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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Earlier today, you will have received a letter via ParentMail, outlining our plans for some face to face 'catch-up' sessions with children in Year 1 to 6 and their teachers before the end of term. For most children, these will replace the virtual sessions we had planned and will reduce our reliance on technology with which we've had some difficulties!

It also outlines our plans to invite all Year 6 into school for a final goodbye, all day on Wednesday 22nd July and Thursday 23rd July.

This means that term will now end for children in Year R on Tuesday 21st July. Whilst we will keep our key worker bubbles open during the last week of term (including accommodating year R key worker children), if you can keep your children at home on Wednesday 22nd July and Thursday 23rd July, we would be immensely grateful as this will increase our options for accommodating our Year 6 children.

I hope that you will view this as a positive move to get our children re-connected with their classmates and teacher before the end of the academic year and to give our Year 6 children an end of term send off.

Further information will be sent out to parents on Monday regarding the after school sessions and the group to which your child has been allocated. Year R parents will be sent more information in due course regarding 1:1 sessions for their children with class teachers and the arrangement for the last two days of term for Year 6 will be shared with parents in the next couple of weeks once we have finalised further details.

I am as always, extremely grateful to everyone for all your patience and words of support. Thank you so much.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

Wow! Hasn't it been a hot week! I hope that you have had some time outside in the sunshine or in the paddling pool.

I've been back in school this week which has been wonderful. It's been so good to see everyone and to catch up with those in school about what life has been like. I am so proud of how well our Reception children have come into school in particular. There are so many changes and you have been brilliant at coping with these!

I am just as proud of those of you who are working at home. I know that this isn't easy but you are all doing so well. We can't wait to see you all very soon.

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

Thinking ahead to next year....

Government Plans

The Prime Minister has announced that the Government's plan is to welcome all children back to school in September. I really hope that circumstances will allow this to happen and we will do all we can to make this a reality. Of course everything depend on how events unfold over the next 10 weeks, and as we know anything can change at any time.

As always, we only know as much as you do at the moment as to how things might look in September. We are expecting further guidance from the Government next week which I am hoping will include further information on how schools may need to adapt curriculums in September, the expectations on 'catch up' programmes and plans, and how schools will need to make assessments and set targets for the children. With no formal SATS testing taking place this year, no end of year assessments against the early Learning Goals for the Reception children, no phonics screening and no multiplication screening, I am sure that the Government will be considering how this is to be addressed, which of course will have implications for schools. As we always do, we will support the children's learning, taking into account personal attainment, which will be different for all children and will face whatever further challenges come our way!

I will share further information with you as soon as I can.

Next Class Teachers

In the next week, I will be sharing with you which teacher your child will be having next year and our plans to support the children's transition into the next year group. We want to ensure that the children feel supported with this move but as you will appreciate, things will need to be slightly different this year.

End of Year Reports

Usually, at this time of year, we provide parents with a summer report with up to date information regarding effort, progress and attainment. As the school has remained closed to the majority of our pupils, and in the absence of much additional information to share with you, we have replaced the traditional, brief end of year report with an end of year 'round up' containing a comment from your child's current teacher and a welcome from the teacher they will be having in September. If your child has been attending school in recent weeks, the teacher of that 'Bubble' has also included a comment. Children in school, will take their reports home on Monday 13th July. Reports will be posted out to those not at home on Friday 10th July.

Collection of Belongings

Please remember to pop down to school to collect any of your child's belongings we have gathered up from trays or cloakrooms. We would like to try and clear some space before the end of term, so your help with this would be much appreciated. Your child will be able to take their exercise books home in September.

Dates and timings for each year group are as follows...

Day/Date	Time Slot	Year group
Tues 23 rd June	10am – 11am	Year 2
Weds 24 th June	1pm – 2pm	Year 2
Thurs 25 th June	10am – 11am	Year 1
Fri 26 th June	1pm – 2pm	Year 1
Mon 29 th June	10am – 11am	Year R
Tues 30 th June	1pm – 2pm	Year R
Weds 1 st July	10am – 11am	Year 3
Thurs 2 nd July	1pm – 2pm	Year 3
Fri 3 rd July	10am – 11am	Year 4
Mon 6 th July	1pm – 2pm	Year 4
Tues 7 th July	10am – 11am	Year 5
Weds 8 th July	1pm – 2pm	Year 5
Thurs 9 th July	10am – 11am	Year 6
Fri 10 th July	1pm – 2pm	Year 6

Further Information for Children Attending School

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.

- 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.
- Please note that we won't be re-chalking the 2m lines on the Chimneys path, I'm not sure that Mr Lund's knees can take any more! Now that everyone is in their stride with our distancing measures we will be using the coloured markers at the side of the path to denote 2m distancing.

Virtual Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos for the school website of the children enjoying joining in with our virtual sports day. If anyone else would like to be part of our online gallery, please send photos into sportsday@godinton.kent.sch.uk by Friday 26th June.

Check out the photos on the website by following the link below:

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/home-learning-school-closure-2020/virtual-sports-day-2020/>

Speechlink Parent Portal

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 another 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 develop your child's understanding of future tense verbs by taking part in the holiday activity or the 'When I grow up game'. Details of these games can all be found in this section.

Wellbeing News... From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

COMMUNITY KINDNESS – So how good are you at Baking?

If you are up for this week's challenge, why not grab an apron, wash your hands and check that you have the following ingredients: Plain flour, butter, a little milk and caster sugar. Next you need to decide what to make, either shortbread biscuits or fruit scones....then get baking. (Google will have nice easy recipes for you which will take no time at all to prepare.) Once baked and ready to serve, you then need to choose someone in your neighbour to share it with. It could be an older relative or just a neighbour needing cheering up! Maybe send us some pictures of your tasty delights, or just enjoy sharing the LOVE!

Family Fun... TIME TO CONNECT – 'CAPTURE THE FLAG'

For our indoor or outdoor version, choose your most artistic person to draw and design 2 family flags, make them bold and colourful. Once dry and ready to use, a designated person hides them somewhere in the house, or garden, then allow 10 -15 minutes for players to find one or both. You can give clues if needed, by saying "hot" (near) & "cold" (not near). The first to find it is the winner and deserves a small prize.

You can then begin the challenge over again with someone different hiding the flags. Make sure you have exciting winning treats to spur the players on.

Children's Challenge...

Why don't you teach yourself how to draw this week! Use the link below to find the Book Trust via the Place2Be website. Here you will find a YouTube clip of a children's book illustrator teaching you how to draw an animal. See if you can follow her instructions to draw your very own wolf! There are also video clips on there of authors reading from their books – how about listening to Cressida Cowell reading her third book in the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series – 'How to speak Dragonese'

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/?a=&sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1?utm_source=place2be.org.uk&utm_medium=referral

You can also find YouTube Clips of Cressida Cowell reading the first and second book on Youtube.co.uk

Something to Explore...

Try to take some time out this week to refocus and reflect using the headspace meditation that can be found via the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2awoUfCwXQs>

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: **Wimbledon**

Monday should have seen the start of Wimbledon fortnight. For those of you who enjoy watching the tennis, why not try some of our Wimbledon themed suggestions...

Perhaps you could:

- Hold your own tennis tournament with family.
- Play balloon tennis with homemade rackets, made from paper plates and balloons for balls or try using water balloons with a racket (perfect on a hot day!)
- Have strawberries and cream, scones or make Eton mess for afternoon tea.
- Carry out some research on famous tennis players past and present.

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

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

Please remember to notify the school in the event that your child demonstrates symptoms of coronavirus or if they are self-isolating if someone in their household has symptoms.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher