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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents,

We have now processed our final requests for key worker places for the next few weeks and have put arrangements in place to accommodate these additional children. The increase to our numbers (we now have 141 children in school – 33% and higher than the Kent average of 24%) means that in years 3 and 4, we will have to split the existing bubble into 2 groups with a smaller bubble being led by Mrs McGoldrick and Mrs Kelleher respectively. Your child will be informed if they are moving groups. In Year 1, we will keep all the children in one group, but we will be moving the partitions between the two classrooms so that the children can be spread out further.

The staff have worked hard over the past couple of days to meet the additional need for places so any further requests, with the exception of those relating to the most vulnerable of children, cannot now be considered. I'm sure that you will appreciate that there has to come a time when we can't continue to change arrangements that will impact on the organisation of our children. Once we know more about the Government's plans for schools from the 8th March, we will of course review the arrangements we have in place.

Thank you to everyone who has managed to keep their children at home during the closure period, this has helped significantly and has ensured that we have had one member of staff available to manage the intensity of the remote learning side of things. This has helped to ensure that provision can be made for those children at home.

Those parents who currently have a temporary Breakfast Club place for their child will be advised next week as to whether this temporary place can continue up until Friday 5th March.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I have really enjoyed sending out lots of gold cards out this week to those children who have been working really hard at their remote learning tasks. If you've done some amazing work recently, you may find a special gold envelope dropping through your letterbox.

I love getting things through the post. During lockdown I have been sending boxes of goodies through the post to my family. I put a card or letter in, as well as a small gift (sometimes this is something that I've made myself) or some sweet treats. Just a little something to brighten their day.

Perhaps you could put something in the post for someone in your family or one of your friends who you haven't seen for a long time. I'm sure that would cheer them up.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Sending smiles to you all

From

Miss Talbot



Coming Next Week – Inter–House Quiz and Godinton Grand Designs

If we were all in school, we would be holding our Inter House Quiz this term and joining together in the hall to try and gain as many house points as possible for our teams. As we can't do that this year, we hope that you will join in with our Virtual House Quiz instead. Everyone in the family can help out to try and answer a series of picture questions. The quiz will be released on Friday 12th February and your answer forms will need to be returned to school by the end of Monday 22nd February – so you have the holiday to work on it if you wish. All children, both at home and at school will be able to take part. Answers will be released on Tuesday 23rd February, so you can see how you got on. All scores will be added to House point totals and the winning house announced. Look out for further details next week.

On the last day of term (Friday 12th February), we will be holding a Creative Day for both those children at home and those in school. This will replace the Unexpected Adventure Trails on this day. The 'Godinton Grand Designs' challenge will invite the children to use their creativity to design or make a building, garden or piece of furniture for example. The task can be approached in any way you like – a sketch, junk model, Lego model, a den, a bedroom design, a school of the future, a tree house, a chair design. There are endless possibilities. Further details are attached to this ParentMail.

Each class will have an interactive session on Friday 12th February for those children at home in which the children can share what they have been working on – it doesn't matter if it isn't finished at the time of your Zoom session – you can show how you are getting on. We may not have time to talk to every child about what they have created but teachers will do their best and will ensure that they will all have the chance to hold up their creations for everyone to see. The timings of these sessions will be added to the timetable of interactive sessions for next week – please look closely at the codes for these sessions as they may differ to normal. I'm looking forward to seeing the exciting things you come up with. I'd love to share some photos of your finished work on the website. Please email these into your year group email accounts and we will select some to go in our online gallery. Good luck and have fun!

Homework Showcase

I know that many of your children have been busy completing their homework trail tasks alongside their in-school or remote learning tasks. Those children who go the extra mile will still be able to earn their special sticker and additional housepoints. We were unable to hold the Term 2 Homework Showcase for those children at home and as we are now not all back in school by the date of the next homework showcase, as promised, we will put remote arrangements in place for those at home to show both their Term 2 and Term 3 homework.

This will be arranged for the first week back after half term and further details will follow next week.

Those children in school should bring their Term 3 Homework Trail work into school on Tuesday 23rd February when they will have the opportunity to share it with their bubble.

If anyone hasn't yet made a start on this term's trail, you can find these on the 'How Can I Help My Child at Home' page of the website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/how-can-i-help-my-child-at-home/>

We have also now put a link on the remote learning page for each year group following a couple of queries about where to find the Homework Trails. The link is just above the Base Camp tasks.

Fencing Work being carried out week commencing 8th February

Next week, we will be having the final part of our fencing project completed which will see the fencing in the Reception playground replaced. The work will mean that the access from the car park to the main playground will be blocked so in the mornings, the children will come directly into the school building via the main front entrance. Staff will out on duty to show the children where to go. Pick up points at the end of the day are unchanged. The work will be completed by the time we return from the half term break.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week has been national Children's Mental Health Week. On Wednesday, I sent through a PowerPoint which we have put together with suggested ideas and websites for supporting positive mental health and wellbeing at home. The activities are designed for children but there is plenty of mileage for grown-ups to get something out of them too. If anyone is struggling at home, please remember we are here to help. If there is anything that we can do to support, please get in touch.

Radio Ashford have arranged an art competition to support mental health awareness. The closing date for entries is this Sunday and further information can be found on the Radio Ashford Facebook page.

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. **Please note that the codes for the Grand Design sessions may differ to normal so please check carefully.**

Thank you for all your help in getting the children ready for their Zoom sessions – we haven't had anyone else in bed or in their pyjamas which has been good.

If your child is a little shy about appearing on screen please encourage them to still join in – just let their teacher know that they would prefer to take part with their camera off.

Food Vouchers for Children Entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals

We will be using a different system for getting vouchers out to our families in receipt of benefit related free school meals over the Half Term as the current system doesn't provide vouchers for holiday periods. The half term vouchers will be issued by Wonde and should be delivered to your inbox on Friday 12th February. A ParentMail will be sent out on Monday which will provide further information. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Williams.

Remote Learning Achiever's Assembly

Next week's Remote Learning Achiever's Assembly will take place at 2 p.m. on Monday 8th February. The parents of those children chosen by their teachers as the 'Remote Learner of the Week', will be notified later today. Thank you to all the children who have taken part so far – it has been really lovely to see what you have been doing at home and is certainly one of the highlights of my week.

KM Newspaper 'My Mum' Mothers' Day Supplement

Each year the KM newspaper group runs a 'My Mum' Mothers' Day feature with children sending drawings into the paper for publication in this special supplement. In the current climate, KM have made adjustments to how this will run.

This year, they are asking parents to help children submit pictures direct to their website at www.kmmymum.co.uk Children can add their own special message to their mum, and the pictures will appear in time for Mother's Day in week commencing March 8th. Dads take note!

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.

Thank you to all our parents for everything that you are doing to support your children at home. We understand what a juggling act this is so if you need any further support or have any questions, please just let us know.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher