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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I want to start this week by saying well done to all the Year R children who returned to school this week for their resilience in managing all the changes we have had to put in place so valiantly. We are very proud of them all. The staff have worked exceptionally hard to navigate the restrictions we have found ourselves under in order to settle the children back into life at school. Everything is so very different to that which we would usually have in place for the children but they have coped really well. I know that they will be tired by the end of the week, it will feel a little like the start of an academic year, and that some of the children might have wobbles on Monday after a weekend at home. Our team are here to support so if you are encountering anything that we can help with, please just let us know.

Thank you to those Year 1 parents who have expressed an interest in a place for their child back at school. I will be looking through all the requests later today and will let parents know as soon as possible if we are able to offer a place for your child.

As I have said previously, we are now down to our remaining few key worker places in some bubbles. Once these are full, we will have utilised all our available staff and space. We will continue to look at alternative options and be guided by any changes that the Government put in place; we will of course let everyone know if anything changes.

Thank you to everyone for all your patience, understanding and support. These have been difficult times for everyone, with lots of disappointment surrounding the children's return to school. We will continue to do all within our means to support the children over the coming weeks whether they are at home or in school and very much look forward to everyone being reunited soon.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I know that some of you may be feeling disappointed that you aren't able to come back to school this year. I'm very sad about that too as are all the grown-ups at Godinton. We would have loved to have seen all of you back at school before the summer – we're missing everyone very much.

My most important job as Headteacher is keeping everyone safe. In order to do that in the best way I can and to protect everyone from the virus, it means that I can only have a certain amount of children in school at the moment. The Government have told me the safest way for children to come back to school and which year groups can come back and by following these instructions, I know that I am doing all I can to keep everyone safe.

Whether you are at home or at school, the teachers will be working hard to give you things to do to keep you busy. Keep trying hard with this – you are all doing a brilliant job!

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

Staying Connected

Virtual Class Catch Up Sessions

This week, Mrs Stein has sent out details of the 'Virtual Class Catch Up Sessions' that we are setting up in order for the children to have some face to face time with their teachers and friends in their class. With such a large number of children confirmed as being unable to return to school we wanted to offer some further connection for them.

Next week, you will be sent an invite to the session from your child's teacher which will take place via Microsoft Teams. This is new territory for us so please bear with us as we get to grips with the technology.

I hope that the children will enjoy catching up with some of their classmates.

Virtual Sports Day

As we are unable to hold our usual Sports Day this year – we will be hosting a virtual event which we hope everyone will want to join in with. Whether at home or at school, this is a chance for the children to join in with a series of different sporting activities to gain House Points for their House.

In the next few days we will be setting up a special page on the website where you will find instructions for all the activities, a score sheet, ideas for how to make your own medals and a certificate that you can print off. All of the activities have been designed to use things that you are likely to have at home and can be carried out in school within all the restrictions. The webpage can be found under the school closure tab.

In school, the children will be completing their activities on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th June. The children can wear sports clothes to school on both these days. This doesn't have to be their PE kit.

At home, you can carry out your own sports day on whatever day suits you best.

In school, all the children will have their own score sheet and final scores will be converted to House Points. As our Reception children haven't been allocated to a house yet, we will hold onto their scores and will add their points to their House totals once these have been finalised.

At home, you can either print off the score sheet and fill it in or copy it out if you don't have a printer. Once you have completed your score sheet, please send your scores into sportsday@godinton.kent.sch.uk by Friday 26th June.

Please also send us lots of photos of the children taking part in their activities so we can put these on the website so it feels as though everyone has been together. We will then add your scores to the House Point totals and announce the winning House at the end of term.

Please encourage your children to join in with this – it's a great way to feel part of the school and to get lots of exercise.

We look forward to hearing how you all get on.

Further Information for Children Coming into School

Thank you to all parents for your cooperation in getting the children safely in and out of school at the start and end of the day. I am grateful for all your efforts in respecting the one way systems that we have in place and the social distancing measures we have implemented. However, please can I now ask for your help with the following:

- Please do not arrive before your allocated pick up time. There should be no congregating of parents and earlier arrivals are in danger of causing congestion which we can't have. Some parents are waiting around for 15 minutes or more and this poses problems.
- Please do not stand close to the Chimney's footpath to wait for your allocated time. Try to time your journey so that you arrive close to your allotted pick up slot.
- It would be helpful if parents of children in Years 4- 6 (unless collecting younger siblings) do not arrive until 3.15.

We want our systems to be as safe as they can be for all our families but in order for this to be the case, please help us with the issues above. Thank you.

Speechlink Parent Portal

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

Please find above the link to the Speechlink portal. We continue to 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...

This week, have a look at the 'Purple - up to 5' section which holds a range of activities to support children up to 5 years of age with their language development. The activities and games here cover areas such as following instructions, answering 'when' questions and grouping objects and things. Please feel free to play these games with your older children as well as they will have just as much enjoyment out of them as a younger child.

Letter from the Chair of Governors

Please find attached to this ParentMail a letter from the Chair of Governors, Steve King, to all parents.

I am very grateful to the Governing Body for all the support they have provided to the school at this time.

Adult Education – Virtual Family Classes

The Adult Education Family Learning Team have been working hard to put together an offer of virtual classes for families.

They are offering a wide array of engaging opportunities for families ranging from first aid, to managing children's behaviour.

The timetable of courses for Term 6, is attached to this ParentMail so that you can see all available courses.

The Adult Education Business Support Team will be the point of contact for families to book onto the courses. The telephone number is **03000 415888** and the email address is: **BusinessSupportTeam@kent.gov.uk**

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

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

This page includes links to information on health and wellbeing, employment and finances, working safely and testing. There is a section on what you should do if you or anyone in your house displays symptoms of coronavirus.

If any child attending school displays symptoms of coronavirus they must remain at home. Please let the school know and we will advise you on the measures you need to take, including testing arrangements. If anyone else in your household displays symptoms then the family should self-isolate and if anyone is awaiting test results for Coronavirus, please keep your child at home and let us know the outcome of the test results once they are received.

Please visit the **NHS** website for further details on the testing process:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Guidance on the Government's new Test and Trace service can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

NHS

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

[Check the NHS website if you have symptoms](#)

Wellbeing News...From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

A little more patience please! 'Patience, is waiting with a kind heart!' Why not catch members of your family showing patience by waiting nicely when asked, or not interrupting your conversation. When you notice it, go all out with a massive over the top "Thank you." Then watch them smile. I'd also like to encourage you to pass on patience & kindness this week, so if someone does something kind for you, keep it going with someone else and see how far the acts of Kindness goes.....

Family Fun... TIME TO CONNECT

Dinner Time Fun! If you are sitting opposite each other before or after dinner, Have a go at the **STARING GAME CHALLENGE** – Basic rule, someone has a timer and each person takes it in turn to out stare their opponent without smiling or blinking! Can you last 10 or more seconds? The first person to crack or blink, loses.⊗ (Best out 3 and see who wins!) If that's too hard? Go for the doughnut eating challenge where you need to eat a tasty jam doughnut without licking your lips. One lick and you're out!! No cheating now!

Children's Challenge...

MY COPING TOOLBOX...



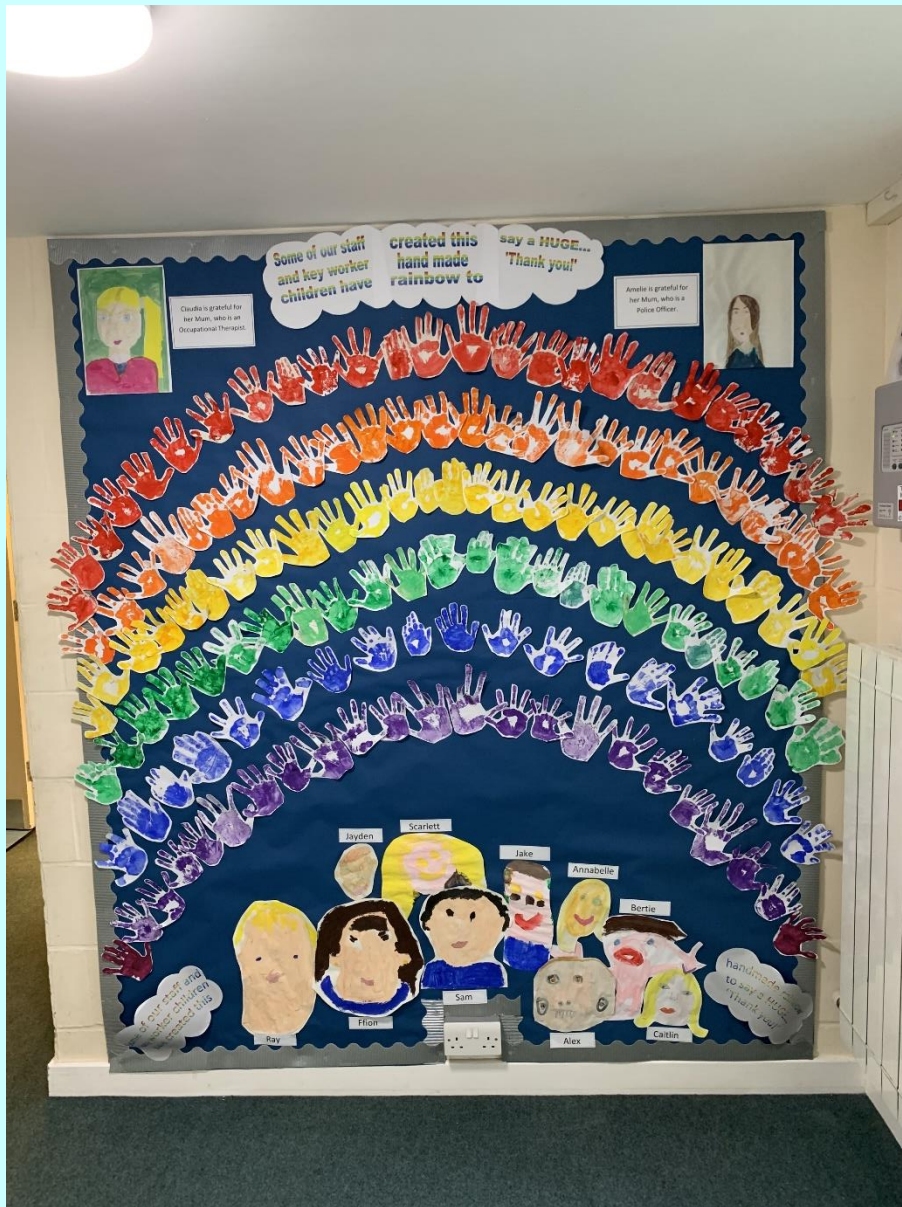
Having been in 'lockdown' for the past 12 weeks you will have learnt a lot of new skills about what you can do to help you to manage the time at home without seeing your friends, family and school as you normally would have done. Everything has felt very different and we are all learning how to manage our new ways of living. Take some time this week to think about what new skills you have learnt. Write them down or draw them and put them in your coping toolbox. It would also be a good idea to put pictures, toys, and objects such as comforting teddies or blankets in there to remind you of the things that make you feel happy and relaxed.

Something to explore...

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/for-parents/tips-for-coping-from-children-and-young-people>

Unfortunely, some children may have experienced the loss of a loved one during this period or may be experiencing feelings of loss because they have been unable to see friends or family for an extended period of time. The Cruse webiste offers some helpful advice and support for helping your children manage these feelings of loss and bereavement

Have a look at this lovely display that our key worker children have produced.



Have a good week everyone.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher