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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 27th March 2020

I hope that the first week of school closure finds everyone safe and well and that you are all adjusting in the best way you can to the position we all find ourselves in. We are still here to support in whatever way we can so please get in touch if there is anything that we can help with.

Our team have been continuing to work hard to look at ways in which we can support families over the coming months and we will update you with any plans that we put in place. Please find below a few updates for this week:

Home Learning

I hope that the children have been able to engage with some of the activities on their 'Unexpected Adventure Trails' over the past week. These activities, along with Mathletics, spelling and phonics practice, daily reading and number facts / times tables practice are designed to last for a two week period. New activities will be set on Monday 20th April and we will be creating activities for the Easter holidays too which will be available from Friday 3rd April. 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.

Here you will also find other useful documents as the weeks go on. The page is likely to evolve as we decide how best to use this space to support children and families. Currently there is an advice sheet available for families on how to manage home learning activities.

Every week, I will also be including a 'Challenge Activity' in this weekly update that all children might like to join in with. This is an open ended activity that can be interpreted in any way. This will provide 'top up' to the Adventure Trail tasks that the children are completing.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you are all doing ok and that you are all making the most of school being closed.

Today, some of the children who have been at school painted rainbows that they are going to put up at school and in their windows at home. Perhaps everyone could try this – it would cheer up anyone who was passing your house whilst out for exercise. Busy Bees have also put rainbows on the school gate and Mrs Partridge found a rainbow chalked on the road at the gate to school. They all look brilliant. Have a look at the photos below.

For those of you staying at home, I hope that you aren't driving your parents bananas! Try to have some routines at home so you can join in with your home learning tasks as well as getting some physical exercise and rest breaks.

Stay safe everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot



Free School Meals during Closure

The parents of those children in receipt of Free School Meals (due to family circumstances NOT all children in Years R to 2 who are entitled to free meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals) have been contacted regarding the arrangements for provision of meals over the period of closure. We will continue to update these parents in the coming weeks and when further information becomes available from the Government.

Please be aware that there have been a number of scam emails in which parents are being asked to disclose bank details under the pretence of arranging free school meal provision. All communication regarding the provision of school meals will come from the school not from the Government so please ensure you do not respond to emails of this type and contact the school with any queries.

Keeping in Touch with the School

Don't forget you can keep in touch with the school in a number of ways during the closure period.

Parents can contact year group teachers with any concerns that they may. These accounts will be checked, Monday to Friday and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as they can. Please can we ask that you only use this means of communication where absolutely necessary and not for unnecessary matters. Children are not permitted to use this email to send personal messages to their teachers; all communication must come from parents please.

These email addresses are as follows:

Year R – yearRparent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year 1 – year1parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year 2 – year2parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year 3 – year3parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year 4 – year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year 5 – year5parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year 6 – year6parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Parents should use office@godinton.kent.sch.uk for all general enquiries and I can be contacted on headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk

In the event of an urgent emergency an additional email address has also been set up. This is not a 24 hour service but will be checked every day: emergency@godinton.kent.sch.uk

In order to maintain safeguarding responsibilities during the period of school closure, we have also set up a safeguarding / pupil welfare email. This can be used to alert us to any child protection, safeguarding or welfare concerns about any child. This email address is:

pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Physical Activity

Remember to try and keep up some physical activity every day during the period of closure. This can be going for a walk together as a family, playing in the garden or joining in with an online dance class. Have a look at the advice sheet for home learning on the school website for information about the importance of exercise.

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on staying at home can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

The Government has also published guidance on social distancing which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Thank you to everyone for all their cooperation over the past week with these unprecedented and challenging times we find ourselves in.

Take care and stay safe

Kind regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher

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. Interpret the topic in whatever way you want. Be as creative as you can!

This week is all about **RAINBOWS**

- Find out about how rainbows occur in nature or take a scientific approach to investigate them.
- Make a rainbow of your own in any way you can (craft materials, painting, collage, with crystals or bubbles)
- Display a rainbow in your window to brighten your community.