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Message from Miss Talbot

There is no doubt that life in lockdown is presenting challenges for us all with regard to our health, our families, our wellbeing and personal circumstances. However I hope there will be a lot of positives that will come out of this situation and that when we look back, there will be lots of things of which we are immensely proud.

I have been very impressed by feedback from the staff regarding how wonderful the children who have been attending school have shown themselves to be. They have been kind and thoughtful to others, well behaved, creative and well motivated. Some children have attended almost every day whilst their key worker parents continue to go out to work. They haven't complained and have embraced all the activities they have been taking part in at school with enthusiasm. I am very proud of them all.

I am just as proud of those children who have been working hard at home. Feedback from teachers shows that a high number of children have engaged positively with the tasks that have been set for them and that they are applying a good effort with the tasks set. I know that for many children it is hard to be as motivated in school work when you are surrounded by the temptations of being at home so their positive efforts are valiant. Keep up the great work everyone.



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Class News...

School during lockdown



There is no doubt that school for the children of key workers during lockdown is very different to the school we are all used to. For starters, we have far less children in each day—usually somewhere between about 15 and 25. The children have spent some time working on their Unexpected Adventure Trails but have also joined in with activities across all subjects both inside and outside. They have different teachers each day and often work in different rooms.

For the real low down on what life is like during Godinton lockdown, I'll hand over to our roving reporter, Caitlin from Year 6...

What is school like during lockdown?

When I am usually in school there are about thirty children per class, but because of the Coronavirus there is only about twenty five children in the whole school and it feels like a private school.

What do you do during the school day?

During the school day our wonderful teachers choose something for us to do and they have also set us an Unexpected Adventure Trail which we can take home and use at school. For example I am in year six and I have been given new tasks about the Caribbean, we have also been set Purple Mash and we have Mathletics which is where I can go online and do my maths that has been set.

Have you been doing any fun activities outside?

A couple of days ago we went outside and made paint brushes and paint out of flowers, grass, water and paint. We also went climbing trees and made a Picasso. I liked making these things although I do miss my proper lessons because they are fun but I do learn a lot at these times.



Bluebells in Abundance

With the weather having been so wonderful for most of April, our school grounds have come alive and our woodland area has been a perfect base for exploring nature. We have had wonderful bluebells in the woods and the blossom on our trees has been magnificent. I hope that those of you not in school have taken advantage of the lovely weather and have played in your garden or have been out and about on some lovely walks.



An Amazing Dragon Day

Read Mrs Gandon's Report on a fun day at school inspired by dragons!

A silk embroidered kimono provided the inspiration for a dragon-themed day at school during the Easter holiday. Nine children from different year groups took part in a variety of activities throughout the day, all based upon the theme of dragons.

The children kick-started the day with an online tutorial on how to draw a dragon, which required them to use their skills of observation and listen attentively, whilst simultaneously follow the instructor's directions. The outcomes were very impressive, with many children producing what they felt to be one of their 'best pictures ever'. For those children that did not want to take part in the tutorial, they were invited to create a dragon collage, using shiny paper to recreate the dragon's scaly skin, and reproduce the lustre of the embroidered dragon on Mrs Kelleher's kimono. These budding artists created some very imaginative designs, and used a variety of media to great effect. Annabelle in Year 2 deserves a special mention for the perseverance she demonstrated in completing her dragon, by cutting out and sticking over 500 individual dragon scales by hand – showing complete dedication to the cause!

After break, the children were given the opportunity to spend time in the ICT suite. Their brief was to produce a resource which was based on dragons, but they could be as creative as they wished, and the group certainly didn't disappoint. From dragon PowerPoints to dragon animations, to interactive computer games based upon dragons and created by the children themselves, the group had lots of ideas to fit the brief. There was an audible sigh of disappointment when the children were informed that it was time to break for lunch.

In the afternoon, Mrs Kelleher shared her wide-ranging musical knowledge with the group, by introducing the children to Pentatonic Scales.

These are musical scales which comprise of five notes and are often associated with traditional Chinese music. The children had the opportunity to improvise some compositions on their own glockenspiels, before returning to the ICT room to compose their own arrangements on special song-writing software. The children all worked very hard to produce some very interesting pieces, and demonstrated an impressive understanding of Pentatonic Scales in such a short space of time. Incidentally, why are dragons such good musicians? Because they really know their scales!

And what better way to round off a dragon day than with a reading of the popular dragon's tale, *Zog*, by Julia Donaldson.

The children worked very hard throughout the day and demonstrated a great deal of 'talon' in all that they did, and deserve 'fangs' for all their good work and sensible behaviour!

Getting Creative

Have a look at some of the creative tasks that the children in school have been up to—from creating giant beanstalks to making pictures from natural materials.



A Message from Mrs Partridge...

Life isn't just strange for the children who have been coming into school, it's also been very different for the staff too. Mrs Partridge and Mrs Stein have been on site each week whilst I'm still in self-isolation. This month, Mrs Partridge has sent a message to the children...

I hope you are all keeping well and busy during school closure – the new Unexpected Adventure Trails that your teachers have planned for you look exciting and should help to keep you busy. Remember to be patient with your parents, this is a whole new experience for them too and they will be learning too!

As you know, school is open to a few children whose Mums and Dads need to go to work as they are Key Workers so I am in school for a couple of days a week at the moment. The school is so quiet and empty! Sometimes I have to go and hunt down a class as their teacher has taken them outside for an activity. Other times, they are hard at work, like you, completing their Unexpected Adventure Trails. As you know, my office is quite close to the dining hall and normally I can tell when it is lunchtime without looking at the clock as I can hear you all. Not at the moment – it is so quiet in the hall during lunchtime!

I hope you are all managing to fit in some daily exercise; whether this is Joe Wicks daily workout or going out for a walk with your parents. If you do go out for a walk, try turning it into a bit of a game. You could hunt for items that begin with a different letter of the alphabet (A – astroturf B – Buttercup C – Cat W – Willow tree and so on!) Will anyone find an item beginning with a X or Z?

The weather has been great which has meant that I have been able to tidy the garden and enjoy watching the birds eating their treats from the feeder.

I have to say Godinton just doesn't feel the same when it is missing around 400 children everyday. Every one of you helps to make Godinton the school it is and I look forward to when you can all come back. We do not know when that will, so for now we will just have to be patient and wait for the news from the Government that schools can reopen.

Take care everyone

From Mrs Partridge

So what about Everyone Working at Home...

We have really enjoyed seeing all the photographs that have been sent into homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk which have shown us the exciting things that you have been doing at home (as well as working hard of course).

Have a look at the children's section on the website to see some of the children's photos.



Life at 'Home School'

We've had a taste of what life is like at Godinton during lockdown but for the real story of what life is like at Home School, I'll hand over to our roving reporters Anna from Year 6 and Jacob from Year 3...

School life in lockdown is completely different to going to school, as the class only has two students whereas I am used to it being thirty. We start lessons at nine in the morning so we can get the work done before lunch. I like that we can wear our own clothes and that we can sleep in for a bit longer in the mornings, but at the same time I miss not talking to my friends and hanging out with them. We are doing a mix of work from school and BBC Bitesize.

Anna

We called our school Collins Primary School and put a sign on the door with a logo. It feels like a private school because there's only 2 people. We mostly do Maths, English and spellings. We start lessons at 9am and finish at 11am. I like that I don't have to walk to school and can wear my own clothes, but I find it sad that I can't talk to my friends and sit next to them at lunch.

Jacob

In the Night Sky

Mrs McGoldrick has been busy star gazing during lockdown. Read her report on things to look for in the night sky...

The Lockdown was a new experience for us all. However there have been some real benefits.

Due to the reduction in pollution from cars and planes our air quality and the earth's atmosphere has improved. With less pollution the sky at night is a treasure chest of jewels for all of us to share.

The unusually good weather over the last few weeks has also ensured the skies are clear, enhancing visibility. So far I have spotted the Big Dipper (also called the Plough) and I had thought I was looking at the North Star until my 7 year old neighbour reliably informed me that I was actually looking at the planet Venus. Venus will fade in 2 weeks' time as its orbit changes so try and catch a glimpse before then. You will find Venus which appears as a very bright star in the West of the sky.

Do have a look for the Big Dipper too. Do you think it looks like a saucepan? Or would you describe it differently.

Happy star gazing everyone!

Kind Deeds



It has been lovely that so many of you have displayed rainbows in your windows to show your appreciation of all those who are working hard to keep vital services running and of course for our amazing NHS staff.

I have heard lots of wonderful stories about acts of kindness that have been carried out during the lockdown period. Leo P has been out delivering Easter eggs to houses showing rainbows in their windows. I know that other children have been busy raising money for the NHS and other charities.

Well done to you all.

So many things to be very proud about.

Other News and Reminders...

- If Year 6 parents have accepted a secondary school place at a school other than the one originally offered, please can you contact our school office to notify us of the change. This will help to ensure that the correct transition information will go to the correct school for your child.
- The school website has been updated to include a wealth of online resources to support learning at home. These can be used as a top up to Adventure Trail work or to pursue areas of interest during the closure period. These can be found under the Home Learning— School Closure tab.
- We have a number of families who are in arrears with their payments to Breakfast Club dating back to March. We would be grateful if these accounts could be brought up to date. We understand that some families will be facing financial uncertainty at this time and do not want to add to this burden. If this is the case for you, please contact Mrs Williams, our School Business Manager in order to discuss a way forward.
- We have contacted the parents of all those children due to start school in September outlining our transition arrangements. It is highly likely that due to current circumstances, these dates will need to be cancelled or rescheduled. We will do all we can to ensure that we support your child with their transition to school –this may just be a bit different to that which was originally planned. We will let parents know about any changes.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

imoves Website (<https://imoves.com/imovement-signup>)

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.

Why not sign up to the imoves website for free in order to access a wealth of online resources to support physical activity at home. As well as the Joe Wicks' workouts, the children have been trying out some of these activities in school.

