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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Phases of Reopening

This week saw a further increase in the number of children we have had back in school. The rise in key worker numbers has meant that next week we will need to open a further year 2/3 bubble and year 4/5 bubble, which will be led by Miss Coveney and Miss Brooker respectively. Places in key worker bubbles are therefore getting close to capacity so if you are a key worker and know that you may need a place for your child, please contact Mrs Partridge via the school closure email address as soon as possible. Once your child has been allocated to a bubble they will remain in this group for the rest of term. Places for key worker children who have not yet attended school cannot be reserved for dates weeks ahead.

With the situation as it currently stands, it is looking unlikely that we will be able to offer many places to Year 1 children which was the second phase of our re-opening strategy. We will know where we stand once key worker places for the week commencing 15th June have been finalised on Tuesday next week and will then get in touch with Year 1 parents. This of course means that it is now highly unlikely that we will be able to welcome back any Year 6, other than key worker children, before the end of the academic year. I am so sorry that for many, their time at Godinton will end in this way. We are looking at special ways in which we can mark the children's time at school, will be organising virtual meetings over the coming weeks and will arrange an opportunity for all the children to get together once the regulations allow us to do so – whether this is in the summer holidays or in the autumn. We will make sure that we continue to support with the transition to secondary school in whatever way we can. If anything changes, before the end of term, we will of course let parents know.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you have all had a good week.

The weather hasn't been as good over the last few days has it? I hope that you are still getting out and about though and enjoying some fresh air. I must admit, I haven't been out for my usual walk for a couple of days – it's been very windy down here by the sea!

Usually at this time of year we would be getting ready for Sports Day which we would have held the week after next. Mrs Crowfoot and I have been talking about how we can arrange a 'virtual Sports Day' and will be letting you know the plans very shortly. I hope that you'll be able to join in with this. There may even be the chance to gain some house points for your team.

Your teachers have put together a newsletter for you which will be on the website on Monday. I hope that you will join in with some of the challenges they have set for you.

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

On Monday 8th June, we will be welcoming our Year R children back to school. It was lovely to catch up with so many of our Reception families on the phone earlier this week and to hear that you have been getting on so well despite everything that you have been juggling. We have 41 families who have said that their children will be returning so for the time being our Reception bubbles are full and we will be unable to accommodate any more children.

For those of you whose children will be coming back to school on Monday, please ensure that you have read through all the information sent through last week so that you are familiar with the arrangements we have in place, including drop off and pick up times and our one way system on site. It is essential that you talk through these arrangements with your child and use the social story that we have sent home so that they know that school will be very different. If you change your mind on Monday morning and no longer want your child to attend please contact the school office to let us know – that is absolutely fine. There is no obligation for parents to continue sending their child to school if they are unhappy or are finding the changes too difficult – you can change your mind at any time, the new version of school may not be for everyone. Likewise if the staff are concerned that your child is finding the new arrangements challenging, they will let you know.

Our staff are looking forward to seeing the children again and will do all they can to support them with the transition back to school.

A few reminders for all children coming into school:

- Please don't arrive at school ahead of your drop off or pick up times. Our systems have worked very well this week but we would like to avoid early key worker queues. The gates won't open until 8.45.
- Please don't bring any items to school other than lunch boxes, snacks and water bottles. Don't bring bags, book bags or toys.

The kitchen will be open for school packed lunches as of Monday 8th June. All children in Years R, 1 and 2 will be able to have a free school lunch, as will any children entitled to benefit related free school meals. Everyone else will be able to purchase meals in the usual way. The children will make their choices on the day. Alternatively they can bring a packed lunch from home.

Unexpected Adventure Trails and Year Group Newsletters

The next 'Unexpected Adventure Trails' will go live on the school website on Monday. As always, we would suggest that the children do some form of home learning every day if they can. Don't forget to keep up with a regular 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. This is the perfect time to build in lots of additional times table practice – this is such an important skill which helps with many aspects of maths. Gradually try to pick up the speed of recall and move on to link to inverses e.g. that they know $6 \times 4 = 24$ and that $24 \div 6 = 4$. The teachers have very much enjoyed seeing the photos that you have sent in to the year group email accounts – we can see that the children are working hard in so many ways. I know that momentum is perhaps flagging for some of you and that the road ahead still seems very long – please remember that you can only do your best and that every little helps. If there are alternative activities that you are doing with your children – that's great and just as valuable.

Free School Meals

If any families in receipt of benefit related free school meals have had difficulty in accessing or redeeming their e-vouchers, please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Williams who will be happy to assist.

With many people's circumstances changing due to the current situation, if any family believes that they might now 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. Supermarket vouchers are being provided for those who are entitled to free school meals and we don't want any eligible families to miss out.

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

Safeguarding and Online Safety

Please remember that we have updated the school website to include helpful links for parents on supporting their child's online activity. These can be found on the 'Safeguarding during School Closure' page of the website, which can be reached from the safeguarding tab. Many of our children will have had an increase in their online activity since school's closed. There is a lot of useful information available to parents to support in managing their child's screen time. A useful starting point is the Internet Matters website:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/5-top-tips-to-manage-children-screen-time/>

On our school website you can also find our updated Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy, details of what to do if you are worried about a child and contact numbers for anyone worried about domestic abuse.

If anyone has any concerns about a child, the safeguarding team at Godinton (Miss Talbot, Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney) can be contacted on pupilwelfare@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Home Learning Photos for Website

I have enjoyed seeing the photos of our children enjoying outdoor activities which have been sent into homelearning@godinton.kent.sch.uk over the last week. We will put these onto the website next week.

If you would like your child to join our gallery, please send any photos of the children playing in the garden, exploring a park, walking by the beach etc. 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 in 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 or used in a newsletter.

Wellbeing News... From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

Family Fun... TIME TO CONNECT

There is no place like the family circle. Take some time out this week and find somewhere relaxing to sit together. You will need an object of any kind. The first person holding the object, gets to express how they have been feeling since the virus started. Each family member takes it turn to speak, to be heard and to be understood, until everyone has had a turn. To show family kindness, a golden rule is....be respectful as each person shares, remember to be a team and don't break the circle by laughing at each other or not listening. Give 'Hi fives' or hugs when done!

The weather is about to change, they say rain is on its way!

We 've had lovely sunny days with brilliant blue skies, but now with the weather changing for a few days, why not plan an indoor picnic. Everyone gets to choose one thing to include in the picnic and helps to create it if they can do so safely. Once that's all done, find the perfect space at home and don't forget the picnic blanket to catch all the spillages. Put on some super fun music and enjoy a bit of family fun.

Parents, it's your job to get the children involved from start to finish, teach them how to make celebrations happen and be part of the clearing up crew. **NOW ENJOY!**

Children's Challenge...



FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS...This week, why not try to make a friendship bracelet to give to your friends when you next see them and to remind them that you are thinking about them. Maybe you could arrange a virtual chat with your friends and make the bracelets together or send them a bracelet in the post? There is a youtube clip below that tells you how to make one using a few threads. When you get more confident, why not try using more threads or creating a different pattern.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTZ58HliYLS>

Something to explore...

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity and this website offers lots of advice and suggested activities to complete with your children during this coronavirus period.

Visit: www.place2be.org.uk

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: **LOCAL NATURE**

Perhaps you could...

- Make a mini beast hotel or a feeder for birds out of recycled materials
- See how many trees and plants you can identify in your local area
- Make a model or draw a picture of an insect, mini beast or other creature you have seen in your garden
- Do some planting. Can you grow flowers or vegetables?
- Make a video or animation set in part of your garden – use Lego mini figures or action figures as the stars.

I'm sure that you can use your imagination to be really creative!

Speechlink Parent Portal



<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

I hope that you are continuing to find the Speechlink portal useful for activities that you could do with your child to develop their speech and language skills. The Speechlink team have slightly changed the portal now so you would need to access activities for your child according to their age. We still 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 light blue section which holds a range of activities to support children up to 4 years of age with their language development. The activities and games here cover areas such as using pronouns, negatives, asking why and understanding of concepts. 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.

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. Please contact the school as well if this is the case.

From the link above, you can also access the section on school openings, education and childcare. Here you will find a document with useful ideas and links for supporting children's mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

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>

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

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher

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](#)