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Message from Miss Talbot

A great start to the year

After 18 months of significant disruption, it has been lovely to return to school and a far greater sense of normality. We have been able to resume a wider range of extra curricular activities, we can sing in music lessons, hold assemblies and can once again seat the children at tables rather than rows. The operation of Breakfast Club has returned to normal and it has been lovely to be able to have the whole school out on the field.

This doesn't mean that we have lost our vigilance. The virus is still present within our school community and we have had positive cases since the start of the academic year. Please be assured that amidst our pleasure of being able to return to many usual practices we are ensuring that Covid safety measures remain a high priority.

On behalf of all the Godinton team, welcome back everyone—we hope that your children have a happy and successful year.



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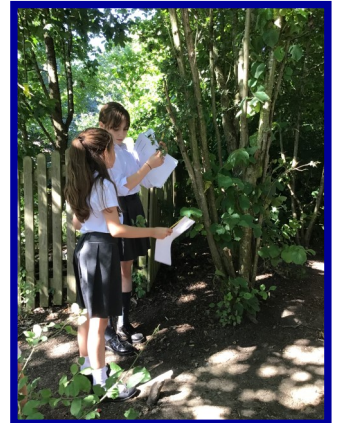
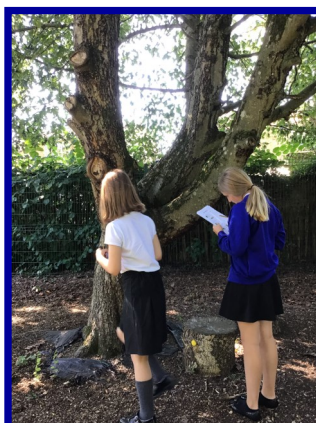
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Class News

Our Wonderful Outdoor Space

We are certainly blessed when it comes to our outside space at Godinton. With extensive playing fields, a wildlife garden and a brilliant strip of woodland—we have all the ingredients needed for successful outdoor learning. This year we are introducing structured forest school sessions to the curriculum in some year groups. Miss Attenborough is leading this and is starting with sessions for our year 5 children.

Other year groups have started the year by taking advantage of the sunny weather and making great use of our grounds....



Year 4's Minibeast Hunt

Year 4 have been learning about living things and their habitats. We learnt that the school garden has many micro habitats making it a perfect place for small creatures to live. Whilst exploring the garden, we discovered many different animals including worms, beetles, and a centipede. We didn't expect to see such a large frog staring at us from under a rock before he made a hasty get away towards the pond! Using the periscopic magnifiers, we were able to see the various body parts of different creatures and on closer inspection discovered that woodlice are not be insects as you may think as they have seven pairs of legs!

Year 2 are 'Up, Up and Away'



On the first day of our new topic 'Up, Up and Away' our Year 2 children found a hot air balloon had crashed in our school woods.

The children investigated the clues they found around the crash site in order to discover what might have happened to the owner of the balloon. This included a number of footprints in the mud, which led them to a special book which the children then read.

The story book was about a character who embarked on a great adventure, and even though he had balloon trouble, he was determined to continue his travels.

This led the children to think about what a great adventure Year 2 will be and what they would like to achieve this year.

Year 1's Woodland Wow!

Year 1 also went on an adventure into the woods to find some missing jigsaw pieces. Once back at class they put their jigsaw together to discover what they would be learning about this term. Our Science topic this term is 'Our bodies.'



Year 5 Forest School



There have been some amazing developments over the summer holidays in our school woodlands and a new Forest School site has been set up. This includes a campfire area that can be enjoyed by the children in all weathers, a seating area and equipment to enable the children to saw and drill.

This term a group of Year 5 children will be attending Forest School once a week where they can learn more about their environment and learn skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience. They have already made dens and used hand tools to create medallions. The forest is also currently being enjoyed by a group of Year 6's during their after school Forest Club. We hope in time to offer Forest School to further year groups, so keep a look out for updates!

We are currently trying to gather additional resources for Forest School that the children can use for a range of creative activities. If anyone is able to donate any old tyres or rope to the Forest School site we would be very grateful. Additionally, we are also on the lookout for second hand gardening equipment or wheelbarrows, so please bare us in mind if you are having a clear out! Please contact Miss Attenborough at the Year 5 parent email:

year5parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk if you are able to help.

Year 6 Medieval Banquet



When the Year 6s were informed that their Learning Adventure lesson would be a 'feast', some were sorely disappointed to discover that the menu consisted of dishes such as pease pottage and rye bread. This is because the banquet marked the launch of the children's new topic of Journeys, and served as an introduction to the Medieval era with this recreation of a Medieval feast.

The children were randomly selected to be serfs, knights, barons and even the King and were treated to traditional Medieval food and drink, including 'ale' and 'wine', all served by characters in Medieval costume (who bore uncanny resemblances to Mrs Pemberton, Mrs Crowfoot, Mrs Smith and Mrs Gandon). All participants, but especially serfs, were told to 'know their place' within this Feudal System. In the coming months, the children will be going on a journey of discovery, through the Medieval period, finding out about Medieval Canterbury and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.



Team Building Day

We started the academic year with each class participating in a series of team building activities designed to reunite the class after the summer holiday and to strengthen team work between the children.

Year 5 made bridges out of spaghetti and marshmallows and worked together to try and create the tallest free standing structure they could out of newspaper and tape.



Here's what Year 6 got up to...

Are you fluent in Pingalese? Do you know your *Bunget from your *Danget? If not, why not ask Year 6 who, in their short time of being in their new class, have become fluent in the language. Pingalese comes from a game called Ping, which was one of many team building activities in which Year 6 participated during their first few days of the new school term. In Ping, the children work in pairs to learn this fictional language before putting their understanding to the test by directing each other from one location to another blindfolded. The game encouraged the children to use their thinking, speaking and listening skills in a collaborative manner.

Whilst the Pingalese instructions didn't tie the classes up in knots, another team building activity certainly did! The children were put through their paces with a frame building and web-weaving task which tested their ability to follow instructions, work collaboratively and solve problems.

Finally the children were treated to a game of Bingo with a difference! The classes were given

Bingo grids, but instead of numbers, each square contained a question. Individuals were encouraged to ask these questions to find out facts about each other, and if their facts matched, they could strike through the square. Although the children already know their classmates very well, the game provided them with opportunities to learn new things about each other.

**left and right, respectively!*



Year 6 Police Open Day



No sooner had the new academic year began than Year 6 were whisked away on their first off-site school trip of the new term. Both classes were invited to attend the Kent Police Schools Open Day in Maidstone. The day itself comprised of information stands and displays which showcased the many facets of Kent Police's role within the community. From bomb disposal to fraud prevention, online gaming to dog training, there was a wealth of activities for the children to complete...not to mention a free ice cream and some excellent freebies to be had as well! Both Year 6 classes were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Their behaviour and engagement were exemplary and the day itself provided the children with a valuable insight into Kent Police, with many aspiring to work within the police force when they are older.

Welcome to our new Reception children

Well what an amazing start we have had to our first few weeks of school. We have all been so brave coming in every day and what fun we have had! We have been getting to know our classroom, grown ups and our new friends. What luck that the sun has been shining! We have spent lots of time outside, exploring the school grounds. We have particularly enjoyed spending time on the pirate ship. This week the colour monster came to visit. He has helped us think about our emotions and talk about how we are feeling. Lots of us felt yellow and happy! Some of us felt green and calm. Gracie-Mai said she felt excited when she got to play with the shaving foam! I wonder what colourful creature we will meet next week?



Congratulations to all our new children for making such a super start to their time at Godinton. We very much look forward to getting to know you.



October is Kindness Month at Godinton

We are lucky to have so many children at Godinton who show great kindness towards others. In October we celebrate this and ask the children to look for opportunities to perform kind acts for others.

The children will be bringing home their kindness passports on which they can record the kind acts they do for others. We hope that your child will join in with this. Further details can be found in the ParentMail that will be sent out.

Throughout the year, we will be continuing to encourage the children to carry out 'Ninja Acts of Kindness', small acts of kindness when least expected and without the recipient knowing. The children will record their acts of ninja kindness in their classrooms. At the end of each term, the class with the most kindness points will receive a 'Kindness Hamper'. This contains treats for the class as well as a certificate of achievement and vouchers to redeem as a reward for their kind acts.

We have new Kindness Ambassadors in post for the year—children chosen to encourage acts of Kindness within their class and to help with kindness initiatives in school.

Year 1 Olivia, Rueben, Emma and Reggie

Year 2 Tommy, Jessica, Bertie, Lilia

Year 3 Harry, Evie, Ffion, Kai

Year 4 Ethan, Lina, Holly, Tommy

Year 5 Amelie, Adam, Myles and Dominic

Year 6 Lucas, Lily, Isabella and Seo

We wish these children well in their roles.

Building Work



The work on our school roof progressed well over the summer holiday. The old roof beams have been removed and the new roof structure is in the process of being fitted. Work is currently running to plan and we still aim for the building work to be completed by Christmas.

Have a look at the school website for more photos of Godinton's big build.

Gold House Point Winners

Congratulations to our 56 gold house point badge winners for last academic year who were rewarded with a trip to the cinema at the start of term. House points re-set at the start of the year and we're looking forward to seeing lots of children earn their 100 points by July.

All house points contribute to the overall house totals which currently sees Leeds in the lead with 498 house points.



Homework

We loved seeing some of the tasks that the children completed over the summer holiday, themed around the name of their new class.

Homework trails have been set for Term 1. Don't forget to bring homework books back into school after half term on Tuesday 2nd November for the class Homework Trail Showcase.

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Taylor to Teaching Assistant positions in Middle and Upper School. Both are familiar faces to the children, through their roles as midday meals supervisors.

Mrs Lopez will be joining our Breakfast Club team as Miss Walker will be stepping down from her Breakfast Club role this week. Miss Walker is remaining as a TA in year 4. We welcome Mrs Lopez to the school.

Mrs Pullen will be leaving the Reception team at the end of this term to pursue new and exciting adventures. Almost all the children in our school will have benefitted from Mrs Pullen's kindness and support when they were in the Reception classes. We will be very sorry to see Mrs Pullen go and wish her all the very best for the future.

Mrs Pullen will be a hard act to follow but we are currently running an advert for a teaching assistant in Reception. This can be found on Kent Teach.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with drop off and pick up which seems to be working well. Please can I ask for your cooperation on a couple of points:

- If your child brings scooter or bike to school, this must be pushed on the school site—it's just too busy for riding!
- I'm happy for the children to use the play equipment after school as long as they are supervised by an adult. However with clubs and our After School Club using the playground after school, please can I ask that the site is cleared by 3.25 so that the gates can be shut.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Defibrillator



Thanks to the very generous donation by Neil and Delena Walker, the grandparents of Amaia, we now have a defibrillator. This has been installed at the front of school so that it can not only be accessed by the school but by the local community. We are also grateful to the efforts of the local community whose donations have contributed

to the costs of the defibrillator case and to Dr Hopwood for arranging this.

We have registered our defibrillator so that in the event of a 999 call being made within the area, it's location and access code would be available.

270 children die each year in the UK after suffering a cardiac arrest at school. We are so immensely grateful for this life saving equipment. I hope that we never have to use it, but to know that it is there and could save a life, is immensely reassuring.

Parking

Those of you new to the school will soon realise that parking is often an issue on which I have to issue reminders in the newsletter.

Please can I remind everyone that parking is available over at Chimneys and that by using this as a place to park, congestion in Lockholt Close can be eased. I would ask that parents are considerate towards other drivers, since returning to school we have had an accident in the Close involving a collision between two cars and have had reports of arguments between motorists in front of the children. Please can we all be mindful of setting good examples to the children.

PTFA AGM

We are holding our annual PTFA AGM on **Monday 4th October at 6.30 pm** at school. Both our Chairperson, Linda Tunbridge and Vice Chair, Tammy Carroll have decided to stand down from their posts at this year's AGM. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank both Linda and Tammy for all the hard work they have put into supporting the school and our children; they have both been brilliant. We are delighted that we have parents who have put themselves forward for these roles and I am confident that we will be able to share news of our new committee in the next newsletter.

Having an active PTFA, with enthusiastic volunteers at the helm, means that we will be able to continue to provide fun opportunities for our children and families.

All parents are welcome to attend the AGM which is an opportunity to find out a little more about the work of the PTFA. Attending the meeting does not commit you to filling any role so please don't think that you will be press ganged into helping if you pop along!

Club News

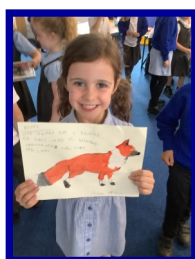
In the next few days, the club timetable for Term 2 will be sent out to parents via ParentMail. To reduce the number of messages you receive regarding the clubs on offer, we are going to trial collating all the information into one document. This will include links to the online forms that will need to be completed to express interest in a place. We hope that your children will enjoy some of the activities we have on offer.



Other News and Reminders...

- Please can parents inform us of any changes to their child's medical needs as they arise. If a new condition is diagnosed, it's good for us to know so that we can update our records. Especially We have several children listed as Asthmatic, with no inhaler in school. If this has changed, please let us know.
- With the building work taking place, our office team can no longer go through the main building to get to classrooms but have to do so via the outside routes. It would be really helpful if parents can inform the office as early as possible of any changes to regular pick up or unexpected medical appointments as it takes a little longer to get messages to the teachers at the moment.
- Please use the parent year group emails if you need to get in touch with teachers. These emails will not be routinely picked up during the school day when teachers are in class but will usually get looked at after school. If anything is urgent, please contact the school office.
- Next Friday afternoon, we will be holding our Harvest Festival. As we do each year, we will be asking for donations of food items and toiletries which will be shared with local charities. A ParentMail will be sent out today with further details.
- Please remember that should your child display any symptoms of Covid 19, then they should self isolate and get a PCR test. Please inform the school once test results have been returned.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Cross Country

We are hopeful that we will be able to run football clubs for boys and girls from Years 3-6 after half term and through to February half term. We have been in touch with some external providers who would be able to run this for us and the school would fully fund the sessions from our Sports Premium funding. It has been a long time since we have been able to run a football club at Godinton so look out for further details in the club booklet which will be sent out next week.

We are entering 2 teams of children in a cross country running event involving children from schools in the area. This will take place in the grounds of Godinton House over the next few weeks. Year 5 and 6 are competing their 1600m run on Monday 4th October and Years 3 and 4 will run 110m on Monday 11th October.

We wish all those taking part the best of luck and I look forward to reporting how they get on.