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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to those of you whose children have been working at home, for all the support you have given them over the past 6 weeks. We have seen some really lovely creative and imaginative work being produced by so many children which will have required good levels of motivation and effort. I know how hard this will have been for many of you, especially if you are also juggling work or looking after young children. I hope that the end is in sight and that we will be in a position to return all children to school on the 8th March. We will await the Prime Minister's announcement on the 22nd and take things from there.

For those of you whose children are in school, thank you for the part you have played in helping to keep our school community safe – for wearing masks, for keeping your distance from others at drop off and pick up and for following our one way systems. We are as always very grateful for all your support.

I would also like to say a special thank you to all the team at Godinton who, as always, have been brilliant. We are so fortunate to have such hard working and dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to support our children. Their learning curve has been very steep over the last 6 weeks as well – moving out of their comfort zone to put remote learning in place. I am very grateful for all their efforts.

The last 6 weeks have been difficult to say the least – perhaps the hardest since the pandemic began. We have seen a member of staff lose their partner to Covid, other staff lose close relatives and one of our children has lost their mummy. On behalf of all the staff at Godinton, we send our thoughts to all those who have lost loved ones or who are facing personal challenges in these difficult times.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you all managed to get outside and play in the snow earlier this week. It didn't last long, did it, but it's always lovely when there is enough snow to make snowballs.

The children at school were able to play out on the field and all had a lovely time. I also saw several children being pulled to school by sledge!

Getting outside for fresh air is really important so over the half term holiday, try and spend some time outside. I hope that the weather will be dry enough to give you the chance to go for a nice walk or to get into your garden.

Well done to you all for working so hard this term, whether you have been at home or at school. I have seen lots of fantastic work.

Have a lovely half term break.

Sending smiles to you all

From

Miss Talbot



Vouchers for Children in Receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals.

All vouchers to cover the half term period have been sent out to parents. The next term-time vouchers will be available during the week commencing Monday 22nd February. This will be a £30 voucher per child to cover the two week period up to Friday 5th March.

If anyone's circumstances have changed and their child may now be entitled to benefit related free school meals, please contact the school office who would be happy to assist you in making an application.

Mid-Year School Reports

In normal circumstances, we would be due to send out our detailed mid-year report in March. Due to the school closure period, we will be unable to do this and therefore the full report will now be sent out to parents at the end of the academic year. Parent Consultations are due to take place during the week commencing 22nd March. The plan as it stands at the moment, is for these meetings to go ahead but that it is likely that these will once again be held over the telephone. I will update you once we know more about the arrangements for Term 4.

Inter-House Quiz

Our 2021 Inter-House Quiz is now live on the school website. This can be found under the Remote Home Learning tab from the main menu or by clicking the link below.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/remote-home-learning-school-closure-2021/inter-house-quiz-2021/>

One entry per family should be submitted, using the form below, to send your answers electronically to us by the end of Monday 22nd February. House points will be awarded and the overall winning House announced at the end of the first week back.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ynpWSsYy6kWKTLrBMaHw_1W0H-eADPFIg6SkbE7plGZUQUpCQ1BaMzhKQzZDS0FXQzNNMTM2R1JNQS4u

Answers will be put onto the school website on Tuesday 23rd February so that you can see how you got on.

Good Luck everyone.

Interactive Zoom Sessions

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

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.

Homework Showcase

For those children at home, we have arranged for them to share their Term 2 and 3 Homework at a virtual Homework Showcase during the first week back after half term.

The dates and times of these sessions will be added to the timetable of Zoom lessons which Mrs Stein will circulate next week.

Those children who go the extra mile will still be able to earn their special sticker and additional housepoints. These will be awarded when the children bring their books back to school when we re-open.

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.

Remote Learning Achiever's Assembly

There will be no Remote Learner Achiever Assembly during the first week back after half term. The next assembly will take place on Monday 1st March.

Congratulations to everyone who has received an Achiever Award this term – whether at school or at home.

House Points

I am pleased to announce that Walmer are the winning house based on House Points accrued in terms 2 and 3. Totals for each of the houses are as follows:

Walmer: 2870 points

Dover: 2814 points

Leeds: 2787 points

Rochester: 2537

Please could you share these results with the children.

It has been lovely to be able to give out lots of house point badges this term to children in school and to post them out to those at home.

This week, we have given out our first silver badges of the year. These have been awarded to

Sam G – Year 2 (in school) for Leeds

Olivia P – Year 2 (Home Learning) for Dover

Congratulations to you both!

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.

It is important that if your child tests positive for Covid over the half-term holiday, you still keep us updated, in case we have to identify individuals who may need to self-isolate as a result.

I hope that the children (and parents) have a good break over the next week and get a chance to recharge and relax. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot