assembly will on Friday 27th April, Cuckoos on Friday 4th May, Foxes on Friday 11th May and Otters on Friday 18th May. All assemblies will start at 2.40 and will finish at 3.00 allowing enough time for the children to get back to their classrooms and change ready for the end of the school day.

Japanese Student Visit

Our children were given a taste of what life is like in Japan after being visited by Japanese students from Chaucer College earlier this month. The students who are studying English at the college in Canterbury, led workshops which taught our children some Japanese vocabulary, how to write in Japanese and provided information about Japanese culture. Our partnership with Chaucer College has become an annual event and one which broadens our children's understanding and appreciation of other cultures.



PTFA News

Thank you to all the parents who helped out at our Mother's Day present shop earlier this month and to everyone who donated a gift. The children always enjoy selecting their presents and all the help received with wrapping the gifts made them extra special.

The Easter Bingo last Saturday also proved to be a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came along and took part and for all the generous donations of Easter eggs.

Money raised is currently supporting the development of our playground which is being led by our Mini Management Team. Exciting playground markings are being installed over the Easter break which we hope will revitalise playtimes.

I know that everyone will join me in offering our condolences to the Busbridge family after the sad loss of Tara Busbridge earlier this month. Tara was a very pro-active supporter of our PTFA, most recently in her role as Vice Chair, a position she held for the last two years. Tara always had an abundance of energy which she brought to PTFA events and will be a great loss to our school community.

Mosaic Making

Falcons and Kingfishers class had a fantastic time working with mosaic artist Oliver Budd on our memorial mosaic for Miss Ricketts. They were joined by Miss Ricketts' mum and sister who had travelled down from Leeds. The mosaic has been taken back to Oliver's workshop to finish but from the work undertaken so far the finished piece will be stunning. We look forward to its unveiling in the summer.



Year 4 Chilham Trip

Year 4 enjoyed a great day out in Chilham earlier this month, taking part in an offsite visit as part of their local history project in which they have been comparing the village to Ashford. The day included a town trail, a guided tour of the church and afternoon tea in the tea room. As always our children were very well behaved and benefitted immensely from being able to make real comparisons between the locations. The children in Year 4 will be ending their project by creating their own cafes in their classrooms which they will open up to parents. Nightingales café will be open after school on Thursday 19th April and Kingfishers on Friday 20th April.

Science Day



Everyone had great fun, participating in our Science Day activities last week. The emphasis was on engaging children in science through fun, hands-on activities, many of which they could recreate at home. Our school assembly focused on the dangers to the earth's oceans of plastic pollution—did you know that some plastics take 500 years to decompose? The day's events ranged from investigating rocket explosions to discovering what happens inside your intestines and making egg parachutes!

Governor News

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



Message from the Chair of Governors: Steve King

Governor Responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010

As I am sure you can imagine, legislation under the Equality Act 2010 has a large impact on school life, especially in ensuring every child has the same teaching and learning opportunities. As Governors, we are responsible for ensuring the school meets the requirements of the Act. We also have to ensure that, when we are making decisions or developing policies, we have due regard to eliminating conduct that is prohibited by the Act (i.e. Discrimination), ensuring equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

As a school we have to pay particular attention to the outcomes of groups of learners covered by the Act, including children with disabilities and additional educational needs, children who are in care or for whom English is an additional language and many more with different characteristics. As part of the Governor role we have to consider the needs of all groups of learners and ensure that they have access to the same teaching and learning opportunities as those without the characteristics covered by the Act.

Some years ago we set up a working group, now known as the Equality Working Group, which includes Assistant Headteacher, Sarah Stein and Chair of Governors, Steve King supported by a selection of Governors and parents. The Group helps to meet some of the requirements of the Act with its main task being the creation and annual review of the schools Accessibility Plan. At a recent meeting the Group considered some Equality Objectives for the school which will be published on the Equality page on the school website in April. The Accessibility Plan and other equality information can be found on the school website.

With all the school has in place and the actions taken by our Governors I am confident that we fully meet the needs of the Act and therefore ensure that all our children are afforded the same opportunities.

Governor Recruitment

We currently have 3 'Member Appointed Governor' vacancies and would like to enlist your help in filling them. 'Member Appointed Governors' are individuals from the community, who are not related to children in the school but who have skills needed by the Governing Body. We are currently keen to attract people with Legal, Finance, HR or Health & Safety skills.

If you know of anybody who has any of the desired skills and would be interested in joining the Governing Body or finding out about the role please ask them to contact Steve King by e-mail - chair@godinton.kent.sch.uk.

Getting to know our Governors

Governor Profiles

Simone Williams-King (Safeguarding Governor)

Simone first became a governor at the school in December 2014 and has provided the following detail about herself :



I decided to become a school Governor to utilise my skills for the benefit of our children's education. My background is in Human Resources having spent 20 years working for a large financial LLP as Human Resources Manager in a variety of different roles from mainstream HR to HR Business Processes and Relationship Management. Whilst taking time out to look after my children (now 14 and 9), I felt that I could provide support in these areas to Godinton Primary School. Since Jan 2015 I have taken on roles which include Training and Development (of Governors), Data Analysis, Panel Reviews and Safeguarding in addition to the key Governor responsibilities. I am passionate in helping the school to provide the quality of education we expect for our children. I am also Governor for Highworth Grammar School playing an active role on their Staffing and Management Committee. More recently I have returned to work in a Primary in Medway which caters for a high number of SEN children within a mainstream school, working within the School Office. I work closely with their Senior Leadership team to ensure the school operates effectively with a focus on HR.

Other News...

- Unfortunately we had insufficient response to the proposed family days out to the Women's FA Cup Final and to Wimbledon to make a trip viable. We will canvas opinion again next year and may be able to drum up sufficient interest to enable a trip to go ahead.
- Please can we take the opportunity to remind you that the school will have an INSET day in TERM 6 on **Monday 18th June** and school will therefore be closed to pupils.
- Can I kindly remind parents that children are only permitted to wear plain black footwear to school.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Sports Relief Week

Thank you to everyone for all the fantastic efforts which have taken place over the past week to raise money for Sport Relief and to get everyone at Godinton moving. Thanks in particular must go to Miss Mills and Magpies class for all their fundraising efforts including a cake sale, Easter Egg raffle and staff v children volleyball match which the staff were very chuffed to have won! Their excellent efforts raised over £200. The Wild and Wacky Walk a Mile also proved a huge success with all children completing the challenge in a great array of fancy dress costumes. Thank you to all the children who have collected sponsors to raise money for the Sport Relief Charity or for our school. Money received in sponsorship for the school will go towards purchasing an Ipad for each year group which will be used to support learning in the classroom. Sponsor forms and collected sponsorship money should be returned to school by Friday 27th April. Thank you.



Sports Challenges

To get everyone at school moving last week, the children took part in a series of athletic challenges during their PE sessions, including a range of throwing and jumping activities!

High Five Congratulations

Congratulations to our High Five Teams who both won their first league match of the season.

