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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Parents,

We have now finalised our planning for the wider reopening of school which will begin after half term. You will have received a letter about this via ParentMail just before we broke for the holiday and if you are a key worker, have a vulnerable child or are a Reception parent, you will have received further information in the last few days regarding the processes for your child returning to school. We have taken every precaution to ensure that safe measures continue to be in place for those children attending school – no stone has been left unturned. This has been a huge undertaking with us having to rethink how we operate every aspect of school life. Please can I ask, that in order for our safety measures to be thoroughly implemented, parents read through all the information provided prior to their child coming into school. As of 1st June we have had to make alterations to site access and the systems for drop off and pick up for example and your cooperation with these arrangements will be essential.

Implementing the first phases of reopening

Site access during reopening phase

At drop off and pick up times, a one way system will be in operation with parents and children accessing the site via the Chimneys path and exiting the site from the Lockholt Close pedestrian entrance. Vehicle access to the site will be restricted between 8.40 and 9.40 and then again between 2.20 and 3.30.

As of 1st June, no visitors (including parents) will be able to access the school building (including office) without prior arrangement in order to minimise the number of people on site. If you need to contact the school office, usual hours will resume – please ring 01233 621616 or email office@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you have all had a lovely half term and have been able to enjoy the sunshine. I have been for lots of super walks down to Littlestone beach. The views out over the English Channel have been great and I've had clear sight of France. I'm very much looking forward to coming back to school. My hospital treatment finished last week but I have still got to stay at home for a few more weeks. My hair has started to grow back (although it's very grey!!) and I'm feeling really well.

More of you will be starting to come back to school over the next few weeks but I don't yet know how many of you we will see before the end of July. I am very proud of you all and how well you are doing at home. Everyone is looking forward to a time when school will be back to normal but we may have a little while longer to wait. Hang on in there! Keep being kind to your parents and your brothers and sisters and try to stay busy and enjoy new things at home.



Stay safe everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

Correspondence with Staff

Any correspondence between parents of children attending school and teachers will be carried out via email or telephone, staff will not be able to meet with parents after school. Year group emails e.g. year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk will continue to operate as will the following emails: pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk, homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk, emergency@godinton.kent.sch.uk We will be continuing to use the school closure email for all correspondence relating to key workers booking places for their children schoolclosure@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Personal Belongings

Many of the children left personal belongings in their classrooms in the haste of closure back in March, including PE kits and items from their trays. Staff have cleared cloakrooms and trays and over the next few weeks to prepare for new groups using the rooms. We will advise you of the process for collecting these items from school before we break for the summer holidays.

Home Learning

Well done to everyone who is keeping up with some form of regular home learning. I know that this is so tricky for some of you who are also trying to juggle working from home and that keeping the momentum going as the weeks go on is challenging. Our plan is to continue to provide Unexpected Adventure Trail work for at least the next 5 weeks. We are looking at different options for the last 3 weeks of term as by this point all staff will be back in class and juggling setting work for their own year group whilst teaching in another so we are exploring what will be sustainable. We will let parents know once this has been decided and will ensure that you all have plenty of things to keep the children busy at home.

New Unexpected Adventure Trail tasks will be set for the children on Monday 8th June on the school website. These tasks will take us up to Friday 19th June.

Even though the teachers will be returning to class, we will continue to provide feedback to the children through Purple Mash. We would also like to invite parents to submit further photographs of home learning work completed by their children to the year group emails to share their achievements with their teachers. The teachers have really enjoyed seeing how the children have responded to the tasks set, but if you have been up to other things at home that you would like to share with the staff, please send these photos through as well. We would ask that photos are sent using the same protocols as before:

1. Please use the year group email accounts to email 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.

Virtual Classrooms

Prior to the Government's announcement regarding re-opening, we were in the process of finalising arrangements to set up virtual meetings with teachers and children in their class via online platforms (e.g. Zoom or Microsoft Teams). This would be an opportunity for the children to see their class teachers and classmates for some socialisation. These plans had to go on hold whilst we addressed the issues surrounding re-opening. It is still our intention to offer this opportunity to the children – please bear with us whilst we get our new systems underway and then we will share our plans with you.

Children in School

If your child is in school next week and the weather continues to be as sunny, please remember to send them in with a hat. Sun cream should be applied before your child comes to school.

If a child minder is now collecting your child from school at the end of the day, please inform the school office of the children who will be going home together – this way we can ensure that we are able to make all the children available for pick up at the same time.

Please remember that the school kitchen does not open until Monday 8th June and that packed lunches must be brought into school during the w.c. Monday 1st June.

Impact of School Closure on other Events and Processes

September 2020 – New Reception Intake

The continuation of lockdown measures means that we will need to make alterations to our planned activities to support the induction of our September 2020 intake of Reception pupils. We are in the process of making alternative arrangements and will advise parents of these in due course. We will do all we can to ensure that the children have familiarisation with school before September and that parents have all the information they need to get their children ready for school.

PESE (11+ for current Year 5 pupils)

Currently, KCC are unable to inform parents as to how assessment for Grammar School in 2021 will operate. A statement on the KCC website explains the county's position as it stands at the moment. This can be reached via the following link: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1>

If Year 5 parents are interested in their child undertaking the grammar school assessments next academic year then they will need to register their interest on the KCC website using the same link as above. Registration opens on 1st June 2020 and closes on 1st July 2020.

Usually at this time of year our Year 5 and 6 staff would be holding face to face meetings with parents to discuss whether their children's classwork is indicative of grammar or not. These discussions are based on our Year 5 and 6 teachers looking through the children's books and assessments taken in school alongside our Senior Management Team. This year, we will be unable to operate all these processes in the usual way. We are therefore reviewing possible means by which parents can receive information in order to assist you with your decision making. We will provide parents with further information about this process next week. There is no benefit to early registration for the tests, so you may wish to wait until you have had further information from us.

I will of course continue to update parents with any information relating to the 11+ process as this becomes available from KCC.

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: **Water**

Perhaps you could:

- Investigate floating or sinking
- Find about different rivers, seas or oceans around the world
- Make something using water – a glitter jar, a small world lagoon or underwater world, a recipe in which water is an ingredient, a musical instrument
- Find out about creatures that live in the sea
- Investigate water freezing – make flavoured ice lollies or ice cubes
- Paint a picture with water colour paints
- Make a boat that will float on water
- Create a water obstacle course or a game involving water
- Play with water balloons or in the paddling pool



Wellbeing News...

From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

We've seen lots of hearts and rainbows around our neighbourhoods, sending messages of thanks. Why not create some kindness rocks and deliver it to someone's garden. Collect 2-4 medium sized stones and decorate them, then add a message to say...I love you, Missing you, you are amazing, or whatever feels right, then put your name or initials on the back. Be safe when you collect or deliver them. They can then become Rocks of Hope.

Family Fun... TIME TO CONNECT

Ready for a crazy half hour? How about a game of 'Bring me'

The leader has two members of the family who compete against each other at pace. If you can play this outside, it stops things getting broken, if not just take care! Role of the leader is to shout a command,' bring me.....' A feather, shoe lace, flower, trainer, cuddly toy, leaf, stick... If you are at the beach or woods, the list can be endless. Those having to find the object have the most amount of fun finding it and trying to be the first to present it. This is good fun for ALL ages.

(Award everyone the winner if tempers flare.)

Children's Challenge...

In the current times when children are separated from Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and friends its often easier to focus on what we can't do than what we can. Find a spare container; it might be an old plastic jar, or a small cardboard box that you can decorate. Take some time to think about all the things that you want to do with your special people once we can all spend time together safely. It might be that you would like to sit on the sofa and read a book with your Nanny or Grandad, you might want to have a water fight with your friends or even go visit a playcentre, theme park or castle with your loved ones. Write or draw these things down on separate pieces of paper. Decorate them if you like and write the names of the people that you would like to do these things with. Fold them up carefully and store them safely in your container. The next time that you talk to your loved ones, tell them about your box of things to look forward to and take out one of your pieces of paper. Share this with them and talk about what you might do together and where you might go. If you start to feel sad that you can't see your special people at the moment, think about this lovely activity that you have now got to look forward too.

Something to explore...

This website holds a wealth of information and advice on how you can support your child's mental health during the current Covid -19 period and as they mature and develop. If you can, take some time this week to explore some of the resources and useful reading.

<https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>

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

Speechlink Parent Portal



<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

I hope that you have been finding the Speechlink portal useful for activities that you could do with your child to develop their speech and language skills. The portal also holds a useful amount of information that will help you to understand their speech and language development as they mature. 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. Please see below for this week's recommendation.

Now try this...

Continue to develop your child's language skills by going into the Activities tab of the Portal and scrolling down the page to the 'Language Activities' Section. Click on the arrow for the 'Instructions' section. Here you will again find some information about what these skills are, what they involve and why they are important. There are then some activities that can be completed with children aged between 4 – 7 and 7 – 11 years old.

Home Learning Photos for Website

Please have a look at the school website for a series of new photos showing all the exciting creative tasks that children have been up to at home in the last few weeks.

Here you will also find a lovely photo montage of our Year 1 children. We have also been sent an amazing video montage from some of our families – we are just in the process of getting this uploaded to the website. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in both of these. I can't tell you how much this meant to the staff.

Over the next week, we would like to invite children from any year group to share photos with us for the school website of them getting up to things outdoors – playing in the garden, exploring a park, walking by the beach. We are unable to put any photos on the website of children in their swimming costumes – so we'll have to imagine how much fun you've all had in your paddling pools!

Please send these to homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk by Wednesday 10th June. 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.

With so much to do since school closure began I have been back at work in an almost full time capacity throughout this period, working around hospital treatment. Now that my radiotherapy has finished, I am officially back at work full time, albeit remotely until my period of 12 week isolation

comes to an end. Mrs Stein and Mrs Partridge will be overseeing the on-site arrangements for reopening until I return to school at the end of the month. I'd like to say thank you again to all our staff for all their hard work over the last 10 weeks and especially our Senior Management Team and Mr Lund our Site Manager for getting all the practical arrangements in place. The next few weeks are likely to continue to be busy as we embed our new ways of working but please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that we can help with or if you have any questions.

On behalf of all the team at Godinton, I wish you and your families well. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot