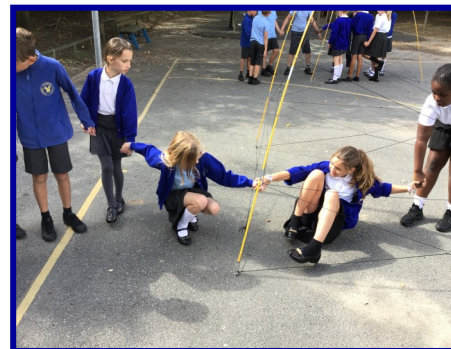


### Contents

Class News .....	2
Learning Adventures .....	2
Buckingham Palace Visit .....	2
Homework Trails .....	2
Year Group Welcome Letters..	3
Godinton Superheroes .....	3
Kindness Revolution.....	3
Safeguarding .....	4
Club News .....	5
Hygiene Bank .....	4
Staff News .....	5
Reading and Phonics .....	5
Sports Report.....	6



### Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer holiday and that your children are starting to settle into their new year groups. Coming back to school in September can be a challenge for some children after 6 weeks at home, whilst others I know have been chomping at the bit to get stuck back into things. At the start of the year there are all sorts of new things to get used to: new teachers, new classrooms, new routines and new timetables but there are also all sorts of exciting experiences to look forward to. We hope that your children will enjoy the opportunities that this year will present and will approach these with enthusiasm and excitement.

To ease the children back into the year, we began the term with a Team Building Day, designed to strengthen the cooperation and teamwork of children in each class and as a way for them to get to know their new teachers and teaching assistants. We want our children to be able to work effectively with each other and to have a sense of pride in their collective class achievements and the day certainly gave the children plenty of opportunities to do just that. The children were put through their paces with a range of tasks which tested their ability to follow instructions, work collaboratively and solve problems. These tasks ranged from musical cooperation tasks to den building, trust games and blindfold challenges. Although the children know their classmates very well, the day also provided opportunities to learn new things about each other.

We are very much looking forward to getting to know all the children and families who have started at Godinton this term. I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to you all and wish your children a very happy and successful time at Godinton.



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## Class News...

### Sensational Starts to our Learning Adventures

Year 6 launched their first Learning Adventure of the year with a recreation of a Medieval feast. The children were randomly selected to be serfs, knights, barons and even the King and were treated to Medieval food and drink including pease pottage, rye bread and of course 'ale' and 'wine' all served by Medieval characters that looked suspiciously like Mrs Crowfoot, Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Town. The children will be going on to learn about Medieval Canterbury and the Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.



Year 2 launched their 'Who Lives in a House Like This', Learning Adventure with a mystical and magical trip into the woods where they designed and made houses for wood elves. They wrote adverts trying to persuade the elves to move into their houses and even created their own elf videos. The children have been really excited by this experience and have been very keen to tell me all about their amazing creations.



## A Right Royal Visit



Year 5 received a right royal treat to mark the start of their new Learning Adventure for this term, 'Riots and Revolutions'. On Monday and Tuesday, Magpie and Cuckoo classes respectively boarded a train bound for London to participate in a Writer's Workshop at Buckingham Palace. The Palace is currently celebrating the 200th anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth, and this term's topic focuses upon the Victorian era and how important events during this historical period have changed the way we live our lives today. During the course of the day, the children were taken on a guided tour of the Palace, and discovered some very interesting facts about the Palace itself, together with details of Queen Victoria's Coronation, her family members and her accomplishments during her 63-year reign. The children were invited to take part in a number of succinct writing activities throughout the tour, using the rooms' grandeur and decor for inspiration. The treats weren't only limited to inside the Palace, as Magpies had the opportunity to watch the traditional Changing of the Guard on Monday's visit, and both classes were able to test their knowledge of the famous London landmarks that they saw as they pulled into Charing Cross Station. The children represented the school superbly and received many compliments from Palace staff and station attendants for their behaviour.

A big thank you to Miss Attenborough and Mr Smith for all their efforts in organising such a great experience. Please remember to keep an eye out for our excellent writing, inspired by our visit to Buckingham Palace – it'll be fit for a Queen!





## Homework Trails



Your child should have brought home their first 'Homework Trail' of the year this week. We hope that this new approach to homework will enthuse and motivate the children with home learning and will give them the opportunity to be creative with their tasks. This trail includes weekly 'Base Camp' tasks, a menu of 'Trail' tasks which are all linked to the Learning Adventure topic, and an 'Extra Mile' Challenge. All Homework Trails will also be available to view on the school website so don't worry if you forget what to do. The choice of homework tasks all relate to work being taught in class and provide further practice and reinforcement of our Learning Adventure themes. Children are strongly encouraged to complete the tasks set but homework is not compulsory.

Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' tasks are a set of 9 tasks that the children can choose from, ensuring that the centre task has been completed—they cover a broad range of subjects and interests. The minimum expectation is that 3 tasks will be completed over a term in the children's homework books. Our new homework system will replace 'creative homework' that has operated in the school in previous years.

Children who 'go the extra mile' and complete 6 squares will receive an 'Extra Mile Sticker'. Any children who complete 3 'Extra Mile challenges' during the academic year, will take part in an end of term treat.

At the end of each term, each class will hold a 'Trail End Showcase' where children can share their homework and celebrate their hard work. Children only need to bring their homework books back into school on Trail End day. **This means that their current homework trail should be brought back to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November.**

It was a pleasure to see some of the amazing homework tasks that the children completed over the summer based around their class name. Thank you for all the efforts that went into producing such creative pieces.



## Year Group Welcome Letters

If you haven't seen these already, Year Group Welcome letters are now available on the school website. They contain lots of useful information about your child's year group including details of reading, spelling, homework and the days on which the children have PE. There are also photos of the year group staff so that you can put a name to a face for anyone you haven't yet met.

The Welcome letters can be found by accessing the Curriculum tab and then the page – How Can I Help My Child at Home page where you will also find other useful information about home learning.

## Pastoral News...

### Godinton Superheroes



At Godinton we work hard to provide good pastoral support for all our pupils. Many of our strategies are put in place across the school for the benefit of all children, whilst others are targeted at specific pupils at different points in their school lives for a variety of reasons e.g. help with self-confidence, support with friendships, support with feelings of worry. Sometimes these areas of need are addressed through group work or it may be more appropriate to action a 1 to 1 intervention with a teaching assistant or our FLO. Sometimes a 'light touch' approach is all that's needed, someone to check in with them to see how things are going, someone perhaps in addition to their class teacher to offer some support.

To complement our existing pastoral support measures, we are introducing a 'pastoral mentor' scheme to the school. 25 of our staff have volunteered to become Godinton Superheroes – pastoral mentors who will provide some light touch mentoring to our children. Each 'superhero' will be assigned one or two children to mentor. They will check in with them during the school day, on a weekly basis to see how they are doing, to have a chat or just get a thumbs up that everything is ok. Children can also find their mentor if they need someone to talk to. We want the children to feel that in their mentor, they have someone else looking out for them in school in addition to their teaching assistant or class teacher.

How long their superhero will work with their assigned children will depend on how things go – there is no set time span but we would envisage this support might be offered across

two terms in the first instance after which other children may be swapped into the scheme. The parents of those children who we feel would benefit from a mentor will be contacted shortly. I am sure parents will recognise the benefit of this to their child and view this as a positive means of support or confidence building for them. You can spot our 'Godinton Superheroes' by the superhero badges they will have on their lanyards.

### Kindness Revolution



Next month we will be launching our Kindness Revolution at Godinton as we take part in the 1000 Hours of Kindness project which will be running across Ashford in October. This venture was kicked off this week with a special assembly led by Ashford Vineyard to promote 'kindness' to the children. The children will shortly be bringing home a kindness passport in which they will be able to log kind deeds completed – this includes acts of community kindness, school kindness, self kindness and family kindness. There are suggested activities for the children to do and the potential to record acts of Ninja Kindness – those kind acts that go unrewarded as no one knows who has done them. The more acts of kindness that the children log, the more hours of kindness their class will achieve. The class that clocks up the most hours by the end of half term stands a chance to win a 'kindness hamper' of goodies for their class.

### Safeguarding Leads

Miss Talbot, Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney are the safeguarding leads in school. Any concerns or queries about children's welfare can be raised with them. Please see the safeguarding pages on the school website for further information about safeguarding and child protection.

## Club News...

We have reviewed the different clubs and activities available to the children after school and I hope you will see some activities on the club timetable that appeal to your child. This term we have some new clubs on offer such as 'Walk and Talk', Science Club and Eco Club. We will try to ensure that over the course of the year, different opportunities are offered to different year groups and that these reflect a variety of interests such as art, music science and sport. In the event of wet weather, outdoor clubs will no longer be cancelled – staff will hold onto the children and provide alternative activities for them. Clubs will only be cancelled on the day in the event that a member of staff is unwell.

The clubs run by school staff are complemented by some external clubs that are offered on the school site including gymnastics, Irish dancing and taekwando. A charge does apply to these clubs but we feel they offer good value for money.

## Club of the Month



This month's 'Club of the Month' is 'Walk and Talk' club led by Mrs Partridge and Mrs Rigden. The club focuses on walking as an excellent means of exercise and will see the children making local walks each week. This week the children explored the Godinton Park estate and walked 1.3 miles. Mrs Partridge has some exciting plans for the club which will see the children route planning and using trackers.

## Other News and Reminders...

### Hygiene Bank

Have you made a donation to Hygiene Bank yet? Godinton Primary is a registered collection point for Hygiene Bank donations which go to help people within our local community. Donations of any toiletry items can be placed in the collection basket in the foyer. On a regular basis these will be distributed to community groups such as Ashford Women's Refuge and the Young Carers charity as well as to individual families. So next time you are out shopping perhaps put an extra tube of toothpaste or bottle of shampoo in your basket and donate to the Hygiene Bank.

### Staff News

Over the summer holidays, Mrs Wood accepted a teaching assistant position at Ashford Oaks School meaning that she has not returned to Godinton this term. We thank Mrs Wood for all the fantastic work she has done with our children in the short time she was back with us. We are very pleased to welcome Miss Evelyn to our Teaching Assistant team.

We also have two new faces in our Midday Supervisor Team and look forward to working with Mrs Taylor and Mrs Podger who will be supporting the children out on the playground.

### Reading and Phonics

We hope that Year R and 1 parents will join us for our reading and Phonics information evening on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. This will be an interactive opportunity for parents to have a look at resources used to support phonics and reading and to find out a little more about strategies which can be used to help children develop their reading and phonics skills. The meeting starts at 6.15 in the school hall.



## Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember that children in all year groups can now have a 'school packed lunch' consisting of a roll (with a choice of filling), salad and pudding as an alternative to the hot lunch option. Hot meal menus are sent home via ParentMail each week and are available on the school website so that parents can help their children make choices each day.
- We hope that lots of children will want to join in with our special American themed lunch on Thursday 3rd October. Burgers with all the trimmings are top of the menu and there is the opportunity to win a lucky prize if you find the special hidden stickers.
- A number of children are coming into school wearing 'smart' watches. Whereas I am happy for children to wear simple digital fitness trackers, smart watches will not be allowed in school.
- Please can I remind parents to be mindful of other cars when parking in Chimneys car park. We are immensely lucky to have a large car park that parents are able to use so please can everyone ensure that we are considerate to each other and don't block other cars at drop off and pick up.
- Safety on site – please remember that children must not ride bikes or scooters on the school grounds. Can I also ask that parents and children only access the site through the pedestrian exits and not via the vehicular access. We just want to make sure that everyone remains safe.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

### Aldi's 'Kit for Schools'

This Autumn, help us to save 300 'Aldi Kit for School' stickers to enable us to earn sports kit for our school and be entered into a draw with the chance to win £20,000. Every time you spend £30 in store, between now and the 3rd November, you will be given a sticker. Put these into the collection point in the school foyer and they will be stuck onto the poster in the hall where we can chart our progress. Visit [getseteatfresh.co.uk](http://getseteatfresh.co.uk) for more information and to find resources to promote healthy living and exercise.

### Football Club

We are looking for someone who may be interested in volunteering to run our Year 5 and 6 football club and to train our team. We were immensely grateful to one of our parents, Mr Wood, who was able to do this last year but unfortunately cannot offer his help to us this year. If anyone knows someone who may be interested, please get in touch with Miss Talbot. All volunteers will need to have completed a successful DBS check.