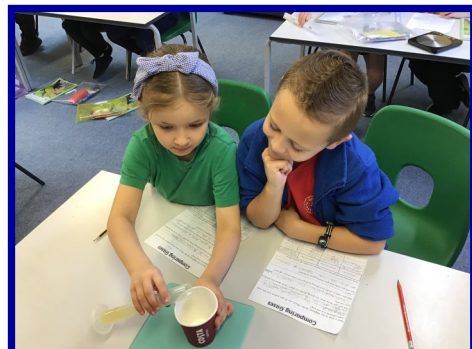


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Message from Miss Talbot

Safe and Secure

I am sure that you will have noticed that the final stage of the installation of our new perimeter fencing and vehicle and pedestrian gates took place over the half term holiday. The gates will be open at pick up and drop off but will then close during the school day to ensure a safe and secure boundary line. Anyone wishing to enter the school site during the school day, either as pedestrian or in a vehicle will have to use the intercom system to buzz the school office. The video link will enable the office to see who is requesting entry and only those who should be on site will then be allowed access. There will be a separate intercom button to contact Busy Bees Nursery so parents are able to use the nursery car park if needed. We still have some issues to iron out before we are fully operational and this additional work will take place over the next few weeks. The project has been funded by the DfE's funding for academies to improve safeguarding measures for the children and is something that has been a desperate need of the school for a long time. Keeping our children safe is always a key priority and I am delighted that we have been able to enhance these measures in such a positive way.



Godinton Primary School

Lockholt Close,

Ashford,

Kent.

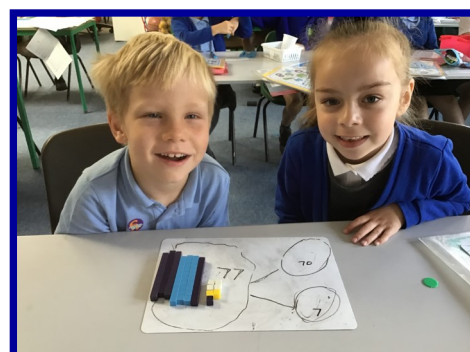
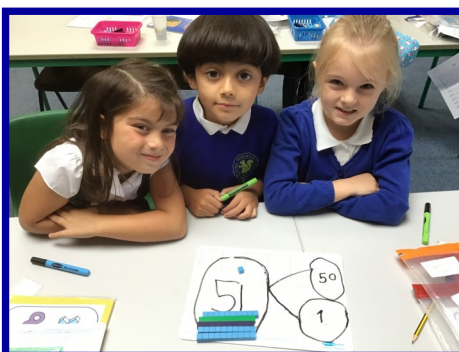
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Class News

Exciting Year 5 Art Project



We are very excited that Godinton has been selected as one of 6 schools in Ashford to take part in an exciting community art project: 'The Carol of the Sea Swallows'. The project explores music, drawing, crafting, music and film-making through a series of online art workshops, live artist chats and classroom creative challenges and will involve our Year 5 children. Working together with Animate Arts and with other schools the children will be creating an extraordinary 360° virtual reality film that will hopefully be screened in December 2020, as part of the festive celebrations in Ashford and Kent.

The art work produced will be used to create the scenery, props and content of a music video set to the music, 'Carol Of The Bells'. At the end of last term, Year 5 were very busy making snowflakes, wintry backdrops and a two giant cardboard walruses that will be brought to life by clever animation.



We will be sent a link to the finished film and some special 360°, screenings will take place at Revelation St Mary's in December where you will be able to watch the film by moving around an arctic scene using a headset. You'll be able to look up, down, left, right and behind you. To experience a similar type of film, you can watch similar 360° films on www.artbuilders.co.uk/gallery

Details about free tickets for this can be found at: <https://revelationashford.co.uk/events/carol-of-the-sea-swallows/>

We look forward to seeing the exciting finished result.

Whole School Golf Day



At the end of last term, we had the opportunity to discover whether we had the next Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy amongst us, as the children took part in a series of golfing workshops.

Out on the field, they had the opportunity to develop their putting and driving skills during a range of activities to promote an interest in the sport. The workshops tested hand eye coordination and team work as well. The children all had a brilliant time.

Bikeability

We were pleased to be able to offer our Year 5 and 6 children the opportunity to develop their cycling skills through the Bikeability cycling training last term. The training saw the children engage in cycling confidence sessions on the playground before embarking on on-road training on local roads on the Godinton Park Estate. The children had the opportunity to practice road positioning and handling junctions—vital skills for those children who are cycling on the estate. We are very keen to enable our children to cycle to school once again. Once the impending lockdown ends, we will review how we are able to manage the storage of bikes during the school day in a Covid safe way.



We are also looking ahead to the spring and summer when we hope to be able to offer balance bike and learn to ride sessions for our younger children and training for our confident Year 6 riders on roads across Ashford in preparation for secondary school. This will be funded through our Sports Premium. Further details will be shared with parents after Christmas.

Homework Trails

We have been very impressed by the quality of the Homework Trail work that the children produced in term 1 and very much enjoyed seeing their efforts during the Homework Showcase. Many children went 'the extra mile' and will receive their special sticker. Homework Trails for this term will be available shortly.



School Elections

During last term's STAR week, we held elections for our Mini Management Team and House Captains. I was immensely proud of all the children who put themselves forward to be considered for these roles.

For the MMT elections, 150 children from Years 1 to 6 presented a short speech to their class describing why they would like to represent their class. The children all voted on special ballot papers and the results were collected and counted.



I am delighted that over the course of the year the following children will be standing on the school's Mini Management Team:

Otters— Reon	Foxes— Ben
Butterflies— Jake	Ladybirds— Honor
Dragonflies— Annabelle	Bumblebees— William
Nightingales— Dylan	Kingfishers— Jack
Cuckoos— Tiegán	Magpies— Myla
Eagles— Jessica	Falcons— Drew

Children from Year 6 presented their House Captain speeches as videos that were shown to the children in their houses across the school. A lot of thought and effort went into these and all the children who took part should be very proud of themselves.

Dover House Captains— Oscar and Ella

Dover Vice Captains—George and Lucy

Walmer House Captains—Frankie and Grace

Walmer Vice Captains—Toby and Lilia

Leeds House Captains— Calum and Phoebe

Leeds Vice Captains—Evie and Jessica

Rochester House Captains— Ewan and Emily

Rochester Vice Captains— Jack and Darcie

Harvest Festival

Thank you ever so much to everyone who brought in a donation for our virtual harvest festival this year. Your generous donation of essential food items will go to the Eldercare Day Centre in Ashford and the Ashford Christian Fellowship who are now known as Bright City Church who run a diner and food service for vulnerable people in the community. We also had many donations of self-care products for Hygiene Bank. Thank you so much everyone.



As with all our whole school assemblies this year, our harvest Festival was held by video link. Thank you to Mason, Molly and Callum from Year 6 for helping with readings during the assembly.

Children in Need

On Friday 13th November we will be supporting Children in Need. This year we are inviting everyone to come to school dressed as a hero. This could be a superhero, a person who the children find inspiring (sports hero or singer, for example) or an everyday hero such as a doctor, nurse, policeman or fireman.

Mrs Stein will be sending out further details of how you can make a donation to Children in Need, next week.

Poppy Appeal

Next week, we will also be fundraising for the Royal British Legion. Each year group will have their own collection pot for any donations that you would like to make. We won't be selling poppies this year but would invite the children to make a poppy to wear in school.

Many of our children are proud members of organisations such as Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Guides or cadets and would usually be taking part in Remembrance Day parades on Sunday. As this type of event will be unable to take place this year, we would like to offer these children the opportunity to wear their smart, Beaver, Cub, Scout, Brownie, Guide or Cadet uniform to school on Wednesday 11th November as a mark of respect. If your child would usually wear their PE kit to school on this day, please choose whether you would like them to wear their kit or an official uniform.

PTFA Update

Thank you to everyone who attended our virtual PTFA AGM on Monday night. Our committee has been re-elected and are looking forward to arranging events and experiences for the children during the course of the year. Despite the school closure period last year, the PTFA raised just over £3000 for the school. I am immensely grateful for everyone who helps support our PTFA and particularly to our hard working committee members:

Linda Tunbridge—Chairperson

Tammy Carrol—Vice Chairperson

Nicola Smith—Treasurer

Jo Gandon—Secretary

Other News and Reminders...

- If anyone has a child due to start school in September 2021, the application period opens on Thursday 5th November 2020 and closes on Friday 15th January 2021. An information leaflet will be circulated by ParentMail and provides more information. Please also see the Admissions section of the school website for further information.
- As the nation enters a lockdown period and whilst schools remain open during this time, staff will be wearing face coverings outside at drop off and pick up during this period. I would ask that parents also wear a face covering when coming onto site. As we enter a time when people are going to be more prone to seasonal colds and sneezes it may go some way to minimising absence and further illness enabling us to continue to remain open. This isn't a National directive so there is no insistence that parents have to do so and no one will be prevented from coming onto site without a mask. I will review the request at the end of the lockdown period.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Despite timetabling restrictions in place for sporting activities, staff are continuing to work hard to provide physical opportunities for the children throughout the week. We will be continuing with our Fitness in Fifteen initiative when weather permits and the children are enjoying the challenges of trying to beat their distance covered.



We are using hall time to focus on cardio activities which will get the children moving.

We have also fortunately been able to continue with some sports coaching opportunities for the children. Year 3 have had a series of cricket workshops which have helped to develop batting, fielding and throwing skills. The children have also been learning how to play Boccia—which is a form of seated precision bowls in which the children have to roll balls towards targets.



I am very conscious that many children's out of school sporting opportunities will be suspended during the lockdown period and so we will be doing all we can to give children as many physical opportunities as the timetables will allow.