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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

I am sure that many of us started off 2020 with the best of intentions as to how we were going to spend the year improving our mental and physical wellbeing: taking more exercise, spending more time with the family, creating a better work life balance. I hope that a month into the new year everyone has managed to stick to their plan.

Mental wellbeing is very high on the educational agenda with increased recognition of the benefits of positive mental health within children. At Godinton we want all our children to feel confident and good about themselves, know how to manage any concerns they have in a positive and proactive way and to have positive interactions with others to build a stable network of friends and support. This week sees the start of National Children's Mental Health Week set up by children's mental health charity Place2Be, the week shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is 'Find your Brave'. Life often throws challenges our way. Bravery isn't about coping alone or holding things in. It's about finding positive ways to deal with things that might be difficult, overcoming physical and mental challenges and looking after yourself.

During the week we will be exploring with the children what it means to be brave, how to develop their resilience and how to take safe and well informed risks that will help to improve their sense confidence and feelings of success. The children are also all invited to take part in our 'Find Your Brave' challenge which will be sent home on Friday in which they will be asked to think about a time when they have been brave—perhaps trying a new experience, going somewhere unfamiliar or facing up to a personal challenge. All those who return their 'Find Your Brave' sheet will receive a special sticker and certificate. The challenge needs be returned after Half Term so there is even plenty of time for the children to explore a new brave experience over the holiday.

At Godinton we address mental wellbeing in a confident and pro active way, encouraging the children to find solutions and using positive language. Parents can access further information about Children's Mental Health Week from the website: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/. Here you will find top tips for parents on supporting your child's mental health and how to encourage them to find their brave.

We hope that your child will benefit from the week's activities and will enjoy realising that there have probably been many times when they have successfully found their brave.

Class News...

Sensational Starts to our New Learning Adventures



Our new Learning Adventures were launched at the start of the year with exciting activities to stimulate the children's interests. Topics for this term are:

Year R—It's Cold Outside

Year 1—Creatures Near and Far

Year 2—What's That Smell?

Year 3—Dream, Achieve, Believe

Year 4—The Voyages of Dr Doolittle

Year 5—Into the Unknown

Year 6—Whose Genes are These?

You can find further details about these Learning Adventures in the curriculum section on the school website.



Year 2 started their topic by investigating some curious smells all connected with the Great Fire of London which they will be exploring over the term.

Year 3 found a crocodile in a box, Year 1 looked at animal skin prints—achieving some amazing pieces of artwork and Year 5 investigated different light sources.

We hope that your children are enjoying telling you about their Learning Adventures and the exciting things they have been getting up to in class.



Class Assemblies

Congratulations to children in Cuckoos, Falcons, Butterflies and Otters for their fantastic class assemblies this term. I know how much everyone has enjoyed watching them. We're looking forward to Otters class performing their assembly on Friday to the school and parents. Thank you to everyone who has come along to watch.

House News

This term we have awarded our first Silver House Point badge of the year to Abby B in Year 3. Abby is well on her way to achieving the 100 house points needed to take part in our special end of year house treat. I know that many children are hot on her heels and we're looking forward to giving out more silver badges in the weeks to come.

Next week the children will be joining in with our Inter House Quiz, in which house teams will pitch their general knowledge wits against each other. The preliminary rounds will take place this week to select the teams for quiz day. A ParentMail has been sent out asking parents to dress their children in house colours on the day of their quiz:

Wednesday 12th February for Upper School (years 4–6)

Thursday 13th February for Lower and Middle School (years R – 3)

Quiz points will be awarded to overall House totals and may make a difference to which house wins extra playtime and squash and biscuits at the end of the term.

Good luck everyone!

Coming Soon...

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day with various activities taking place in school. We would like to encourage the children to dress up on this day with a 'Heroes and Villains' theme. Further details will be sent out shortly.

Club of the Month

Young Voices



It was a pleasure to hear about the success of our school choir's involvement with the Young Voices performance at the O2 in London last week. The children joined thousands of other schools from the South East to form a huge choir who entertained the audience with a range of different songs including a Queen medley. Having been part of this experience in previous years I can tell you how exciting and exhilarating (and a little scary) it can be to be part of something so spectacular. I am immensely proud of all the choir who did indeed find their brave and performed with such enthusiasm from practically the highest row of seating at the venue. My thanks also go to Mrs Stein and Mrs Kelleher for all the work they have done with the choir and for all their organisation and to all the staff and parents who attended making the experience such a positive one for the children.



Our school choir continues to go from strength to strength and will have other opportunities to join in with performances during the rest of the year. We look forward to hearing how they get on.

Homework Trails

The Term 3 Homework Trails are due to be returned to school on **Tuesday 25th February** (day after the INSET day). As well as being in the children's books, all Homework Trails can be found on the school website. I'm looking forward to seeing how the children have got on with their latest tasks.

The Term 4 trails will go home on **Monday 2nd March** and will be due back into school for the Homework Trail Showcase on **Tuesday 21st April**.

Fun Lunch Thank you

Thank you to all the children who joined in with our Fun Lunch earlier in the month and hope that the children enjoyed the meal prepared by the school kitchen. We will be organising a fun lunch for Upper School later in the year which we hope the children will join in with.

SATs Meetings Year 2 and Year 6

Thank you to all the parents who have indicated that they would like to attend the SATS information sessions this week. If you haven't returned your slip, don't worry, places are available and you are able to simply turn up for the session of your choice.

I would encourage all parents to attend one of the sessions as this will provide you with lots of information about the National statutory testing process taking place for Year 2 and Year 6 in May.

Year 2 (KS1) SATs Meeting is at 6.15 pm on Tuesday 4th February and is repeated at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 5th February.

Year 6 (KS2) SATs Meeting is at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 4th February and is repeated at 9.15 am on Wednesday 5th February.

We look forward to seeing you.

Charity News

Working with the NSPCC



Next week's **STAR** week focuses on the theme 'Speak Out, Stay Safe', and will see the children engaging in activities relating to anti-bullying and online safety.

As part of this week, we have also arranged for the **NSPCC** to lead our school assemblies. These sessions will focus on how children can take very simple steps to keep themselves safe, what to do if they have any worries and the work undertaken by the **NSPCC** to help children in need. The **NSPCC** will also be coming into school to lead workshop sessions with Year 5 and 6 later that week, where these themes will be explored in greater detail.

Our Kindness Ambassadors have also been working with our local **NSPCC** rep to come up with a fundraising idea for the charity. They are in the process of arranging a sponsored 'Hot Lava Challenge' which will take place after half term. The challenge will see the children having to jump up and down as though their classroom floor is made of lava every time music plays over the tannoy. We hope that whilst being a fun activity it will help to support the valuable work undertaken by the **NSPCC** in helping vulnerable children.

Mrs Stein is leading this initiative and will be sending further details out via ParentMail shortly. Please look out for the full details of the activities that will be undertaken, information about the sponsored event and details of resources available on the **NSPCC** website which parents can use to support their children's wellbeing and help to keep them safe.

Online Safety

Next week is also National Online Safety Day (Tuesday 11th February). We are currently in the process of updating resources available on the school website to help parents support their children's online activity. These will be available for the start of the week, accessible through the online safety page accessed via safeguarding page link on the school website. Here you will find links to useful websites which provide a wide range of resources for parents and children of all ages.

Current areas of concern which parents should be aware of:

- Children posting personal details such as their full name or address online.
- The number of social network sites being accessed at home. Some children conceal from their parents, sites which they use on a regular basis and which often have a recommended age of 13+.
- When accounts are created for any purpose online, it is always safer to use a screen name rather than your real name. Do you know what login name your child is using for their accounts?
- Children posting inappropriate comments about other children online (cyber-bullying). Nationally this is becoming an increasing problem. Do you see the messages that your children post online or send via text or instant messaging?
- The high number of followers or friends which some children claim to have on social network sites or through gaming, most of whom are unknown to the children. Do you know who your child's online 'friends' are?
- Children creating fake accounts for people they know. This is something which can have serious consequences. If parents are concerned that a fake account may have been created in their child's name they should contact the provider directly and ask for it to be removed.
- Home filters. Do you set filters on all devices to ensure that children can only access appropriate content?

If parents are worried about their children's experiences online please contact Miss Talbot, Mrs Stein or Mrs McGibney—Designated Safeguarding Leads

Staff News...

Year 4

Next week, Miss Brooker returns to school from her maternity leave and will be resuming her position as Nightingales' class teacher. This means, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Norman who has covered Miss Brooker's absence since April last year. I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Norman for all that she has done for the children during her time with us and to welcome Miss Brooker back to Godinton.

PTFA News

Having recovered from all their hard work with the Christmas festivities, our PTFA are now turning their attention to the exciting spring activities we have to look forward to.

Firstly we have the children's discos at the end of this week (Friday 7th February).

Years R to 2 have their disco from 4.30 to 5.30 pm and Years 3 to 6 have their disco from 6.00 to 7.30 pm. The disco ticket includes a selection of treats and a small amount of money may be brought to buy other items. Please remember that all children must be collected from the school hall.

Other PTFA dates for your diary:

Friday 28th February—Non Uniform Day in return for items for the Mother's Day Present Shop (which will take place on Wednesday 18th March).

Friday 27th March—Non Uniform Day in return for items for the Easter Bingo (which will take place on Saturday 28th March).

Further details will be sent out shortly.

If anyone is able to help out with any PTFA events we would love to involve you. Please see our PTFA Chairperson, Linda Tunbridge or any other member of the committee to offer your help. Thank you.

Other Reminders..

Term Dates

I am sure that you will have all now seen the ParentMail confirming term dates for next academic year. This will include a two week half term break in October from Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October. Full term dates and details of INSET days are on the school website.

Bumped Head Protocol

Please be advised that we have recently updated our protocol for the administration of first aid to bumps to the head.

If a child seeks medical attention for an incident involving their head, the child's head will be examined by a first aider in order to assess the extent of the injury. A minor bump to the head is common in children particularly those of primary school age. If a child is asymptomatic i.e. there is no bruising, swelling, abrasion, mark of any kind, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting and the child appears well then the incident will be treated as a 'bump' rather than a 'head injury'. In this circumstance the child will be observed in school and further action taken if symptoms appear at a later stage. A bumped head slip will be sent home to alert parents to the incident.

If however, a bump, swelling or bruise on the exterior of the head is present or there is complaint of nausea, headache or dizziness, then the injury will be treated as a 'minor head injury'. Dependant on the assessment of the first aider, the following action may be taken:

Ice pack applied to swelling

Rest

Observation

The child may return to class depending on the severity of their symptoms and following discussion with parents and assessment by the first aider.

Parents will be notified by telephone that their child has sustained a minor head injury and the injury will be discussed. Parents will be advised to read a head injury advice letter that their child will bring home.

Governor News

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



Message from the Chair of Governors: Steve King

Happy New Year

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

With last terms hustle and bustle, which included various performances, an excellent carol service at the church (*I have had the privilege to attend many of these services and can honestly say that the 2019 service was the best of all I have attended – and all have been very good!*) and many other Christmas related tasks now a distant memory the school has settled back in to its usual routines. For Governors, this includes a self-evaluation exercise which involves looking back over the past year to consider what we did well and whether we need to take action to improve our performance in the future.

The exercise is in its early stages but the emerging findings have been reassuring. Due to the mixture of experience between our current nine Governors ranging from 19 years to 6 months it is inevitable that there will be lessons to be learned as we build on the strength of the Governing Body. Similar exercises in previous years have highlighted training needs both for individuals and the Governing Body as a whole and has indicated the need for procedural changes, which included a redesign of our monitoring visits report form to prompt report writers to highlight any challenging questions posed during the visit. So far, the evaluation is showing strengths in many of the areas considered and it has identified areas that we will need to explore further. One of the issues we face is a continuing shortage of Governors requiring current Governors to manage a greater workload. This is an area beyond our control but one we need to improve. You may be able to help. If you know anybody, who is not a parent of a child at the school, who would be interested in becoming a Governor at Godinton, please ask them to contact me using chair@godinton.kent.sch.uk.

One of the tools we use to inform our review is the Annual Trustees report incorporating our audited accounts. The report for year ending 31st August 2019 was approved by Governors in November and can be found on the school website.

Getting to know our Governors Governor Profiles Steve King (Chair of Governors)

Steve first became a governor at the school in January 2001 and has been Chair of Governors since May 2005 and is currently a Member Appointed Governor. Steve has provided the following detail about himself :

I have recently retired having completed 40 years in the civil service, most recently working for the Home Office as a budget manager.

I was keen to become a governor at Godinton to enable me to put my skills to good use in support of the school in recognition of all they were doing for my children. By 2005 my children had left the school but its continued advances made me want to stay and share in its future successes. My experience in financial management, property management and health & safety assist me in my governor role and in leading the schools team of Governors.

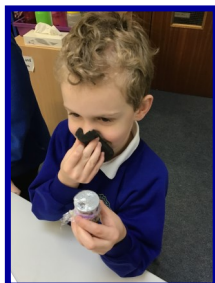
As Chair of Governors I have a number of responsibilities in addition to the usual governor role including chairing meetings and taking the lead for health & safety. I also have joint lead responsibility for safeguarding and finance.

I am married with two grown up children who both attended the school and I have lived on the Godinton Park estate since 1988. My spare time activities include gardening, woodworking and, due to advancing years, long naps in front of the television.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please can we ask all parents to ensure that if any emergency contact details change, including names and contact numbers, that the school office is notified so that records can be updated accordingly. We have recently had a few instances when the first emergency contact listed for a child has not been obtainable as their mobile number had changed. Thank you.
- Please don't forget that those parents who pay for school meals for their children must ensure that their accounts with Independent Catering (who supply our school meals) are kept up to date and must not go into arrears.
- We're getting closer to Half Term and would like to take the opportunity to remind you that we also have two INSET days attached to the break: Friday 14th February and Monday 24th February. We break up on Thursday 13th February and return to school on Tuesday 25th February.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Cricket

Last week saw the start of our external cricket coaching for Year 3. The children are beginning with two weeks of Rapid Fire Cricket tuition, ahead of a tournament before Half Term at the Stour Centre, followed by five weeks of Kwik Cricket. The children have some Kwik Cricket tournaments to look forward to in the summer and by the look of their first few sessions, will be very ready for this by then.



Cross Country

Congratulations to Lily-Rose in Year 6 who finished third in the Year 6 placings at the Kent Cross Country race at the Duke of York School earlier this month and 25th out of 120 children taking part in the Year 7 race. Lily-Rose has already qualified for the Nationals and we wish her well for her forthcoming races.

Coming Soon...

We have a number of exciting matches and events coming up soon for our children to enjoy. This includes our High Five teams competing in some friendly matches against Kennington Junior School and Willesborough Junior School, a Year 5 dodgeball competition, and a Year 6 speed stacking competition.