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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents,

At the moment there is a lot of speculation as to when or if schools will reopen this academic year. There has been talk of phased reopening or schools being open only to certain year groups. Schools have not yet been given any information on this so at the moment we know as much as you. We are continuing to take each day as it comes and will let you know as soon as there is any news. Until then, school will continue to be open for the children of key workers, including on Bank Holiday Friday (Friday 8th May).

Home Learning

New Unexpected Adventure Trails for weeks 5 and 6 of lockdown will be available on the school website on Monday 4th May. These will be accompanied by supporting help sheets, which explain tasks in greater detail and a year group newsletter for the children.

In order to access these follow the link to your year group page via the 'Home Learning – School Closure 2020' tab from the main menu on the school website.

The trail tasks should be completed in the children's work books. Don't forget to keep up with a daily diet of Mathletics, spelling and phonics practice, daily reading and number facts / times tables practice. In addition to the tasks set by the teacher, Mathletics contains a wealth of games including a 'Multiverse' section for times tables practice.

We have noticed that there are some children who have not yet engaged in any activities in either Purple Mash or Mathletics and would ask that parents encourage their children to complete some tasks, however small, on these platforms. We would like all children to engage in some elements of home learning in order to keep up good learning habits but this does not need to be a full timetable similar to that which the children would

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you've all had another good week and are helping your parents out at home. Remember that it's tricky for them too!

When I've watched the news this week I have been so impressed by all the acts of kindness that are taking place across the country. This has ranged from people, like Captain (or now Colonel) Tom Moore raising over £30,000,000 for NHS charities, volunteers making face shields or hospital gowns, neighbours doing the shopping for elderly or vulnerable people or people sending letters in the post to family and friends far away just to brighten their day. There are so many good things coming out of this crisis.

Can you think of something kind that you could do for someone else? This might tidying your room without being asked, sending a picture to your grandparents, or spending a whole afternoon without arguing with your brother or sister.

Stay safe everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

P.S Last week the trumpet player in my road played 'The sun will come out tomorrow'.

follow in school. Small, bite size activities are great, and we certainly don't want learning to be a battle or cause tensions at home, but please try to do something. It will be much harder for the children to get back into good learning habits once school resumes if they haven't attempted anything.

If you are unable to access the internet at home please advise your child's teacher so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Purple Mash and Mathletics

We appreciate, that as online platforms, both these sites are subject to technical difficulties that can impact on access. It has become apparent that upgrades are often done on Mondays and that there is also high demand on the sites at the start of the week. We would therefore suggest that you perhaps work on other tasks on a Monday in order to allow site access to settle down.

If you are having difficulty saving work on Purple Mash please refer to the help guide on the Home Learning page of the school website. Please note that if there is no 'save' icon on a Purple Mash quiz then the site will save it automatically.

Please remember that staff will be setting a daily task on Mathletics and that once this has been completed, children will be able to access the rest of the site.

Feedback on Unexpected Adventure Trail Tasks

We would like to offer the children the opportunity to have some feedback on their Unexpected Adventure Trail tasks as I know that many of them will have been trying really hard with these and will have produced some lovely pieces of work which their teachers would love to see.

I would appreciate your help in enabling us to do this in an organised way which will enable staff to get back to all children in their class.

1. Please use the year group email accounts to email no more than 4 photos of your child's work. Please send just one email and in the subject box of the email please put your child's name followed by Adventure Trail tasks.
2. Please do not include your child's image in these emails.
3. Emails should come from parents please rather than the children.
4. Please choose work that shows the amazing effort that your children have been applying to their home learning tasks.
5. Staff will reply to the emails and will include a message for the children with feedback about their efforts. Please allow time for the staff to get back to you.
6. We would kindly ask that these emails are sent by Wednesday 14th May.

Year group emails, for example year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk, can be used by parents to contact staff regarding any aspect of home learning. These accounts are checked Monday to Friday during school hours.

Additional Unexpected Adventure Trail Exercise Books

If your child is nearing completion of their home learning exercise book, please email your child's class teachers using the year group email address to request one. These will be posted out or hand delivered to you. With postal delays, please allow a week for these to reach you.

Please only request a new book when the current book is nearly full.

Information to Support Home Learning on the School Website (www.godinton.kent.sch.uk)

Links are now available on the school website to websites and apps that support all areas of the curriculum, pupil wellbeing, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and SEND (special educational needs and disability). To find these resource links, click on the 'Home Learning – School Closure 2020' tab from the main menu and then the 'Links to Subject Based Online Resources' tab or follow the link: <https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/home-learning-school-closure-2020/links-to-subject-based-online-resources/>

Some of these activities would be useful to try when children have completed the tasks set on their Adventure Trails.

On the 'Home Learning – School Closure Key Information' homepage you will also find links to:

- The school's calculation policies – helpful guides to how different aspects of maths are taught at Godinton
- Spelling lists
- Times tables lists
- The BBC Bitesize website

Other Useful Websites and Activities

Kent Children's University has created a sizeable resource of home learning activities, challenge materials and ideas to support children and them to keep creative, entertained, active and busy during these unpredictable times. These activities are suitable for all age groups and abilities.

[http://www.kentchildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent/home/kcu-challenges/home-learning-resources-\(covid-19\)/](http://www.kentchildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent/home/kcu-challenges/home-learning-resources-(covid-19)/)

Canterbury Museums have developed some creative resource packs for families to try at home. This includes making your own Cabinet of Curiosities, making your own Egyptian Mummy or having a go at making Anglo-Saxon jewellery which may be of particular interest to year 5. Find out more by following the link below:

<https://canterburymuseums.co.uk/events/at-home-creative-family-activities/>

Speech Link Parent Portal <https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

As a school, we subscribe to this recommended website and use it to assess and support our pupils with their speech and language needs. The site has now generated a parent portal to help parents to support their children's speech and language needs at home. This site may hold some interesting information for you about what speech and language difficulties are as well as activities for your child regardless of whether or not they have a diagnosed speech and language need.

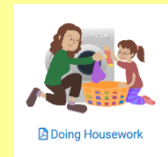
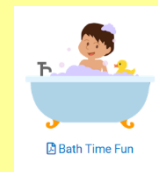
We strongly recommend that before you begin any activities with your child, you read through the information held in the portal. This includes information about speech production and language needs that are concisely and accessibly described in the 'Information' and 'Development' tabs of the portal. These pages are a quick read but very informative. Please remember to click on any arrows within the page for more information.

Online Games and activities that you can share with your child or they can complete independently can then be found in the Activities tab. Each week we will be recommending an area for you to focus on. Please see below for this week's recommendation.

Now try this...

Develop your child's speaking and listening skills by having a go at the 'Everyday Activities' suggested in the Activities tab. There are lots of ideas here that can help you to promote these vital skills with your child without you needing to set aside special time for this.

Choose from activities such as 'Bath time fun' or 'Doing the housework'.



Free School Meals

E-vouchers for those families in receipt of benefit related free school meals have been processed for the next three weeks and will be sent to parents every Monday. We are aware that there have been some issues with the system due to the high demand nationally – please keep persevering and if you have any difficulties please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Williams who will be happy to assist. Please note that McColls has now been added to the list of retailers where vouchers can be redeemed.

We are aware that some families have not yet redeemed their vouchers – again, if you are having any difficulties, please contact Mrs Williams via the school office email or telephone.

If any family believes that they might be entitled to benefits related free school meals, please look at the criteria by following the link below and should it relate to you, please contact the school office. If you are unsure whether you are entitled or not, please contact Mrs Williams and by providing us with some details, we will be able to look on your behalf. During the period of lockdown, those families who are entitled to free school meals will receive a £15 per child, per week e-voucher which can be redeemed at supermarkets to buy food for your child.

Should your family circumstances change at any point, the school office will be happy to help you access any entitlement to free school meals.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Children Attending School during Closure

Please remember that key workers are asked to book places for the following week by contacting schoolclosure@godinton.kent.sch.uk by 12 p.m. (midday) on a Friday. Mrs Partridge is managing these arrangements and will confirm bookings with parents. Thank you to everyone for all their cooperation with the arrangements that we have in place – it's helped the system to run smoothly.

Please can we remind parents, that if they are working from home, then their children should remain with them.

The school will be open to the children of key workers on Bank Holiday Friday 8th May.

Children should not attend school if they are displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus. Testing is available to key workers and their families. The following guidance provides further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Contacting the School

If you need to get in touch with the school office during the closure period, you can call 01233 621616 between 8.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday or email office@godinton.kent.sch.uk or headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk

In the event of an emergency, you can also contact emergency@godinton.kent.sch.uk and for safeguarding concerns please contact pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Year group emails, for example year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk, can be used by parents to contact staff regarding any aspect of home learning. These accounts are checked Monday to Friday during school hours.

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

This site contains links to further information such as the new arrangements for testing. As well as testing patients to inform their clinical diagnosis, testing is also now taking place for: all essential workers including NHS and social care workers with symptoms, anyone over 65 with symptoms, anyone with symptoms whose work cannot be done from home (for example, construction workers, shop workers, emergency plumbers and delivery drivers), anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus and lives with any of those identified above. Full guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Public Health England has updated their guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They have also published guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at risk or has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

The guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

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 on as a family.

This week's challenge is all about: **The 75TH Anniversary of VE Day**

This year, the May Bank Holiday has changed to Friday 8th May in order to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE day, the day that the **Second World War** ended in Europe.

To mark this event, we are inviting the children to make a **medal or rosette** displaying a word such as bravery, courage, determination, valour or heroism – all words which are equally applicable to many people in today's current circumstances.

Their medals could be made from fabric, cardboard or ribbons, painted, coloured or collaged. The children could then wear their medals on the anniversary or give or send them to someone who they think demonstrates these qualities in their own lives today.



Home Learning Photos for Website

Over the next fortnight, we would like to invite children from any year group to share photos with us for the school website of them completing any creative tasks from their new Unexpected Learning Adventure or of them making a medal as part of this week's challenge.

Please send these to homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk by Wednesday 13th May. In order to stand the best chance of your child's picture making it to the website, please ensure that the image is of good quality and let us know that you give permission for it to be uploaded to the website. I will also be including some of the photos in school newsletters.

Wellbeing News...

During the period of lockdown it is important to think about activities that you can do as a family and also that the children can do to keep their mind feeling positive and focused. Each week we will be suggesting an activity that you could do as a family and also a task that your children could complete to support their mental health and well-being. Here are a couple of suggestions. Stay safe and take care everyone.

Family Fun...

Unleash your imagination and try indoor camping! Take a duvet cover, sheet or blanket and create a 'Den' between some chairs, under a table, between some trees or bushes in the garden and maybe even take a snack and a book. Talk to your children about what might be outside; can they hear any animals? What do they look like? Are they friend or foe? It could even become a permanent fixture in a bedroom during lockdown as the small space makes the children feel safe and secure. This type of activity will ignite your children's imagination, encouraging them to think beyond the walls of your home and about endless possibilities without restrictions. Imaginative play is a fantastic way to develop and nurture your child's wellbeing and imagination whilst also supporting their ability to think of ideas for their creative writing. If all the family get involved then you will have a shared experience to add to the positive memories of lockdown.

Children's Challenge...

Create your own glitter bottle to help you to relax



Take a used plastic bottle, take the labels off it, wash it and fill it with water. Leave a little bit of space at the top and add in the glitter. Put the cap back on the bottle tightly and go around this with Sellotape if you wish for extra security. Now shake the bottle and watch the glitter falling down to the bottom again. This is great way to help you to relax if you're feeling worried as it will calm you down and help you to refocus on what is important to you. If you don't have glitter at home you could make some coloured rice using the recipe opposite and put this into the bottle. It will fall quicker than the glitter but would be just as much fun!



Something to Explore... Mind is a charity that supports adults and children with their mental health needs. Take some time this week to read through some of the suggestions on this page to help you to manage and support yourselves during this challenging period.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/coronavirus-we-are-here-for-you/>



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

Have a good week everyone. Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher