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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

This week our **STAR** week has focused on staying 'Street Smart' and has explored the children's understanding of road safety. The children enjoyed a variety of activities which included some year groups making their own road safety videos and posters and an assembly led by the Road Safety team at KCC and Whizzhog the road safety mascot.

Year 6 have embarked on their Transition Cycle rides this week. In preparation for their move to secondary school, some of the children have been route planning and using local cycle paths in the Ashford area with instructors from Cycle Circle, who deliver our Bikeability training. They have cycled as far as the station, Outlet and Stour Centre and are feeling far more confident about cycling to destinations further afield which they may have to do when they move onto secondary school in September. Others in the year group continued to develop their cycle skills on the playground and estate roads. Our cycling ventures have proved very successful this year and will be something we will consider using Sports Premium Funding for again next academic year.

We would ask for parental cooperation in ensuring that we model good road safety behaviour to the children by using the crossing patrol in Loudon Way and by parking and driving appropriately on the estate. We have some recent incidents where hazardous driving and parking has posed a risk to the children. We all have a part to play in ensuring their safety.

I hope that everyone enjoys a very happy and safe half term break.



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Class News...

Year 4 Visit to Tenterden Railway



Last week our Year 4 children enjoyed a fantastic visit to Tenterden Railway as part of their Learning Adventure: 'I'm an Evacuee—Get Me Out of Here.' The visit focused on the experience of children during World War Two, who were evacuated away from their families, often by train. The children dressed up, travelled on the steam train and had the opportunity to handle and explore artefacts from the period. We received very positive feedback from the railway staff regarding the behaviour of our children which is so often the case when our children represent the school in this type of activity. Well done everyone.



Year 2 – Planting

We're looking forward to seeing how well Year 2's planting efforts turn out when we return to school after the break. The children have been investigating how things grow in a variety of conditions.



Wildlife Garden

Our Garden Club have been busy tending to our wildlife garden which has sprung to life in recent months. The garden is proving a wonderful asset to the school with many year groups using it to enhance their Learning Adventures. If any parents are able to volunteer to help out in the garden (with clearing or planting) for a couple of hours one weekend, please see Mrs McGoldrick.



Year 3 Shadow Puppets

Year 3 having been learning about 'light' and as part of this topic, they have been exploring how shadows are created. Have a look at some of their fantastic shadow puppets.



SATS

I am immensely proud of all our Year 2 and Year 6 children for the excellent manner in which they have responded to their SATs tests over the course of the month. Our staff have worked exceptionally hard to put the children at ease and to ensure that the message the children hear is that all we ask is that they try their best. Our children were well prepared for the tests and have all given them their best shot—I hope that, regardless of outcomes, they all feel very proud of themselves too. Year 6 enjoyed a trip to the Picture House cinema to celebrate the end of their tests.

Congratulations and Success...

House Point Gold Badge Winners

Congratulations to Abby and Jenson in Year 2 and Claudia in Year 4 who are our first gold House Point badge winners of 2019. With so many other children heading towards gold, I know that we will have a fair number enjoying the gold badge reward which will take place during the final STAR week of this academic year.

Staff News..

Baby News

Congratulations to Miss Brooker and her partner, on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby Ella earlier this month. Miss Brooker brought Ella into school to meet the staff yesterday and she'll be back before the end of term to introduce her to the children. I know Nightingales class are looking forward to meeting her.

Goodbye Mrs Dinley

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to our IT and HR Manager Mrs Dinley at the end of this week. Mrs



Dinley has worked at Godinton for 16 years and has been instrumental in leading IT developments across the school and in recent years managing all aspects of personnel in the school. I'd like to take the opportunity of thanking Mrs Dinley for everything that she has done for the school and for her hard work and professionalism. We wish her well for the future and hope that she enjoys putting her feet up over the summer.

Charity News

World Wildlife Fund

Congratulations To William in Year 6 for all his endeavours in raising funds for the World Wildlife Fund in order to gain his next Scout badge. We will let you know how much he has



raised next month. Thank you to everyone for all your donations and for the efforts taken in dressing up.

It would be impossible to accommodate all the children's ideas for fundraising but Mrs Stein, who coordinates all our charity fundraising across the school will look at including one pupil led event during the academic year.

Save Your Crisp Packets

Next term we will be supporting local company Brakes with their 'Meals and More' charity—a fundraising campaign started by Brakes and supported nationally by many other food businesses which works towards addressing childhood hunger and poverty.

We would ask for your help in collecting empty crisp packets of any shape and size. PepsiCo will then make a generous contribution to the charity in return for the crisp packets which will be washed, shredded and turned into plastic pellets and used in the manufacturing of a variety of everyday items.

There will be a collection point in the school hall after half term so please save your crisp packets and pop them into the collection box. The Mini Management Team and Lily-Mae in Year 3 who initiated the idea will assist in the collecting and sorting. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Other News and Reminders...

Reception

It is hard to believe that our Reception children are almost coming to the end of their first year at Godinton. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow over the past year and to see how ready there are to start Year 1 in September. Parents will be shortly informed as to the Year 1 class their child will be placed in. Children will be mixed and put into two new class groups. Parents will also be informed of their child's new House team.



Next term, we will be starting the transition process for all our September 2019 Reception starters. Parents are reminded that at the Information Evening on Monday 10th June they will be given further details of these arrangements and will receive details of their child's new class and start date. We look forward to seeing parents at 6.30pm.

If your child is due to start school in September next year, an information evening for prospective parents will be held in November. Please remember that your sibling link with the school will be broken, as far as the admission process goes, if you have moved more than 2 miles away from the school since your last child started at Godinton. This may have a bearing on a place being offered to you in the event that the school is oversubscribed. Please see Mrs Smith in the school office if you have any queries.

Sun Cream and Sun Hats

I hope that when we return from half term we will see more of the lovely sunshine that we have had this week. Can I therefore take the opportunity to remind you of the need to apply sun cream before the children come to school, that they bring a hat on very hot days and that they have their water bottle in school. Thank you.

Photographs

The children all smiled nicely for their class photographs yesterday. Details of how a copy of these photos can be purchased will be sent out in due course.

Over the coming months, we will be asking all parents to update the photographic permissions for their child. There are an increasing number of occasions when it would be beneficial to take an image of a child for use in school (e.g. for celebration displays, medical emergency boards etc.) and we would like to update our database accordingly. When the photographic permission slip comes out to you, please return it to the school office promptly in order for our records to be up to date for September.

Creative Homework

Over the half term holiday why not think about taking part in this term's Creative Homework challenge. Details have been sent home today with ideas as to what you might like to do on the theme of 'Round the World'.

One child from each class will be chosen to join me for a tea party after half term to celebrate their efforts. Those children who have still to have their tea party with Mrs Stein following on from the last Creative Homework will do so after half term.

Governor News

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



Message from the Chair of Governors: Steve King

Collaborative Working

Faced with ever increasing targets and changes in legislation

Governors, and the school as a whole, have to explore innovative ways to ensure the school continues to deliver on its teaching and learning objectives. To assist in this we have developed links with other schools enabling us to support each other and share best practice.

Our main link with Governors from other schools is through termly meetings of Chairs of Governors from central Ashford town schools (CATS). There are around 15 schools, including one secondary school, within CATS which allows wide discussion on topics affecting us all. Topics in recent meetings have included Governor training and setting up joint panels to consider parental complaints. We are currently considering Governor exchanges to promote sharing of best practice in governance.

Termly Governor briefing sessions run by KCC provide Governors from schools across Kent with training and guidance on new procedures and legislative changes ensuring a common approach to governance matters. They also allow Governors to discuss common concerns and share solutions. The most recent session included discussion about school budgets which are becoming increasingly tight. Unfortunately there were no solutions for improving the level of funding but there was much debate producing sound ideas for making the most of available funds.

The Headteachers within CATS meet regularly to share current challenges and successes. This enables them to support each other in problem

areas and share best practice. Collaboration between school staff within CATS also takes place in various forms and has included shared moderation of books which tests teacher assessments of their pupils. The most recent moderation exercise confirmed our teachers judgements to be sound.

We have also joined with Goat Lees and Lady Joanna schools for peer reviews. The reviews involve each school receiving a visit from leaders from the other schools to carry out an exercise similar to an Ofsted inspection looking at particular elements of teaching and learning. The reviews have helped each school confirm areas for improvement and provide ideas on ways to enhance successes.

Governor Elections

Please remember that ballot papers for the election of a parent governor to our Governing Body must be returned to school by 4.00 pm on Friday 7th June.

Thank you to Mr Wellard and Mr Chi for putting themselves forward for election. Please refer to the ballot paper for profiles of both parents.

School Policies

The following policies will be updated on the school website in term 6:

Special Educational Needs, Educational Visits, Curriculum, Food Allergies, Food and Drink, Extra Curricular Activities, Collective Worship.

The school website contains key school policies which parents may find useful.

Other News and Reminders...

- Year 6 parents are invited to a meeting on Tuesday 4th June to discuss the relationship lessons that will take place in Year 6 next month. There is also an opportunity to watch the video used with the children. Details have been sent to parents this week in labelled envelopes.
- The PTFA are asking for helpers for class stalls at the Summer Fayre on Saturday 22nd June. If you can spare an hour of time we would be very grateful for help on the day. The fayre will run from 1pm to 4pm on the school field. A non uniform day will be held on Friday 7th June in return for bringing in items for the summer fayre. A letter has been sent out requesting key items—half term would be a great opportunity to have a clear out and to sort out some bags of unwanted items that we could use for the fayre.
- Don't forget that in October this year we will have a two week break in October. All term dates are available on the school website.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Year 4 Tennis

At the start of the month, a team of four children from Year 4 took part in a local tennis tournament. Miss Jones who accompanied the group was full of praise for the great sportsmanship that the children demonstrated and the determination they showed within every game. There were no official scores at the event, the emphasis was on participation and having a go. All the children who participated received a certificate. Congratulations to Ryan, Zach, Lilia and Dania for representing our school so well.



High Five



Congratulations also go to our High Five Team who competed last Saturday in a local tournament. Our B team came 8th and the A team, 3rd. The children played brilliantly and were a credit to the school. The team have also played their first league matches of the season. They lost one match and one the other. There is still all to play for with 4 further matches next term.

Sports Day

Sports Day will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 19th June. The children will compete in a series of events to gain points for their house. Please bring your chairs and come and watch from 1.30 pm. Further details will be sent out after half term.