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Godinton Primary School  
Lockholt Close,  
Ashford,  
Kent.

TN23 3JR

Tel: 01233 621616

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

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

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



## Message from Miss Talbot

### Building Update

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience with the work that is currently being completed on the oldest part of the school roof which covers the Year R and 1 classrooms, the library and some of our school offices. The new roof beams have now been installed and we are just waiting for the covering and insulation work to be carried out before the external scaffolding will start to come down. Attention has also turned towards putting our classrooms back together again. As significant demolition has been necessary to construct the new roof, new flooring, lighting and internal decoration is required. We are also taking the opportunity to update some of internal fire safety measures whilst the rooms are being refurbished, such as the cloakroom areas and fire doors. The classrooms will look lovely once they are completed and will provide a bright, fresh learning space for the children.

As I've said before, the work has come at considerable expense. Although heavily funded by the DfE, the cost to the school is high. We have worked extremely hard to ensure that the costs do not impinge on the quality of education we provide for our children. As part of the refurbishment, we would love to be able to also update some of the facilities within the classrooms such as the sink units and items of furniture which have not survived the move, however our budget doesn't quite stretch to this. We know that times are hard, but I'd like to ask for your help with this. In the next few weeks we will be setting up a Just Giving page, on which you would be able to make a donation to our Roof Work project. Any donations, however large or small would be very welcome. Please share the link with friends and family who may also like to help. It would be lovely to be able to add the finishing touches to our classrooms to make sure that they are something special for the children to return to in December. Further details will follow.

# Class News

## Our Amazing Team Building Day



Our children's teambuilding skills were put to the test at the end of term when we welcomed the 'Wise Up' team to Godinton to lead a series of team challenges. Our Year 1, 2 and 3 children completed practical puzzles to unlock clues to solve the mystery of who spoilt the perfect pie whilst Upper School were tasked with discovering who had kidnapped Kevin the Llama.



Split into teams of 8, the children spent a morning or afternoon working on different games and puzzles, all centred around our 'Guiding Stars' – the key skills we want all our children to have– to be able to take safe risks, to be motivated and demonstrate perseverance, to develop self-confidence, to be able to solve problems and think creatively, to be able to work as a member of a team or independently, to be good communicators and to achieve their personal best. The challenges ranged from having to work a ball through a tilt maze, emptying the contents of a pan using only string and moving a giant ball along a track, to using duo-skis,

building giant towers and completing tandem skipping.

Each task required different skills and a huge amount of cooperation and teamwork. The children learnt how to listen to the ideas of everyone in their teams, the benefits of taking a trial and error approach and of persevering if they weren't successful first time.

I was immensely proud of the way in which the children approached their tasks and it was a pleasure to see their joy after successful completion.

You'll be pleased to know that both mysteries were solved and that Kevin the Llama has been released from captivity!



You can find out more about our 'Guiding Stars' in the leaflet that will accompany your child's report next week. These are really valuable skills for our children to have and are good areas for parents to help support their children in developing.

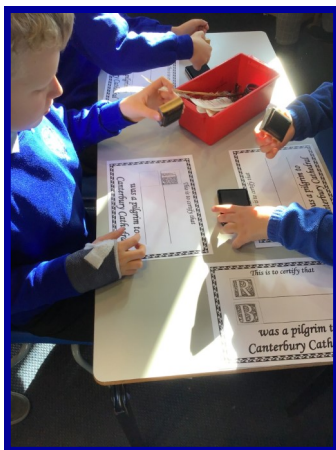




# Year 6 Visit to Canterbury

When it comes to organising the annual class outing, most teachers would probably admit that it's not their favourite thing to do. With telephone calls to make, an itinerary to plan and reams of paperwork to fill in, there are so many things to do. That's why the adults in Year 6 were pleased to let the children take the lead in planning their own trip to Canterbury on Tuesday.

Before the half term, the students spent time in class studying the geography of Canterbury and its expansion from a small medieval market town to a thriving city. Its historical significance, following the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170 and his canonisation in 1173, also made it an important centre of pilgrimage in England, and inspired Geoffrey Chaucer to write The Canterbury Tales.



In preparation for the outing, the children were given three themes to explore whilst in the city: transport links, landmarks and buildings within the city centre. Prior to the trip, it was their responsibility to decide what information they would collect and how it would be collated, what jobs individuals in their groups would do, where they would go to find the relevant information and to list the resources needed for their task. No mean feat, by any standard!

Year 6's visit to Canterbury comprised of three parts: a guided tour around the Cathedral, a craft-based workshop to create a medieval artefact and the geographical fieldwork that the groups had planned the day before, bookended by train rides there and back (for some children, it was their first time on a train).

Inside the Cathedral, the highly anticipated climb up the 'Pilgrims Steps' to the Trinity Chapel did not disappoint, with the children ascending the steps on their knees, as pilgrims would've traditionally done (much to the bemusement of other visitors in the Cathedral!). In the craft workshops, the children made traditional pilgrimage tokens that would have been given to travellers that visited the Cathedral during medieval times. They also designed their own stained-glass windows and wrote certificates using the traditional method of quill and ink. The fieldwork in the city centre gave the adults and children alike the opportunity to study interesting features of the area, which might normally be missed on a day out in Canterbury.

A super, sunny day was had by all. The children represented the school brilliantly, and received many compliments from staff at the Cathedral for their behaviour. By the end of the day, the group had recorded a count of approx. 12,000 to 13,000 steps, but were grateful that, unlike medieval pilgrims, they didn't have to make the journey home from Canterbury on foot!



## Forest School and Outdoor Learning

Our first Forest School group of the year, completed their final session of activities this week which involved toasting marshmallows on an open fire.

Our woodland is also now adorned with tree trolls. Look closely and you'll be able to spot little faces watching you!



Year R have also been busy out in our school grounds creating their own tree-boggats and spotting different signs of autumn.

We are so lucky to have such a lovely outdoor space to enjoy.

## Term 1 Winning House

Congratulations to all the children in Walmer who were the winning house in Term 1. It was a close fought contest with only 1 point separating 2nd and 3rd place.

Final house point totals for term 1:

Walmer— 806

Dover— 793

Leeds— 792

Rochester— 769

The children in Walmer have enjoyed having extra playtime and a special snack to celebrate their victory. Well done Walmer!

## Homework Trails

Once again our children have impressed us with such wonderful engagement in their homework trail tasks. We continue to be amazed by the creative way in which the children have responded to the tasks set for them and it was a pleasure to see homemade hedgehogs, labyrinths and Greek helmets coming into school. Thank you to all the support and encouragement that you have given to the children with their homework tasks.

The Term 2 trails will be available from next week. Remember that if your child goes 'the extra mile' then they will receive a special sticker.



## Kindness Passports

Don't forget to return your child's Kindness Passport to school so that we can log all the amazing acts of kindness that they have completed during October.

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.

## Staff News

Having said goodbye to Mrs Pullen at the end of last term, we have pleasure in welcoming her back to Godinton! Mrs Pullen is remaining with us and will continue to provide support for our Reception children. We are delighted that our children will continue to be supported by such a kind and caring teaching assistant. It's lovely to have you back Mrs Pullen.

We are however saying goodbye to Miss Evelyn in a few weeks time. Miss Evelyn will be changing career, and will be starting work at an opticians. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Evelyn for all the support she has provided for our children over the past few years both in her role as a teaching assistant and as a midday meals supervisor.

## PTFA News

Thank you to all of you who attended the PTFA AGM. It was certainly the best turn out that we've had for a long time and a lovely start for our new committee to know that they have so much support.

Our new committee's first event will be **Breakfast with Santa** which will be held on **Saturday 4th December**. We won't be having a Christmas Fair this year so there will be no non uniform day on Friday 26th November.

Breakfast with Santa is a lovely family event held in our school hall. We serve a continental breakfast, play Christmas music and all the children meet Father Christmas and receive a gift. Look out for further details coming soon. If anyone is able to help at this event please contact a member of the PTFA.

Our next PTFA meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th January at 6.00 p.m. If you'd like to get involved in the PTFA, please come along.

## Car Valeting Thank You

Thank you to Jamie Pickett for his valiant efforts in valeting cars this week and donating the proceeds of his effort to the school. Thank you to everyone who signed up to Jamie's kind initiative. We are immensely grateful for the £130 raised. Thank you.

## Afternoon Tea

The Covid situation has meant that so many activities which we would usually host for our new parents, in order for us to get to know you and for you to get to know us, were unable to run over the past couple of years. With the situation looking more positive, we would like to invite our Year R and Year 1 parents into school for afternoon tea. This will be a chance for you to get to know other parents in your child's year group and to informally meet members of the Godinton team.

We would be delighted to invite one parent per child (it's fine to bring babies or younger children with you) into school on the following days to join us for tea and cake:

Parents of children in Year 1 (Otters and Foxes) from 2.00–3.00 pm on Thursday 4th November

Parents of children in Year R (Moles, Badgers, Rabbits and Hedgehogs) 2.00–3.00 pm on Wednesday 10th November.

## Reports

The first of three reports for your child, this academic year, will be coming out on Tuesday. Further details about parent consultation evening and book viewing will be sent out via ParentMail on Monday.



## Other News and Reminders...

- Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our harvest festival. We were swamped with generous donations which will be donated to vulnerable people within the Ashford area.
- Please can I remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds either on a lead or being held. Thank you.
- Just a reminder about earrings. Only stud earrings are allowed. Hoop earrings or anything dangly isn't suitable for school—please keep these to the weekends. Earrings should be removed for PE lessons. If your child is unable to do this independently, please take them out before they come to school.
- If you have a child due to start school in September 2022, we would love to welcome you to our information evening for prospective parents. This will be held in the school hall on Monday 8th November from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm. We are also operating tours of the school throughout the month of November. Some of you may not have had the opportunity to have a tour of the school when your younger child started school due to Covid so you are very welcome to come along.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

### Cross Country

This year we entered children from Years 3 to 6 into the local schools' cross country meet at Godinton House. First up were our Year 5 and 6 teams. They faced very heavy ground due to the amount of rainfall we've had but did an amazing job regardless. Our congratulations go to: Year 6—Finley (who came second in the year 6 boys event), George, Jacob, Henry, Noah, Lawk, Catia, Bella and Tilly—Marie and in Year 5— Archie, Katie and Abby. All the children did exceptionally well individually but particular congratulations go to the Year 6 boys and girls who both came second in the team event.

It was then the turn of our Year 3 and 4 cross country teams. The weather was far kinder for their event but the uphill course provided a tough start. Our team did really well and our congratulations go to all those who took part for representing the school so admirably: Year 4—Shay, William D, Jack, Malachi, William M, Jesse, Jack, Grace and Year 3— Riley, Oliver, Nate, Haddi, Leo and Luke.

I am very proud of all the children. Thank you to Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot for their valuable support to the teams.

