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Message from Miss Talbot

It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas preparations started way back in November and we are almost ready for the festivities taking place in the last two weeks of term. Middle School productions take place on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th and Lower School have their performance on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th.

In the last week of term, we have our Christingle making on Monday 13th (don't forget to send your child into school with an orange), Christmas jumper competition day is on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th is Christmas Lunch. Upper School have their carol service at St Mary's church in Great Chart on Thursday 16th and we end the term with our Christmas parties on the Friday. I hope that the children will enjoy all the activities planned as part of their Christmas countdown.



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Class News

Year 1 and Year 3 Trip to Godinton House

It has been lovely to be able to get back into the stride of visits this term. We very much welcome the opportunity to engage the children in offsite activities and hope to offer more as the year progresses.

In the last few weeks, we have had two very successful visits to Godinton House. We are very fortunate to have such a lovely resource on our doorstep which provides a brilliant opportunity to investigate plants in the grounds or explore the history of the house.

Although the house and gardens are now closed for the winter, they reopen in the Spring. If you haven't been, the house and gardens are well worth a visit.

<https://godintonhouse.co.uk/>

We received lovely feedback from the Godinton House staff who were exceedingly complimentary about the behaviour of the children. They were very much a credit to the school.



Charity News

Children in Need



Godinton put on the glitz and glamour last week to raise almost £700 for the Children in Need charity. The children (and staff) came to school dressed in sequins, feather boas, glitter, bow ties and cool shades for a Strictly themed dress up day. Year 2 even had gold lame curtains at the door of their classroom.



As part of the day's events, we were joined by students from Homewood School who were performing their annual Children in Need 'Dance Dash' in schools around Ashford and Tenterden. Our Upper School children came out onto the playground to watch the dancers routine before they headed off to the next school on their list.

Thank you to everyone who helped put costumes together for the children and made a donation.

Poppy Appeal

November saw us also raise money for the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the charity.

House Captains and Prefects

Earlier this term, our Year 6 children put themselves forward for election as a school House Captain. The children presented speeches in which they talked about what they felt they could bring to the role. I was immensely proud of all the children who took part in the elections, a lot of careful consideration went into their speeches.

The following children were successful in being elected to the positions, congratulations to them all:

Rochester: House Captains—Noah and Hollie, Vice Captains—Sophie and Dylan

Leeds: House Captains—George and Lily, Vice Captains—Ti'en and Millie

Walmer: House Captains—Ryan and Caitlin, Vice Captains—Andrew and Lorelai

Dover: House Captains—Finley and Myla, Vice Captains—Jack and Tiegan



We are also pleased to congratulate the following children on being chosen as the first prefects of the year: Joshua, Rubyrose, Scarlett, Florence, Ella, Nancy, Eliza, Andrei, Izzy, Oliver, Leo and Leo.

Staff News

At the end of term, Mrs Clark will be leaving her Year 6 teaching position to work in child care. Mrs Pemberton will continue to teach the class and we are in the process of recruiting the job share vacancy left by Mrs Clark.

We will be very sorry to see Mrs Clark leave Godinton and I am sure that you will join me in wishing her well in her new ventures. I hope that will continue to see Mrs Clark in school completing some supply cover in the future.

This term, we have been joined by a new Teaching Assistant in Year 3: Mrs Leigh Griffin . In the new year, Mrs Charlotte Wright will also be joining our TA team in Year 4. We are delighted to welcome both new recruits to the team.

We also pleased to welcome Mrs Claire Scanlan to our midday meals team.

Over the Christmas holidays, our Year 4 teacher, Miss Leonard is getting married. We wish her and her fiance the very best for the future and hope that they have a lovely day. Miss Leonard will return to school in January as Mrs Burchett.

Breakfast Club

We have places available at Breakfast Club so please contact the team if you would like to enrol your child or complete the online enrolment form.

Children attending the club, need to be brought to the rear gate by an adult between 7.50 and 8.15. Accounts must be kept in credit in order for your child to attend. Sessions cost £3.30 per day.

You can contact Breakfast Club by emailing:

Breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Term Dates for 2022–23 and additional bank holiday this academic year

The term dates for next academic year (2022–23) will be up on the school website by the end of this week. We will once again be having a two week half term in October 2022.

This academic year, there are two national bank holidays within the May half term to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the additional day of bank holiday falls within a holiday period for staff, schools are able to allocate an additional non working day for their staff within term time. School will therefore be closed to all pupils on Friday 1st July.

PTFA

I will share details of the success of our new committee's first event, Breakfast with Santa, in the Christmas newsletter. I am very grateful that we once again, have an excellent committee in place to arrange such lovely events for our children.

If anyone is interested in supporting our PTFA by helping out at future events or if you have any suggestions for other events you would like to see happening for the children, please come along to our next meeting which will be held at **6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11th January.**

Reading Books

Please have a look at home for any school reading books that may be lurking under beds or on bookcases. We have had a depletion in the number of books returned recently. If you find any, please hand them in to the school. Thank you.

Building Update

We are in the final stages of the roof building work and are now making plans for returning our Year 1 and Year R children into the main building at the start of next term. The classrooms are looking lovely; they have been painted, new lighting has been installed and new flooring is due to go down in the next week.

When we return to school in the new year, some scaffolding will still be up, hoardings will still be in place around the site and work will be continuing on the office spaces in school. The final elements of this work will now continue through to the end of term 3. In light of the ongoing work, we will need to make some adaptations as to how the children access the building in the morning and how we dismiss them at the end of the day once they are in their classrooms. We will share this information with parents before we break for Christmas and will be preparing the children for the move over the next two weeks. I will keep everyone updated.

Clubs

The club timetable for Term 3 will be coming out in the next few days. It will list the after school activities being offered next term. Please read through the information in the booklet carefully and if you are interested in your child taking part, complete the online form for each activity. The links for these are in the booklet,

Places for many of our clubs are oversubscribed and where this is the case, places will be drawn at random by pulling names from a hat.

Forest School

Magpies class will be starting their Forest School sessions in January. Further details will be provided for parents in due course.

Other News and Reminders...

- On behalf of all the staff, thank you for all the lovely Christmas cards that we have received. Children are able to pop their Christmas cards for anyone in the school into the Christmas postboxes and the House Captains will deliver them round to the classes. Just remember to put names and classes clearly on the front of the envelopes.
- Please remember that only stud earrings are permitted in school. Dangly earrings or hoop earrings are not allowed to be worn.
- Please remember that if your child has any symptoms of Covid-19, then the protocol is still for them to self-isolate and wait for the result of a PCR test not a lateral flow test. Those who have had close contact with a positive case no longer need to self-isolate, unless this is close contact with someone who has tested positive for the Omicron variant.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Club Update– Football, High-5 and Tennis

We were really pleased to be able to welcome The Sammy Moore Soccer School into school this term. Sammy has been running two after school football clubs a week for the boys and girls in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Each week the children complete a range of skills based activities, as well as mini matches, and Sammy has been extremely impressed with the behaviour of the children at club and with how much improvement they are already showing. We are hoping to arrange a match against another local school after Christmas for the children in the Year 5 & 6 club. There are a few spaces remaining if anyone else would like to join – see the club booklet which comes out this week for how to apply.

Mrs Ellis & Mrs Crowfoot have been really impressed with the dedication and commitment (even in the cold weather) that the children in their High 5 Club have shown. They are all focusing on their skill development really well and those who have never played before have been trying really hard to remember all the rules – ‘PIVOT!’ We are hoping to begin to play some friendly matches with local schools from February 2022 onwards, and have our fingers crossed that the league will be able to go ahead later in the academic year.

Over the last two terms a dedicated group of Year 5 and 6 children have been developing their tennis skills at club on a Monday after school, even in the cold and drizzle – now that’s dedication! They have learnt forehand and backhand techniques along with these skills to play a mini game. They can certainly maintain a rally with Mrs Partridge now! Maybe we have some tennis champions of the future –watch this space!