



www.godinton.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01233 621616

office@godinton.kent.sch.uk

headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk

School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 3rd April 2020

So after two weeks of school closure, we are now entering into the Easter holidays. This will feel like a very different break this year and I know that for many of you it will mean disappointment that plans and holidays have had to be cancelled.

With no formal school work being set over the Easter break, we'd like to try and encourage you all to enjoy some family time together. To help keep everyone occupied, we have put together a list of Springtime Activities that you may want to try as a family. Please see further details below.

Please find below a few updates for this week:

School Opening over the Easter Break

The school will be open on the following days over the Easter holiday (Monday 6th April to Thursday 9th April and Tuesday 14th April to Friday 17th April) in order to accommodate the children of parents who are frontline workers. These parents will have booked places via the schoolclosure@godinton.kent.sch.uk email address.

For everyone else, the school office will be open for calls (01233 621616) and parents can still make contact via email at: headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk or emergency@godinton.kent.sch.uk or pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Please note that the year group email accounts will not be checked over the break and will resume again on Monday 20th April. Please refer to last week's update for details of these email addresses.

Remember to keep an eye on ParentMail for further information and news that we may need to share with you.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you've all had a great week and have started to settle into good routines.

This week saw the clocks go forward, meaning that it stays a little lighter for longer in the evenings. I like this time of year as it means that spring is starting. There are lots of other signs of spring at the moment too. When I went to the hospital this week for my last chemotherapy session (the only time I'm allowed into the outside world!), I saw spring lambs in the field and lots of blossom on the trees. I live in New Romney and we have lots and lots of lambs at this time of year. Everything looked lovely when the sun was shining!

To keep you busy over the Easter holidays, the staff have put together a list of Springtime Activities that you may want to try. There are all sorts of things to do – something for everyone. Have a look at the list on the website.

Stay safe everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot



Home Learning

I'm sure that many of the children will be coming to the end of their first 'Unexpected Adventure Trails' and I hope that they have enjoyed the activities set for them. Please remember that the next trail will be available on the school website on Monday 20th April alongside a Year Group Newsletter from the teachers. These can be found on the new page on our website (www.godinton.kent.sch.uk) 'Home Learning – School Closure' which can be accessed from the Curriculum tab. These trails should be completed in the children's work books. Don't forget to keep up with a daily diet of Mathematics, spelling and phonics practice, daily reading and number facts / times tables practice. In addition to the tasks set by the teacher in Mathematics, it contains a wealth of games including a 'Multiverse' section for times tables practice. There are also games available on Purple Mash.

Unfortunately, we cannot set further individual work for the children in between the setting of the Adventure Trails so we would be grateful if parents don't ask the staff to do this. However to supplement the work set we are doing the following:

- Each week in this update we will be setting the children a challenge which they can interpret and engage with in as many different ways as they want. The opportunities here are endless.
- In the next few weeks we will be putting list of subject related websites and online activities that they children might want to try.

Purple Mash

Over the past few weeks, the staff have been exploring the potential of Purple Mash as a means of supporting home learning. Purple Mash has a huge amount of potential which we are hoping to utilise further over the coming months but we will be taking this a step at a time. I appreciate that this has been a learning curve for parents too. To help everyone to understand some of the basics of Purple Mash which we will be using as our starting point, we have put together an Information Guide for parents and children which is attached to this ParentMail. This gives you key information on how the children should be saving their work so that it can only be seen by the teacher and how they can comment on their work amongst other things. As we roll out more aspects of Purple Mash, we will share further information with you. I hope that you will find this guide useful.

Photos for the School Website

Thank you to all those parents with children in Lower School who sent in photos of their children completing the 'Rainbow Challenge' that was set in last week's update. They are amazing! We will be uploading some of these to the website in the coming days so look out for them in the Children's section of the website. If there are any more to come, please get these to us by Monday at homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Next is the turn of Upper and Middle School. We would like you to send in pictures of the children completing this week's challenge which is to engage with some of the tasks set on the Springtime Activities sheet which is attached to this ParentMail. This could be a picture of the children or just their finished work. Whatever you've been up to, we'd love to see. Please send good quality pictures to homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Please put 'Springtime Activities' in the subject box of your email and in the body of your email please state that you are happy for your these photos to be uploaded to the school website. We hope to use some of the images in our next newsletter too.

Emailing Staff

I hope that parents are finding the year group email addresses a useful way of contacting staff with any queries regarding the children's home learning tasks. Please can I ask that the year group email accounts are only used for this purpose and not for sending photos or videos of the children through to staff? We are all very keen to see what the children have been up to and to maintain connections with the children but we still have to adhere to our safeguarding protocols which includes boundaries for online contact with the children. If you have photos of the children engaging with the challenges set as outlined above please send them to the homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk email address. We are exploring further ways that the children can keep in touch with their teachers and will let you know when we have these in place. I thank you for your support with this.

Free School Meals

Families in receipt of benefit related free school meals have been contacted by the school regarding the Government's scheme for supermarket e-vouchers during the period of school closure. Parents will receive their e-vouchers via email on Monday 20th April. Please note that e-vouchers are only applicable to those families who are in receipt of certain benefits and not to all families of children in Years R to 2 who receive free school meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals.

If any family believes that they might be entitled to benefits related free school meals, please have a look at the criteria by following the link below and should it relate to you, please contact the school office. Should your family circumstances change at any point, the school office will be happy to help you access any entitlement to free school meals.

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Weekly Challenge...

Why not join in with this week's Weekly Challenge? This is something that the children could work on independently or you could work together as a family.

This week is all about **Springtime Activities**

- Have a look at the long list of springtime activities that the staff have come up with. The list is attached to this ParentMail and can also be found on the school website.
- How many of these can you try out?

Wellbeing News...

Please find below some useful tips for family wellbeing during the period of closure.

Useful advice for Adults in the household...

'Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder.'

TOP TIPS

Have an **A**pple a day

A...Acknowledge worries together

P...Pause and think things through

P...Push back against **NEGATIVE** thoughts

L....Let go of worries (Play Let it go from **FROZEN** at least once a day!)

E...Explore new things and express joy in the fun things that you do.

There are plenty of resources available to help at this time.

RESOURCES

This is the time to show family kindness why not try some suggestions from:

www.thousandhours.org/isolationkindness.

Or you may need an extra top up of supplies, why not visit: www.familyfoodbank.org. (Here you can find out about collection points and what's available to you).

Finally don't forget to tap into our friendly local community action group.

www.ashfordvineyardcompassion

If anyone has any concerns about a child's welfare during the period of school closure, please contact pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk

I hope that everyone enjoys a good Easter break. The next update will be sent out once we return to school.

Take care and stay safe

Kind regards

Jill Talbot