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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

The fantastic weather we have been having recently has meant that our summer programme of activities has run unhindered with so many outdoor events having taken place over the last few weeks.

Our sports day last week was a wonderful example of the great team spirit and comradery that exists between our children. The morning saw children competing in the flat and relay races, cheering on their teams and all trying their hardest to win valuable points for their houses. The afternoon allowed our children the opportunity to participate in a range of different activities designed to test their jumping, throwing, dribbling and shooting skills. The children worked together in mixed year group teams and one of the highlights for me was how well our older children looked after our younger children. They cheered them on, helped them find their way to each activity station and looked after them whilst they waited for their turn to have a go. They demonstrated how kind and thoughtful the children at Godinton are towards each other.

Of course there had to be a winning house. This year victory went to Walmer with Leeds the runners up. Congratulations to all the children who took part but in particular those in Walmer who just clinched the lead.



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Year 6 Activity Week

A highlight of the Year 6 calendar is the Activity Week held every year in the summer. This is an opportunity for the children to enjoy some fun and exciting activities with their friends before they all go their separate ways at the end of the year.

This year the children went on a day trip to Chessington as well as enjoying activities closer to home including cooking at Wagamamas, building dens and shelters as part of a Bushcraft survival day and enjoying a Caribbean themed day.

As always our children were very well behaved and represented our school extremely well.



Thanks must go to all our Year 6 team, staff at the school and volunteer helpers who have ensured that this was a week to remember for the children.

The school will say their goodbyes to our Year 6 children in a special assembly on Thursday 19th July. We look forward to welcoming Year 6 parents to the school for this event.



Year 1 Visit Godinton House



We are very fortunate to have forged such good links with Godinton House over the years and it is really wonderful to have such an amazing venue for school trips right on our door step.

Last week, Year 1 walked up to Godinton House through the fields at the back of the Godinton Park Estate and enjoyed a fantastic day exploring the house and grounds.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who accompanied this trip.

Godinton House is a great place to visit over the summer. Between the 21st July and the 12th August there will be a 'Sculpture in the Garden' exhibition and several outdoor theatre performances are also scheduled for the school holidays. Visit www.godintonhouse.co.uk for further details.

Residential Visits

Thank you to everyone who attended the information evening last week for the Kingswood residential visit 2019. If your child is currently in Year 4 and you are interested in a place for them on this 2 night residential trip in April 2019, please refer to the information provided via ParentMail by 6th July.

Some of our Year 4, 5 and 6 children will be journeying to France next week for a 3 night residential visit to Hardelot. We wish them for a fun packed trip and look forward to hearing how they got on.

Wildlife Garden

Congratulations to our school gardening club who have reached final of the Kent Life School Garden Competition. The competition is sponsored by Cooling's Garden Centre in Knockholt and Hadlow College. Our garden is looking sensational at the moment and is attracting more and more wildlife all the time. We will keep our fingers crossed for success in this competition.

Our green fingered children have also been helping to supply some salad items for the salad cart at lunchtimes. Before the end of term, we are also hoping to have some lettuces and runner beans which have been growing in Year 1's outdoor space.

Thanks go to Independent Catering who have donated vouchers with which we have purchased compost and seeds to enable the children to grow and harvest food that is then used in the kitchen.



Breaktime Snacks

Please can we take the opportunity to remind everyone that the children are only allowed fruit and vegetables for morning snack on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On a Friday they are able to bring an alternative healthy snack such as a cereal bar or dairy based snack. Crisps, chocolate bars and sandwiches are not permitted as break time snacks. Thank you.

World Book Day Reading Challenge

Thank you to all the children who took part in our World Book Day reading challenge. Over 70 children have taken part in the challenges set over the past couple of months. We are in the process of sorting out awards to all those who participated and will be presenting those before the end of term.

Well done everyone!



School Uniform

Please remember that uniform, book bags and PE bags with the school logo on can only be purchased online from www.kentschooluniform.com. Please ensure that if you require uniform for September, it is ordered in good time to allow for delivery.

Our school uniform supplier will be bringing his van to school on Monday 3rd September between 12 pm and 2pm so that any uniform purchased over the summer can be collected in person. Only plain black shoes or boots are permitted and large multi-coloured hair bows are not allowed. Thank you.

Collection After Clubs

We would like to remind parents that children should be collected out on the playground from after school clubs and that parents are not permitted to enter the school through classroom doors. Please can this reminder be shared with child minders or other adults who may be involved in the collection of children after school. Thank you.

PTFA News

Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to school on Saturday to support our PTFA's summer fair. With glorious weather and lots of activities to enjoy, it proved yet again to be a wonderful event which brings the whole of the local community together. We are extremely fortunate to have a PTFA who work so hard to support our school and thank them for all the hard work which went into the fair's success.

School Disco

The children's end of year discos will take place on Friday 6th July. The Disco for Years R to 2 runs from 4.30 to 5.30 and the Year 3 to 6 disco, from 6.00 to 7.30. Tickets can be purchased in advance after school all this week or are available on the door.

Year 1 Natural Artwork

Have a look at the amazing pictures and patterns that Year 1 have created out of natural materials. Our school grounds are such a wealth of resources at this time of year and artistic inspiration can be found all around.



Tracey Jones

Parents are reminded that they can come and say goodbye to our Family Liaison Officer at a special 'coffee shop' on Thursday 12th July from 2.00– 3.30 pm.

I know that many of you will want to pop along to thank Tracey for all the support she has provided for our families.

The school is currently in the process of recruiting a new FLO to start in September.

Miss Rickett's Mosaic

On the afternoon of Friday 13th July, the school will be revealing its mosaic tribute to Miss Ricketts. We are delighted that Sarah Toulson, Miss Rickett's mum will be joining us to unveil the artwork created by the children.

If any parents or ex-pupils taught by Miss Ricketts would like to join us for this event, they are very welcome to come along to the school at 2.30 pm.

Godinton's 40th Anniversary

Godinton Primary first opened its doors to pupils in September 1978 and to mark the school's 40th anniversary we will be having a celebration week when we return to school in September. Friday 7th September will be a dressing up day, on which children are invited to come into school in 1970s fashion.

We look forward to a week of special events to make this important event in the school's history.

INSET DAY

Please note that MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER is an INSET day and school is closed to pupils. The children return to school on Tuesday 4th.

Governor News

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



Message from the Chair of Governors: Steve King

Ofsted – Now the dust has settled

It has been a couple of months since we received our latest Ofsted judgement and so, as Governors, we have started to reflect on the report and think about our next steps. We were very pleased with the report which confirmed what we already knew – that we have a good school providing a safe environment for our children, supported by good teaching and strong leadership. It highlighted some things we could do better but we were already aware of these and taking action to address the issues. I hope you have had chance to read the report which I feel we can all be proud of.

The success of the school is largely down to the dedication and skills of the staff and leadership team but it also relies on support from governors and parents as well as the children's willingness to learn. At Godinton we have all of these elements in place which helped ensure the well-deserved Ofsted result.

Thank you for your support for the school.

In previous articles I have introduced you to some of the Governors on the Godinton Board but I thought it was time to cover their key role, that of the clerk. I, as Chair, along with my fellow Governors rely heavily on our clerk to keep us up to date with legislation and ensure that we fulfil our strategic role.

We are fortunate to have an experienced clerk who has a wealth of knowledge about all things relating to Governance. So much so, I feel it would be better for her to write something about herself and the role. But first, may I introduce Wendy Settle, Clerk to the Board of Governors.

Getting to know our Governors Governor Profiles

Wendy Settle (Clerk to the Governors)



I joined the school Governance Team before its conversion to an Academy. I am the only member of the Board that receives a wage, paid for by the school. This is something I take very seriously and why I spend a lot of time researching and keeping up to date with legislation. Gone are the days when a Clerk just took notes/minutes of what was said during meetings.

Saying that, minutes are an important part of my role; attending Trustee, Strategy Group and Full Governing Board meetings on a regular basis. I can also be called to officiate for Panel Hearings. Whatever the meeting, documents need to be circulated suitably in advance so Governors can review them and prepare their strategic questions.

A Clerk is there to provide advice on legal, constitutional and procedural matters, keeping a check so that statutory duties are met and ensuring the focus remains strategic. Maintaining records to meet relevant laws is also within my remit which supports the school management team in meeting their obligations.

During my career as a Clerk I have been involved with a total of 18 Primary Schools and enjoyed it immensely. My current portfolio includes 7 Primary and 1 Special School but Godinton is my only Academy.

My history includes teaching, coaching and mentoring young adults. I spent many years leading an Apprenticeship Programme; supporting students in achieving qualifications in various Engineering disciplines.

I enjoy needlecraft; particularly making things for my two young granddaughters. My husband, of 45 years, and I spend many of the school holidays at our little stone cottage in Normandy, France.

Other News...

- We have been delighted to welcome our 2018 reception children into school for their story time sessions over the past few weeks. We have enjoyed starting to get to know the children and families new to the school. If you have a child starting school in September 2019, please be mindful that your sibling link with the school will be broken if you **move house more than 2 miles away from the school**. Please see the school's admissions policy for further details. This is available on the school website
- We are delighted that Mrs Judith Kelleher is on the mend after her recent operation. She has a short course of radiotherapy to undergo before we see her back in school in September. We all wish her well.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Netball Tournament

We were delighted to have taken part in a inter-school netball tournament last week involving other local Ashford schools (Beaver Green, Willesborough Juniors and St Teresa's) and a visiting school from Gwenvo in Wales. Each school entered an A and B team who competed against the other schools in their group.

We are pleased to announce that Godinton were the winners in Group A beating St Teresa's on goal difference and that Godinton also won in Group B beating Gwenvo Primary into second place.

Congratulations to everyone involved—not just on their success but also on the excellent hospitality shown to our visitors. Well done.



Premier Sports

We have been delighted to have worked with the team from Premier Sports this year to enhance our school PE Curriculum and to engage the children in more physical activity at playtime. Sam Miller from Premier Sports has been working in classes to support staff in delivering both indoor and outdoor PE sessions and has been in school on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes setting up activities on the playground and field for children to join in with. We hope to continue our partnership with Premier Sports next year and thank them for the excellent way in which they have enhanced PE this year.