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## School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

Earlier in the week, I shared with you some of our transition plans for September for years 1 to 6. When we return to school, the children will be in their new year group, however for the first 3 days, they will be taught by their current teacher in their current classroom. In the absence of being able to arrange a proper transition for the children this term, we felt that these would help to settle the children back into school and help to support them with the new routines that we will be setting up. They will then all move to their new classroom and be taught by their new teacher from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

I have also sent out letters to the parents of those children who will be starting in Year R in September. This letter outlines the details of which class your child will be in, the date on which they will start school and information about how they can come onto site to say hello to their teacher and to collect a very special bag of goodies.

In September, all children, from all year groups will be expected back in school and we will resume attendance monitoring. We understand that this will be a concern for some parents, particularly those whose children have not been in school since March. Before the end of term, I will be sharing with you further information about how things will look at the start of next year so you can talk to your child about this over the summer. This will include information about the arrangements for drop off and pick up, lunch arrangements, timetabling during the day, adaptations to the curriculum and the social distancing measures that will still need to be implemented to some extent in September. Breakfast Club will resume in September but places may be limited and we may not be able to run things in the same way. I will send out further details about this next week. We are in the process of liaising with Kent Play Clubs regarding the reopening of After School Club and how this will look in September.

### Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

It's not long to go now until the summer holiday. I hope that you have got some exciting things planned to keep you busy until we all come back to school in September. I'm looking forward to having a good rest and a chance to recharge (I think that the teachers feel the same) – it's been a very busy few months!

When you come back to school in September, you'll have the chance to spend a few days with your current class teacher so you can bring your time with them to a proper end and so you have the chance to catch up with all your friends before you start with your next teacher. I hope that this will help you all to settle into our new routines really quickly when you come back to school. We can't wait to see you.

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

Guidance for parents about full reopening in September can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

## End of Term

Please be reminded that term will end for children in Year R on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July in order for us to accommodate Year 6 in school for the last 2 days of the academic year. **School will continue to remain open to Key Worker children from all year groups on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July but we would ask that in order for us to have more staffing and room options available for accommodating Year 6, if you are able to keep your child at home, please do so.**

In order to book a place for your child in school during the final week of term, please return the booking form to Mrs Partridge at [schoolclosure@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:schoolclosure@godinton.kent.sch.uk) by 3 p.m. today (Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July). If you do not, a place will not be available for your child.

If you have booked a place for your child and circumstances change, meaning that you are now able to keep your child at home, please let us know.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July is an INSET day and school will be closed to all pupils.

## Year 6

We will be sending out further details to Year 6 parents next week, regarding the practical arrangements for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This will include details of what time the children will need to arrive at school, the arrangements for pick up and information about what the children will be able to bring with them. The children will not need to wear school uniform as having seen how tall some of our children have grown during school closure, I'd be surprised if they had anything that fitted!

Please can Year 6 parents remember to email [year6parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year6parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk) to book their child's place by **Monday 13h July**. We need this information to be able to allocate the children to groups and to make arrangements for these two days.

I hope that the children will enjoy coming back to school to say goodbye to everyone. We are very grateful to everyone's help with these arrangements and are very much looking to welcoming our Year 6 children back to school at the end of term.

## **Face to Face Sessions**

Everyone has been sent details of the dates and times of their child's face to face sessions and whether they have been allocated to group A or group B. Please remember that all children have been invited to 2 sessions so if one session is cancelled due to bad weather, there is always another opportunity. If both sessions are cancelled due to bad weather we will try to slot in an alternative for those groups so that everybody has been on site at least once. This may not always be possible.

We are really enjoying welcoming the children back on site and hope that good weather will enable us to see as many as possible before the end of term.

## **Kent Libraries – Summer Reading Challenge**

### **Summer Reading Challenge 2020 – Silly Squad**

The Kent Libraries Summer Reading Challenge is an annual event aimed at 4–11 year olds. Every summer holiday, children are encouraged to read six (or more) books of their choice with collectable incentives and rewards, plus a certificate for every child who completes the Challenge.

Usually children visit their local library to register and collect a wallet, stickers and other rewards as they progress through the challenge, reading a total of six books. However, with the disruption caused by COVID-19 causing public libraries to be currently closed, the 2020 Challenge will work in a different way. For the first time in Kent, it is going to be a digital-only activity to keep children reading and support parents and carers with children already at home.

This year's Challenge is called Silly Squad and is all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh! It's free to join the Silly Squad website and take part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2020. Those who complete the challenge, will also get a special certificate to print off and keep. This year's Challenge runs from 5 June to September, so there's plenty of time to take part. More information about the summer reading challenge can be found in the letter attached to this ParentMail.

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

## WEEKEND KINDNESS!

Choose one or two members of your family if you are able to and have a go at the following:

1. When you are alone with them, take time out to ask how they are, and if they are feeling happy? If yes, ask them to share why? If not, explore a little further...
2. Do your best listening, don't interrupt or fix them, just listen well and try to understand them.
3. Maybe ask them what you can do to help them personally this weekend.
4. Find a special treat or complete an act of Kindness for them, make sure it's something they would love.
5. Finally, tell them regularly that you have been thinking of them and you are there for them. *(Keep an eye on the difference your interest makes.)*

## Family Fun...

### FAMILY FUN TIME ~ FRUIT FONDUE or FRUIT KEBABS

It's going to be a sunny weekend, so why not use up all your leftover fruit in a really fun way!

You will need: Cocktail sticks or kebab sticks, a selection of fruit (Maybe try some you haven't tried before.) Chop them into 2-3 cm cubes and load them onto the Kebab stick until full, or individually place fruit pieces on lots of cocktail sticks. \*Don't forget some sneaky sweet treats such as milk bottles, banana sweets or marshmallows. Now this is the best bit.....if you make fruit kebabs, why not ask an adult to toast them on a BBQ for 2 mins then drizzle with melted chocolate (yum yum!) However if you are using cocktail sticks, simply dip them into melted chocolate which can be done slowly in the microwave, then enjoy a gooey treat!

## Children's Challenge

With a sunny weekend ahead of us, spend some time in your garden. Maybe you could blow some bubbles and try to catch them, attach some ribbon to a small hoop and run with it around the garden. You could plant some seeds or flowers in a pot or you could even have a teddy bears picnic with your toys and family. The garden is a great place to enjoy some fresh air and family time. Maybe you could help Mum, Dad or your carers with preparing a BBQ and have your fruit fondue or fruit kebabs for desert! Remember to play some music so it feels like a family party!

## Something to think about... Partnership for Children

The partnership for children website offers some useful resources packs for supporting your children during the uncertainty of the pandemic period. Use the link below if you would like to take a look.

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-wellbeing-activities-for-teaching-staff-and-families.html>

## 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 as someone in their household has symptoms and is undergoing testing.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher