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## School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding over the last few days with regard to the closing of Rabbits and Badgers' bubbles. We have been working closely with Public Health England to ensure that all the required measures have been taken.

When anyone displays a higher than usual temperature this can be seen as a sign of Covid-19. We know that children are often prone to temperatures for all sorts of reasons, some more than others but in the current climate, there are protocols that need to be followed if this is the case. If any child attending school displays a higher than usual temperature, they are required to get tested for Covid-19. If the test comes back positive then we have to close the bubble to all the children and if it comes back negative the bubble remains open.

In the situation we have had this week, the test results were lost in the system and therefore PHE cannot confirm whether the results would have been positive or negative. With that being the case, PHE have to treat the situation as a suspected case of COVID-19 and as such we were required to close Rabbits' bubble to all the children as of yesterday. All the children in the bubble will be required to self-isolate and may return to school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. If the test results are found and are negative then we let everyone know and the bubble will reopen.

Although they have had no close contact with the children in Rabbits' bubble, we felt it was prudent to close Badgers' bubble as well due to the open plan nature of the Reception classrooms. These children will not need to self-isolate. The children in Badgers' bubble may also return to school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

### Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you've all had a great week. Did you manage to join in with our Virtual Sports' Day this week? If not don't worry – all the information is on the website and you can join in whenever you want.

Those children in school have been completing their sports day activities within their bubbles over the past few days. I know that it hasn't been the same as our real sports day which is always a fantastic day but Mrs Crowfoot tells me that everyone has been very happy and it was nice to see so many smiles.

Don't forget to make a medal and either print off or create your own certificate to congratulate yourself. We'd love to see any photos of how you have got on. Your parents can send these to [sportsday@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sportsday@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

Look out for the gallery of photos on our website – coming soon.

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

If any children display symptoms of coronavirus whilst at school, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child straight away. We will be able to advise on the steps that should then be taken, including the process for testing. Should they become unwell with symptoms whilst at home, parents must notify the school in order for us to ensure that we can implement any measures required. The child should self-isolate.

Please can I take the opportunity to remind you of the current **NHS** advice on the main Covid-19 symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Further information can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with this situation. We look forward to seeing our Badgers and Rabbits' bubbles back in school next week.

## **Staying Connected**

### **Virtual Class Catch Up Sessions**

As explained via ParentMail at the start of the week, we are experiencing some issues with the setting up of 'Virtual Class Catch Up Sessions' in order for the children to have some face to face time with their teachers and friends in their class. I'm really sorry but these difficulties are ongoing. We will get back to everyone with a way forward as soon as we can.

### **Unexpected Adventure Trails**

Unexpected Adventure Trails for the next fortnight are now on the school website. These are accompanied by supplementary materials to support the children and a newsletter from the teachers. If you would like your child to have some feedback on their last Adventure Trail and you haven't done so already this term, please send some photos to your year group email account and the teachers will respond. We will then set another slot in a few weeks' time for the next round of feedback.

### **September 2020 Reception Intake**

Our special webpage for our new intake families will go live on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This will include pictures of our Reception teachers and information about starting school. Each week we will be adding more information for you and your child to look at, talk about and join in with. You will find the link to the page under the main menu tab: 'Welcome to Godinton: Reception 2020'.

## Further Information for Children Coming into School

Our systems are working well for those children coming into school. I am very pleased that our children are settling into their new routines so well and are being very mindful of the new rules in place. We are continuing to look at ways in which we can develop the children's playtime zones in order to provide more options for the children at playtime.

Please can I ask for your help with the following:

- Sun cream – with the limitations on items coming to and from school, please can I suggest that parents apply long-lasting sun cream to their children at the start of the day. The children should bring a hat to wear on hot days and must ensure that they have their water bottles in school.
- A couple of parents have asked for clarification on uniform for those attending school. The wearing of school uniform is encouraged but the current guidelines ask that children wear fresh clothes to school every day. With that being the case, I am happy for the children to wear their 'home clothes' to school on the days that uniform is being washed and would ask that these clothes are the closest that can be matched to school uniform.
- Please remember that if your child is in Years R, 1 or 2, they are still entitled to a free school packed lunch. The children can choose between a ham, tuna, cheese or chicken roll which is accompanied by veggie sticks and a sweet treat. Jo our cook, will also be rustling up some specials each week such as sausage rolls or wraps. For everyone else attending school, unless you are in receipt of benefit related free school meals, payment for school lunches are made in the usual way.

Thank you everyone for your cooperation.

## 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 'Pink – up to 7' section which holds a range of activities to support children up to 7 years of age with their language development. Help to build your child's vocabulary by playing the 'Yes/No' game which is described in this section. You could also play the 'Mini Olympics' game to support your children use of sequence words such as 'last' or 'before'.

# Wellbeing News...From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE!** This week's kindness challenge is to serve a member of your family, it may be a sibling (making someone else's bed or doing their chore, lay the table for supper, offer to make a cup of tea...) try to do this for a whole day and see whose day you can make, then swap. Serving others is good for our wellbeing!

## Family Fun... TIME TO CONNECT

Ready for a crazy ALL AGE wet activity? – How about ..**WATER BALLOON CATCH**. This game works best with water balloons, however normal balloons are just as good. Stand in a circle, triangle or opposite each other, then throw filled water balloons to each other (make sure the end is tied properly.)

**Rules:** This is a catching game, so balloons need to be thrown and not lobbed! Once caught, you must pass it on to the next person as quickly as possible, eventually it will go **BANG!** It's hilariously funny on a hot day in the garden or at the park.

**Warning:** Please do not try this indoors!!

## Children's Challenge...

Why not create a healthy living diary for this week to reflect on how you are looking after yourself during your time away from school. Start by creating a table with a section for each day of the week. Label this and then think about all the activities that you do in a day. Write in when you do your school work, when you take some exercise, when you have your breakfast and lunch and when you have free time. Once you have done this take some time to think about whether you are making healthy choices with your meals and activities. Are you including some fruit and vegetables in your diet? Do you make sure that you have some exercise every day? Are you making sure that you have time for fun and relaxing as well as school work and exercise?

It is important that we look after ourselves at the moment and sometimes we need to spend time thinking about this. There are some more ideas about how you could do this on the website below.

## Something to Explore...

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/>

Help your children maintain healthy habits for their mind and body by exploring some of the activities on this website. There is also a link to a website 'for grown ups' on this website to give you adult focused information about how you can support your children's physical and mental health during this period.

# 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: **Textures**

Perhaps you could:

- Explore sounds made by different textures e.g. bubble wrap or corrugated cardboard. Can you make your own instrument using textured materials?
- Find samples of different materials e.g. old socks, old curtains, scraps of fabric. Use these to make a texture collage.
- Can you create a texture painting? Paint a picture, ideally using thickly applied poster paint – then scratch in details and texture using a plastic fork.
- Create a picture from smooth and scrunched tin foil.
- Play with sand. Can you create your own treasure island?

## Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

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

The NHS has updated its guidance on hand washing. It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and a video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher