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### Message from Miss Talbot

## It's great to be back!

Children's laughter, big smiles, morning hellos, playground chatter, exciting learning, feeling confident, seeing friends, playing games, working hard, new starters, familiar faces, looking after each other, hand washing, catching up, making discoveries, trying new things, brilliant behaviour, kind words, thoughtful actions, lunch in classrooms, video assemblies, more handwashing, helping each other, gold cards, exciting plans, start of year resolutions, happy grins, new rules, shiny shoes, house points, giving a best effort, celebrating achievement, one way systems, seeing each other on the big screen, being brave, showing resilience, having a go, sharing stories, looking out for each other, new topics, super teaching, having fun, skipping into school and even more handwashing!

**On behalf of all the Godinton team, welcome back everyone—it's wonderful to be together again.**



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## The New Normal

As we come to the end of September, we are all getting used to the new version of normal at Godinton. The children have been brilliant and have taken all the new measures very much in their stride. Their resilience and ability to adapt has been amazing—we are very proud of them all.

Within the classrooms, life is very similar to that with which the children are familiar. We have some timetable variations in place to accommodate additional Maths and English sessions but are still ensuring that we provide an exciting broad and balanced curriculum for the children. The teachers have been busy completing assessments and prioritising areas for development and ensuring that we get all the children back into excellent learning habits. We have set our new Homework Trails and next week, we will be in a position of sending home reading books once again.

The children in years 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have adapted really well to eating their lunch in the classroom. This is far from ideal but is an arrangement that will need to remain in place for the time being. Our kitchen will be expanding their menu in the next few weeks and will be including two 'hot options' each week.

We have tried to keep in place those things which are important to us—celebration assemblies are held via video link and I had my first socially distanced tea party last week. We have been able to have visitors into school to provide enrichment opportunity for the children—read more about our orienteering sessions later on—and are making good use of our wonderful outdoor space.

Thank you once again to everyone for all your help and support, it is very much appreciated.

## Class News

### Lots of New Faces

Welcome to all our new starters and their families. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks.



Our Reception children have made a brilliant start to their time at Godinton and have been immensely big and brave with many of them not having been into the school building before their first day at school. They have been very busy over the past few weeks trying out lots of new and exciting activities in their classrooms and in our outside space. We have set up a gallery of photos on the school website for parents to look at. These might serve to unravel some of the mysteries of things that the children tell you about (or don't tell you about) when they get home!

The Reception Staff will be contacting all our new parents over the next few weeks for a



catch up about how well your child has settled into school. These calls will take place after school between 3.30 and 5.00.



# Some Sensational Starts to our New Learning Adventures

The academic year started with a bang in Year 3 as the children investigated volcanoes and what causes eruptions. They investigated the build up of pressure under the earth's surface and made models of planet earth to show its composition from crust to core. I have very much enjoyed seeing some gold card visitors to my office who shared some excellent reports explaining this phenomena.



Year 6 had a far more sedate start to their year with a medieval banquet experience. Designed to highlight the different ranks within Medieval society, the children took on roles as serfs, knights or royalty and sampled some medieval cuisine served by costumed members of staff.



Year 6 have taken advantage of the recent sunshine to take art lessons outside, creating some giant collaborative pictures.



Year 1 have also been making use of our outdoor space to launch their 'marvellous me' topic. The children have been measuring each other and completing activities about the human body.



The first topic of the year for Year 2 is 'Who Lives in a House Like This?' Throughout their topic, the children will be exploring different types of home from different parts of the world. The children started their topic by making fairy houses out in the woods. They came up with some amazing creations.



## Finding Our Way— Orienteering Day



On Thursday 3rd September Years 2–6 were visited by two activity leaders from Swattenden Outdoor Activity Centre. They were introduced to Orienteering, a sport that merges geography skills and physical activity, to take part in a range of map based games.

Firstly each class played a version of 'port and starboard' which taught the children about compass points and encouraged them to **ORIENTATE** themselves North before choosing which direction they needed to move in. Then in partners, they had a simple map of an area which they orientated North as they moved around the space, accurately placing themselves within the map. Finally the children followed maps over larger areas, within the school site, to follow set routes using their new orienteering skills and could compete for the fastest time to finish within their class.

The children had a fantastic time outside moving independently around the school grounds using the new skills they had gained and comparing map routes and times. It was a lovely way to start the new term and a fun experience to welcome the children back to a new school year.



## Our Kindness Revolution is Back



We are really excited to be able to deliver our Kindness project again this year. We hope to encourage all the children to safely offer acts of kindness within the themes of school, self, community and family kindness again.

This time, we will not be trying to achieve 1000 hours of kindness but instead, we hope to encourage all members of the school to complete as many single acts of kindness as they can during the month of October. We will also be writing stories about kindness after half term that we will be sending to Ashford Vineyard as part of their kindness project this year. Look out for examples of these in our newsletters throughout the year.

We will be encouraging the children and staff to spot each other carrying out 'Ninja Acts of Kindness' during each term, small acts of kindness when least expected and without the recipient knowing. These will be tallied in classrooms and totals collected at the end of each term. The class with the most kindness acts will receive a 'Kindness Hamper'. This contains treats for the class as well as a certificate of achievement and vouchers to redeem as a reward for their kind acts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Kindness Ambassadors from last year for all their help with tallying hours of kind acts, keeping the school tidy, supporting their peers and being good role models of kindness. Well done to all of you. Teachers will be nominating new Kindness Ambassadors this week.

Please look out for a ParentMail providing further details about this.

## Drop Off and Pick Up

Last week saw our first rain at drop off since we returned to school. Please can I ask everyone to remember that our drop off and pick up arrangements will apply regardless of the weather. This means that your children must have a waterproof coat in school every day. We have a number of children who have been coming to school without a coat. They will need this for playtime or for our Fitness in Fifteen activity and especially at the end of the day when waiting to be collected.

Please can I also ask parents to use Chimney's car park and not to park in Lockholt Close, Springwood Drive or the surrounding cul de sacs. Some afternoons have been quite congested in Springwood Drive at pick up and with no road crossing patrol we want to avoid dangerous situations.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

## PESE

Just a reminder to our Year 6 parents that I have sent out, via ParentMail, information about PESE (Process for Entry to Secondary Education). This includes details of where to find the KCC Admissions booklet online and information about the process of applying for a place at secondary school this year.

Keep your eye out on secondary school websites for information about school tours. Each school is likely to be operating a different system that fits in with their Covid risk assessment. If you are taking your child on a tour, please contact our school office to let us know.

The PESE (11+) tests are due to take place on Thursday 15th October. We will give the children a practice the week before so that they are familiar with the arrangements.

## Breakfast Club

We will still have to operate a reduced Breakfast Club facility as we head towards Term 2. I'm really sorry that we are not in a position to expand the number of places at this time.

We do currently have a waiting list. Priority will be given to those who need provision on 5 days a week. If at any point your circumstances change and you wish your child to be added to the waiting list, please contact:

[breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

## School Photos

Thursday 1st October is school photo day. Our school photographers will be in to photograph our children individually throughout the day. Our youngest children will be photographed in the morning to give them a fighting chance of still looking pristine by the time their turn comes round! All children should come in school uniform and not PE kits.

Unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions we can only photograph children individually and not with siblings.

Parents will be given a unique code which will give them access to their child's photo online so that prints can be ordered.

## Safeguarding Leads

Miss Talbot, Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney are the safeguarding leads in school. Any concerns or queries about children's welfare can be raised with them. Please see the safeguarding pages on the school website for further information about safeguarding and child protection.



## Other News and Reminders...

- Please ensure that any items that your child brings to school are named. All items of clothing, bags, lunch boxes and snack pots should be labelled with your child's name. Thank you.
- I am sorry about the issues that we have had with our uniform supplier over the summer. We are currently in the process of reviewing uniform provision in order to ensure that we can offer the best service available.
- If you have a child due to start school in September 2021 please keep a look out this week for details of our arrangements for prospective parents. These will be available on the school website.
- Please encourage your child to join in with our special census day lunch on Thursday 1st October.
- This year, all children in the school will be able to have a flu jab at school. These will take place on Wednesday 2nd December. Further details will be provided shortly.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report Fitness in Fifteen



At the start of this school year, we launched an exciting new initiative called 'Fitness in Fifteen' which is aimed at increasing our physical activity time. At least once a week, if not twice, each class heads out to the field for a brisk walk for fifteen minutes on our new track which has been marked around the perimeter of the field. Now the children are in the swing of Fitness in Fifteen, we are starting to see some children jogging for some of the time too! How many metres will they be able to complete in fifteen minutes?



Have a look at the photos of the Dragonflies Class during their session last week. All of the children are trying hard and full of smiles and enthusiasm whilst enjoying a short break out in the fresh air too!

We now have our own special 'Fitness in Fifteen' logo that Mr Foss kindly designed for us which we will be using on new signage around the field.