

### Contents

World Book Day .....	2
Science Week .....	3
Home Learning .....	3
Easter Activities .....	3
Photos for Website .....	3
Charity News .....	4
Corona Virus Scams.....	4
New Starters .....	4
Secondary Appeals .....	4
Residential Visits .....	4
Sports Report.....	5



### Message from Miss Talbot

I promise that I won't make the whole of this newsletter about Coronavirus – we all need a little normality in our lives. We will continue with school newsletters during the period of closure and will aim to ensure that they provide you with information about school life (as we know it now) and celebrating the children.

I would however like to take the opportunity to thank our whole school community for their support, patience and cooperation over the past few weeks. Our staff have been utterly brilliant; with so much to do in such a short space of time they rose to the challenges with their usual professionalism and consideration for the children's needs. I know I can speak for all the team when I say that we are deeply saddened that the school year has been halted in such a dramatic fashion and that our classes have been dispersed with limited time to prepare the children for this. Our management team, Mrs Partridge, Mrs Stein and Mrs Williams have been instrumental in leading aspects of school closure alongside me and managing school closure from my laptop at the hospital during my chemotherapy session was probably one of the most surreal moments of my career. Our staff will continue to work hard to support you over the coming weeks through providing work for the children, supporting you with their wellbeing, answering your queries and concerns and of course providing supervision for key workers at work on the frontline.

Thank you to all our parents for their patience. We still have things to iron out and set up to carry us through the period of closure. I will continue to provide you with regular updates so that you can feel as informed as possible. If there is anything more that we can do to help, please just ask.

And finally our children have been brilliant. We know that this is going to be a difficult time for them. We will do all we can to ensure that they continue to feel connected to the school and to know that this is only a temporary measure and that things will return to normal eventually.

Please ensure that you all take whatever steps necessary to keep you and your children safe. We want all our school community to be reunited happy and well.



Godinton Primary School  
Lockholt Close,  
Ashford,  
Kent.

TN23 3JR

Tel: 01233 621616

[www.godinton.kent.sch.uk](http://www.godinton.kent.sch.uk)

[office@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

[headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

## Class News...

### World Book Day



We had a fantastic response to World Book Day earlier in the month, with the children coming into school in an array of amazing costumes celebrating heroes and villains in literature. Thank you to everyone for all the efforts made to dress the children in such a creative way.

The purpose of the day was to celebrate books and the children took part in various activities in class that focused on reading. The children completed book reviews, explored stories and investigated characters. The children also paired up with children from different year groups to share books together which is always a great experience for everyone.



With school being closed for a while, this is the perfect opportunity to catch up on lots of extra reading practice. If you haven't already done so, why not sign up to Oxford Owl ([www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)) in order to access a wide range of e-books for children of different ages

We will be publishing some other useful links for online activities that can be tried at home on the school website in the coming weeks.

Some of the children might also want to continue practising their piece of performance poetry as set in our World Book Day challenge.

Don't forget the school website has lots of information about phonics, including video clips to show sound articulation. Keeping up the phonics practice for children in Year R and 1 will be especially useful.



### Saturday Cookery Day

I hope that all the families that came along to our Spring Cookery Day enjoyed themselves. These events organised by Mrs McGoldrick and our school cook Jo are excellent opportunities for children and adults to engage in cooking and food preparation activities.

We hope to continue these next academic year so keep your eye out for further information once life gets back to normal.



## Science Week



Science Week also provided lots of opportunity for the children to work collaboratively in mixed year groups – this time to carry out a series of different scientific investigations. Over the course of the week, the children engaged in five different activities under the umbrella theme of ‘Our Diverse Planet’. This included investigating camouflage, how things fly, what we can find under our feet and exploring tastes.

It was great to get the children outside and investigating in our school grounds. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing outdoor space.

The hands on activities helped the children to develop their questioning skills, make predictions, gather results and draw conclusions.



To find out more about British Science Week, visit the website: [www.britishscienceweek.org](http://www.britishscienceweek.org)

## Home Learning

The next ‘Unexpected Adventure Trails’ will be uploaded onto the school website on Monday 20th April. Also available at this time will be year group newsletters for the children—we hope that this will be a useful way of the children keeping in touch with year group staff.

## Easter Activities

The Easter holidays begin next week and on Monday, we will putting onto the website a list of suggested activities that might help to keep the children entertained over the break. The staff have come up with all sorts of ideas that might help ease you through the coming weeks. This list will be available on the Home Learning section of the school website which can be accessed from the curriculum tab.

## Photos for the Website



We are looking for photos of the children completing home learning activities to put up on the gallery pages on the school website.

Further details of this were sent out to parents on Wednesday. This week, if your child is in **Lower School**, we would welcome photos of the children completing this week’s challenge on the theme of ‘rainbows’. It is unlikely that we will be able to include all the pictures received but if you would like your child and their work to be considered, please email a good quality photo to:

[homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

In the subject box of your email, please put ‘Rainbow’ and in your email please indicate that you give permission for your photo to be uploaded to the school website.

## Other News and

## Reminders...

### Charity News

Despite it being the last day before school closure, we were delighted that so many of you helped Mrs Partridge with her fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support by wearing green to school. Your fantastic efforts raised £263. Mrs Partridge is still awaiting a rescheduled date for the London Landmark Half Marathon which she hopes will now be in the autumn.

The other fundraising efforts this term have also been amazing. By wearing sports clothes to school, you also helped us to raise over £200 for Sports Relief and the Hot Lava Challenge raised a total of £1,390.40 for the NSPCC. Thank you to everyone who took part.

### Coronavirus Scams

Please be aware of a number of unscrupulous scams that are taking advantage of the Coronavirus pandemic. We have been made aware of national issues with fake emails, pretending to be from the Government, asking people to share bank details in order to set up payments to those entitled to free school meals. Any communication about free school meals will be sent to those who are entitled directly by the school. If you are unsure about the validity of anything you might receive, please just give us a call.

There are also a number of fake texts circulating, claiming that individuals are being fined for leaving their homes and again encouraging the sharing of bank details. Please be vigilant of anything suspicious.

## New Starters 2020

On April 16th, parents of those children due to start school in September will hear as to whether they have been successful in gaining a place at Godinton. With us not knowing when or if school will reopen this academic year, we may have to make alterations to the usual events that we would hold over the summer to help children with their transition from pre-school settings to primary school. We are currently looking into this further and will provide parents with further information after school places have been offered.

### Secondary School Appeals

We have a number of parents who are in the process of making Secondary School appeals for their children and have asked the school to provide supporting supplementary information about their child. We are currently working on these and will ensure that everyone has all they need ahead of their appeal deadlines but please bear with us.

### Residential Visits

Year 5 parents have been contacted with details of the rescheduled dates for the Kingswood Residential that had been due to take place. We hope that this will give the children something to look forward to when life returns to normal.

Mrs Crowfoot has also contacted Year 6 parents regarding this year's Activity Week. With so much uncertainty as to what will happen over the coming months we are unable to give parents any further information at the moment but will do so as soon as this becomes available. We will ensure that we do all we can to give our Year 6 children a special, although possibly different, end to their time at Godinton.

## Other News and Reminders...

- The school will be open to a small number of pupils over the Easter holiday. The school office will be open for calls and parents can still make contact via email at: [headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk) or [emergency@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:emergency@godinton.kent.sch.uk) or [pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk)
- Don't forget that weekly school closure updates will be sent out each Friday (excluding the Easter holiday). They will include any important information regarding school closure and will set the children's weekly challenge activity which will provide top up to the 'Unexpected Adventure Trails'.
- Please note that the year group email accounts will not be checked over the break and will resume again on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- Remember to keep an eye on ParentMail for further information and news that we may need to share with you.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

### Joe Wicks' Workout

Make sure that you try to build some form of physical activity into your routine every day. This could be a walk with the family, running around the back garden or engaging with one of the many online dance or exercise classes that have become active in the past week.

Superstar fitness coach Joe Wicks is hosting live PE lessons over YouTube for children at home during the coronavirus outbreak. The classes are specifically designed for children of all ages.

The 30-minute sessions called PE with Joe are streamed live on Joe Wicks' YouTube channel at 9am every weekday morning, and will not require any specialist equipment or large amounts of space. Why not give it a go?

We will be sharing with you some other useful suggestions for physical activities that you might like to get involved with after the Easter break.