



[www.godinton.kent.sch.uk](http://www.godinton.kent.sch.uk)

Tel: 01233 621616

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

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

## School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a good week and are managing to keep all the plates spinning. For those of you supporting your child's learning at home, thank you for all your efforts – we know what a tricky job this is. All your hard work will have a tremendous benefit for your child and will ensure that when they return to school they are able to slot back into class based tasks with greater ease. I know that for some of you however this isn't easy especially when you are trying to work from home as well. All we ask is that you do the best you can and if you can't do everything that's ok. We completely understand. Every family will be facing their own challenges at this time – we are here to help so please let us know if there is anything that we can help with.

To help support remote learning, the BBC have extended their package of curriculum videos covering a wide range of different subjects for children of all ages. This can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

This further link, provides access to daily timetables of activities so you can see what's on offer each day:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvryp4j>

There are also lots of resources to support reading, including online books read aloud by different celebrities with questions for the children to answer. This can be found in the 'Bitesize Book Club' via the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zf8djhv>

We will continue to share links to online resources with you which may be of assistance in topping up the tasks set by the teachers.

### Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

One of my new year's resolutions this year was to try and read a different book every month. I love reading but never make as much time for this as I should. I'm pleased to report that so far this year I have actually read 2 books. I love historical fiction best of all but also like police mysteries too. I've tried to set aside time every evening before I go to bed to read a couple of chapters and this is working well so far.

I know that some of you may be missing borrowing books from school and have read all the ones you've got at home, so in this newsletter, I've put some suggestions as to how you can access some free books online.

Have a good week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot



## Online Reading Activities

It is important that during the school closure period, those children at home try to keep up with daily reading. We appreciate that with school closed, this may limit the books that the children have access to at home. There are lots of online resources that might help with this and which give children to reading books online.

**Oak National Academy** – Another source of online activities to supporting learning is the Oak National Academy, funded by the Department for Education to provide online lessons and resources for children. This term, in conjunction with the National Literacy Trust, Oak National Academy has set up an online library and will be offering a book a week from its author of the week. The first book to feature will be Dame Jacqueline Wilson's *The Story Of Tracy Beaker*, and will be available to access free for a week from 17 January.

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

**Oxford Owl** – A number of publishers have made high quality ebook libraries temporarily free to access. For primary children, Oxford Owl is an excellent resource. Once parents have created a free account, readers can access a host of books which are available to filter by age group, text type, book band, phonics phase or reading level.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

**Books for Topics (Storytime Online)** – With access to libraries, classrooms and bookshops limited for many, the Books for Topics website has found some of the best online storytimes for children to access freely at home. The QR codes and links on the website, link to story readings on Youtube and all of the books chosen are read aloud by their fabulous authors and illustrators.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>

### Online Storytime Sessions

If you are looking for more online storytimes, tap into the brilliant resources available from: Cbeebies Bedtime Stories, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00jdlm2/cbeebies-bedtime-stories>

Puffin Storytime, <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/resource-categories/videos-storytime/>

**Follow an Author on Social Media** – There's also a growing multitude of authors and illustrators to follow on social media who provide regular, live storytime or illustrating slots, like Julia Donaldson (4pm on Thursdays via Facebook), David Walliams (11am daily, via Instagram) and, Rob Biddulph (10am on Tuesdays and Thursdays via Twitter). Please ensure that children are supervised on platforms that have age restrictions in place.

**Free Audio Books** – If you've never learned to appreciate the brilliance of audiobooks, there's no time like the present! Audible Stories has made a bank of children's stories available to listen to for free, including Harry Potter, Kid Normal, Winnie the Pooh and The Tales of Beatrix Potter.

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

## **Gold Cards and Remote Achiever Assemblies**

With so much of my time being spent managing all the various aspects of Covid, a real pleasure has been to give out gold cards to so many children – both in school and to those at home. I think I have posted a further 15 gold cards out this week. Congratulations to everyone who is working so hard with their learning.

On Monday I held the first virtual Achiever's Assembly. It was really lovely to celebrate the special achievements of some of those working at home, to chat about everything they have been up to at home and to see them proudly sharing some of their best pieces of work. Thank you to everyone who took part. My next virtual Achiever's Assembly will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00 pm. The parents of those children who have been chosen by their teachers will be contacted later today.

Our Achiever Assemblies for those in school will continue as usual.

## **Food Vouchers for Children Entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals**

Those of you in receipt of benefit related free school meals, whose children are at home will have received further details this week of the national voucher scheme now available. If you have any difficulties in receiving your vouchers, please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Williams, who will be happy to help.

## **Interactive Zoom Sessions**

Details of the Interactive Zoom sessions offered to each year group next week will be sent out via ParentMail by Mrs Stein later today. You will be able to see the timetable for the week, enabling you to plan accordingly.

It will help the children to make the most of the sessions, if they adopt the same mind-set that they would in class. Please can they go to the toilet before the session starts and save having snacks until after it has finished. We do expect all the children to be fully dressed for the sessions and to be out of bed, please. We know that there will be lots of distractions at home but full attention is required for each lesson.

## **Support with Technology for Remote Learning**

Just a further reminder, that should anyone else need help with technology to support their child's learning at home, then please complete the form below to identify the ways in which help would be beneficial.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ynpWSsYy6kWKTLrBMaHw\\_-yhziNeRdVLt6o2clwToipUN000RERITTEwRUVRWk9FSDBENTZEMFJPTS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ynpWSsYy6kWKTLrBMaHw_-yhziNeRdVLt6o2clwToipUN000RERITTEwRUVRWk9FSDBENTZEMFJPTS4u)

Please let us know if you are struggling with the devices that you have at home or don't have WiFi and would benefit from an increase to your mobile data allowance in order to enable your children to get online. We don't currently have any further devices that can be distributed and are awaiting further details about future Government devices which may be available to us.

## **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