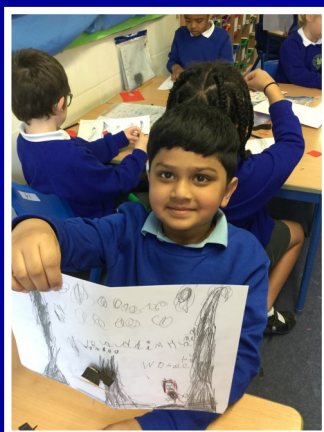


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### Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

After postponing the Yr 4 Bikeability sessions from October to May this year, we were delighted that 46 children from Year 4 were able to participate in this cycling programme which gives the children an excellent opportunity to develop their cycling confidence and skills. During the sessions, the children learnt how to stop and start safely, develop greater control of their bike and began mastering the skill of looking over their shoulder and then indicating whilst maintaining good balance and control. These skills can now be practised and developed further and hopefully, with the weather a little sunnier, there will be plenty of opportunity to do this over the summer. Next year, the children will have the opportunity to participate in Level 2 Bikeability which involves riding on the local estate roads with Spencer and his team from Cycle Circle.

Next month, Spencer and his team will be returning to Godinton to lead our Cycle Confidence Days for our Year 6 children. Details of these sessions have already been sent out to year 6. and take up has been excellent. The sessions are fully funded and give the children the opportunity to develop cycling skills, which for some will include cycling out on roads beyond the estate.

In September, once Covid restrictions ease, I hope that we will once again be able to encourage more children to cycle to school.



# Class News

## What have we been up to?

### Year 5

For the remainder of this term, Year 5 have been continuing to dive deeper into space. Not only did we investigate the moon landing, but also the 'Hidden Figures' that helped to get Apollo 11 to the moon. The children were shocked to discover the stories of the four women who worked for NASA, calculating flight trajectories, whose work was left unacknowledged for many years. There was much excitement last week when each child was able to make and launch their own rocket. Despite the weather working against us, the rockets reached some impressive distances. After school, some children have been very brave and tried a brand new sport - Lacrosse! We are really proud of how quickly the children have picked up these new skills.

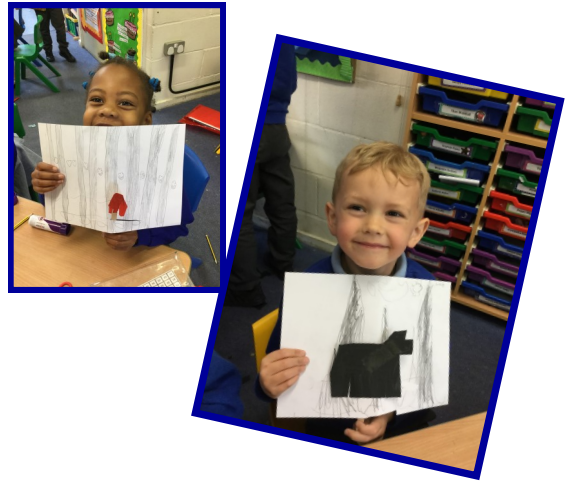


### Year 1

We have been creating our own alternative traditional tale using a wordless book 'Red' for inspiration. The children have really enjoyed creating their own twist on the story where the wolf has organised a surprise party for 'Red' with grandma. They have also created their own front covers in DT using a slider moving mechanism.

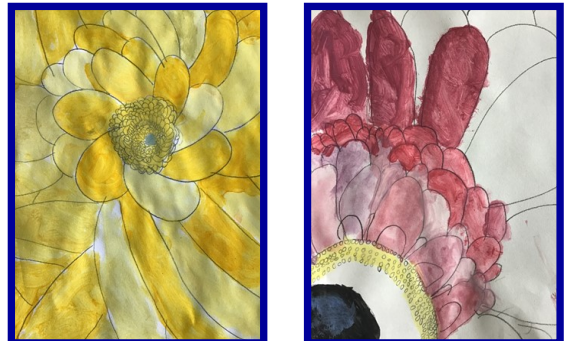
In maths we have been introducing multiplication

and division thinking about how we will share Red Riding Hood's picnic equally between her guests!



### Year 2

This term, we have been looking at the artist Georgia O'Keefe in Year 2 and have explored zooming in on a specific area using real plants and flowers as inspiration... the results look fantastic!



We have also had great fun spending time in the garden. We have explored the variety of plants growing and been able to plant the seedlings from our "Mystery Seeds" outside. We have even made compostariums to encourage minibeasts to live there as part of our "It's A Wonderful Life!" topic.



## Reception

This week we have been filling buckets, not with sand, but with happiness! Our Personal, Social and Emotional development focus this term has been on how we make ourselves and others feel happy by being a good friend. We have had lots of group discussions about what we can do to be build positive relationships with our classmates, which helps fill our bucket with happiness, as well as others. We all agreed that it felt good to be a bucket filler and not a bucket dipper! We are all looking forward to half term, we can't believe our first year of school is nearly over! Next term we will move onto thinking about important journeys, including preparing for our next adventure into year 1.

Look at the lovely ways in which our children make other people happy.



Alex ' It's Flower's.  
They make me fill my  
bucket. I pick them  
from my garden, and I  
give them to you and  
lots of people. That  
makes me happy.'



Ellia ' This is me  
Hannah and Alice. We  
like playing together in  
the grassy area. They  
are my friends, and  
they fill my bucket  
with happiness.'



Jacob 'Playing with my  
best friend George  
from Rabbits and  
Hedgehogs. We play in  
the grassy area and he  
makes me happy'

## Year 3

In Year 3 the children have been learning about light. They identified light sources, and designed an experiment investigating different liquids to protect from UV rays. They looked at which materials made shadows (Opaque, Translucent or Transparent) and the relationship between the light source and the size of the shadow.

They have also been learning about the British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. They took inspiration from his use of natural materials and designed and created their own temporary Land Art.



## Year 4

This term in art and DT, Year 4 have been having lots of fun creating gardens with a replica Anderson shelter. After researching how Anderson shelters were built and used, we worked as a group to decide how we could recreate a scale model using recycled materials. The shelters have a removable roof so that the bunks inside can be seen. We have thought carefully about a 1940's period garden and included vegetable patches, chicken coops and washing lines.



## Year 6

The intrepid explorers of Year 6 continue to delve deeper into the ancient civilisation of the Maya, by studying the daily life of this Mesoamerican society. The children have been looking at traditional clothing worn by Mayan tribes people, as well as designing their own outfits. After the half term, the classes will have the opportunity to plan and create their own Mayan headdresses.

From clothing fashion to sporting passion, imagine if the ball games that we watch today resulted in the sacrificial killing of the losing team's captain (and perhaps the whole team)? This was believed to be the case during pok-ta-pok, a ball game played by the ancient Maya well over a thousand years ago. The players could only use their thighs, hips and knees to hit a hard rubber ball into stone hoops placed at both ends of a playing field. Both classes had an opportunity to participate in a game of pok-ta-pok recently, and we're pleased to report that no children were harmed (or sacrificed) during the playing of the game!

## Classes for 2021-22

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the last term of this academic year and are now starting to think about the children's transition into their new classes.

This year, we hope to be able to return to most of the transition arrangements that we have in place to support the children with this move and will do all we can to ensure that the children end the school year feeling happy about their next class. This will include the chance to meet their new teacher.

We will let everyone in the school know which teachers will be teaching in which classes in the weeks after half term. We have some new staff members of the teaching team for September.

Reception children will be grouped into two new class groups for September. The Reception year is very much a chance for us to get to know the children and for them to get to know each other. We look at which friendships work well, where the children's strengths and areas for development lie and endeavour to form two class groups of 30 children where there is a good, positive balance that will bring out the very best in the children. This will be the class that the children will remain in, throughout their time at Godinton.

## EU Settlement Scheme

With the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) application deadline (30th June) fast approaching, the Home Office have asked schools to remind parents that if they are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, they and their family members may be eligible to apply to the EUSS.

It is crucial that eligible parents apply to the Scheme themselves and check whether they need to do so on behalf of their children. Eligible children are required to have an application in their own right and no child of any age is covered by a parent's application to the EUSS. There's more information on this at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/apply-settled-status-for-child>

To provide additional guidance, a very clear EUSS leaflet has been produced. It has been designed with children in mind and is intended to support both children and parents with information to help them apply to the EUSS. A set of accompanying FAQs are available too.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/law/2-research/ecru/EU,Settlement,Scheme,-,Information,for,EU,or,EEA,citizen,children.pdf>

Applications to the EUSS are free and can be made online at [www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](http://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme), where you can also find out more information about how to apply.

## Roof Work

The ground work required for the modular classrooms has now started. Year 2 and 3 have enjoyed watching the diggers and rollers that have been busy over the past 2 weeks. The classrooms are being delivered over the half term break and will be installed on the lower part of the school field adjacent to the After School Mobile. Once erected, it will then take a further 3 weeks for utilities to be installed and for the units to be fully functional. If all goes to plan, it is anticipated that we will move Year R and Year 1 into their new classrooms at the end of the third week of next term. I will also be moving out of my office to a mobile unit on the field.

So you can all keep up to date with the progress of the building work, have a look at the school website (the 'Big Build' tab under the children tab) where we will be posting photos and updates.



We have advised local residents to be mindful of the large lorries that will be coming onto the estate and into the school site next week. Please note that the school car park will be closed to all but construction vehicles.

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch regarding fundraising ideas to generate additional funds for the school roof. We will be ensuring that PFA fundraising for things that make a difference to the children remains separate and will continue exploring different options.

## Attendance

### Punctuality

Please ensure that your child continues to arrive at school during their allocated time slot. We have had some children who have slipped with their punctuality recently. Lateness is recorded on the register and monitored, so it is important that your child arrives on time.

We now have a new electronic signing in and out system which you will be asked to use if collecting your child for an appointment or returning them to school once the register has been taken. The system will also need to be used if your child is late to school.

### Holiday Absence

We know how beneficial holidays are to families and that the pandemic has meant that limited options have been available over the past year for families to get away. Unfortunately, despite all the disruption of Covid, we are unable to authorise holiday absence during term time. The expectation is always that holiday should be taken during the breaks from school in order to avoid disruption to the children's learning. It can also be unsettling for the children to be away from school and then to have to catch up on missed lessons once they return.

Holiday absence can incur a penalty notice, levied by KCC to each parent, for each child, if the absence is 5 or more days. If we have reason to believe that a child's absence from school is due to holiday and we have not been notified, parents may be asked to provide evidence from a medical practitioner of their child's illness. We would ask that you don't place us in the position of having to request this.

## Lateral Flow Tests

Our staff team have been very pro-active in participating in two weekly lateral flow testing. We have been asked to remind parents that free packs of lateral flow tests can be obtained so that families can also participate in regular testing which is designed to identify those who may be asymptomatic.

Anyone can collect up to 4 testing kits (7 tests in one kit) per transaction, from the following pharmacies. Tests are carried out at home and results are shown in 30 minutes. The result of the test should then be logged online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

**ASDA Pharmacy** – Kimberley Way, Ashford TN24 0SE Tel: 01233 655010

**Ashworths Chemist**– 229 Beaver Rd, Ashford TN23 7SJ (Tel: 01233 620710)

**Boots**– 4 Barrey Rd, Sevington, Ashford TN24 0SG (Tel: 01233 503670)

**Kamsons Pharmacy**– St Stephen's Health Centre, St Stephen's Walk, Ashford TN23 5AQ (Tel: 01233 614670)

**Lloyds Pharmacy**– 4a Singleton Centre, Singleton, Ashford TN23 5GR (Tel: 01233 635355)

**Lloyds Pharmacy**– Willesborough Health Centre, Bentley Rd, Ashford TN24 0HZ (Tel: 01233 621635)

**Tesco Pharmacy**– Hythe Rd, Ashford TN24 0YE (Tel: 01233 363202)

**Well Pharmacy**– 5 Brookfield Court, Brookfield Road, Ashford, TN23 5ER (Tel: 01233 622245)

Lateral flow tests do not replace PCR tests. If you have symptoms of Covid-19, you should self isolate and complete a PCR test at a test centre or via home delivery. If children present with symptoms of Covid in school you will be asked to collect them and take them for a PCR test.

## Covid Restrictions

Step 3 on the Government's road map hasn't made much difference to life in school since it came into effect on May 17th. For the time being we are still required to work with staggered start and finish times and to keep children in bubbles. We have been given the go ahead that residential trips can take place so Year 6 are looking forward to their trip to Kingswood in July. We aren't out of the woods yet and although things look promising, we will continue to adhere to the Government's requirements of schools.

The final step on the road map is due to be actioned on June 21st, although there has been speculation as to just which restrictions will be lifted at this point. I would expect updates for schools in this, however I don't know what these will be and how much notice we will get; we only find out when you do. With this being the case, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to make arrangements for parents to watch sports day this year and we will consider our plans for our Year 6 leavers once we know a little more. Our on going risk assessments will determine all actions we take and just because we are allowed to do something—it doesn't mean we will be able to facilitate this straight away, especially if we aren't given very much notice.

I would ask that parents continue to wear face masks at drop off and pick up for the time being.

I will keep parents updated with all actions being taken by the school over the course of the next term in relation to Covid.

I hope that September will bring a return to normal and look forward to seeing an end to the restrictions that we currently have in place.

## Other News and Reminders...



- Please remember that the next Homework Trail Showcase will be on Tuesday 8th June. Your child should return their homework book to school on this date and they will have the opportunity to share their work with the class. Those children who go the extra mile will be able to add a further special sticker to their collection.
- With the weather starting to look more promising, there is the temptation of sitting in your car, whilst waiting for your child, with the engine running to activate your air conditioning. Please can I ask you to be mindful of the damaging effects of air pollution, especially in close proximity to a school and to wind down your window instead.
- How many of our 'World Book Day Reading Challenges' will you be able to complete by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June? There's still time to join in and half term may be a good opportunity to get down to some serious reading! Prizes and certificates will be awarded for completing 10 challenges, 25 challenges, 40 challenges or 50 challenges. We look forward to seeing how you get on.
- The children all looked very smart on class photo day. It was lovely to be able to have the photographers in this year and I'm sure the photos are going to look great. Please use the QR code provided to you to order your child's class photo online.
- Don't forget to encourage your child to share a proud achievement on their proud peg. We have enjoyed celebrating the children's achievements both in and out of school in this way.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report



It has been great to get our after school sports clubs up and running again after such a long time of not being able to offer these opportunities for our children. The children have been able to experience new activities such as lacrosse as well as familiar favourites such as rounders.

The club offering for next term has been circulated and if your child is new to a club being offered, you will receive confirmation from the teachers as to whether your child has been successful in gaining a place. Lets keep our fingers crossed that we have lots of sunny afternoons this summer

enabling these activities to go ahead.

