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## Message from Miss Talbot

### An Exciting 2022

We start 2022, looking ahead to an exciting year with lots of brilliant things to look forward to. Although we have returned from Christmas to a flurry of Covid cases, we are optimistic about the future and positive about the things that we will be able to offer to our children this year.

Our building work is now in the final stages and our Reception and Year 1 children are back in their beautifully refurbished classrooms in the main building. Over the Christmas holiday our team worked hard to get everything set up for the children's return and have created exciting and creative learning environments. The children have settled in very well and have been excited to tell me about their new rooms.

We are excited to be able to continue with the arrangement of educational visits this year. Year 2 will be heading up to London next term to view the sights and Year 4 will be out and about completing their village study in Chilham. We also have our Year 5 and 6 residential at Kingswood planned for the spring and summer. A number of events at school have also been arranged for the children. We have a golf day arranged for February and a 'Fantastic Fred' wellbeing workshop arranged for all the children in March. With plans in place for Comic Relief, World Book Day, Science Week and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the summer, we have a busy few months ahead of us.

I hope that the new year has started well for you all and on behalf of all the team at Godinton, wish you a happy and healthy 2022.



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# Class News

## Year R

We have had such an exciting start to the new term and are enjoying our lovely, new classroom! Our topic this term is 'It's Cold Outside' which we have been exploring in a range of ways. We have been learning about the Northern Lights and created art work using ice and paint. We have also enjoyed sharing the story, Jack Frost through further art, music and dance activities. We imagined and wrote about what it would feel like to be inside a magical snow globe for the day and have used our writing to create snow globes to display in our lovely new learning environment.

Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring some penguin stories and finding out about polar animals. Learning in Reception is so much fun! We are now becoming incredibly confident with our phonics and number activities and love to share our learning with others during child initiated time.



Next term we will be offering some Cycle Ready sessions for Year R and 1 during the school day led by Cycle Circle. This will give our children to begin to develop cycle skills firstly on balance bikes and then on pedal bikes. Further details will come out shortly.

## Year 5

At the start of the term, Cuckoos and Magpies had to investigate where their new topic was based due to an unfortunate incident of the boarding pass for the airplane not printing correctly. To make matters worse, the plane had to perform an emergency landing in a nearby forest. The children found photographic evidence and key information about their new topic strewn about the forest area and were successful in working out the destination we were heading towards: the America – specifically looking at the United States of America.

The children started the topic looking at countries which make up North and South America before zooming in to identify and locate the 50 states which make up the USA. The children went on to produce some amazing setting descriptions using the five senses, similes, metaphors and even personification to describe the Sonoran desert (found in California and Arizona) and the Taiga forest found in Alaska.

## Year 1

In Year 1, we made an explosive start to our new topic when a pesky pirate named Peggy Patch came and kidnapped Miss Causebrook.

To get Miss Causebrook back the children had to go and find one hundred coins for Peggy Patches treasure chest. Luckily the children were successful and saved the day! Miss Causebrook was rescued from the dungeon and she told us she didn't enjoy the maggoty biscuits!

The children are all now very excited for our pirate picnic and we look forward to welcoming sixty well behaved members of the crew next Thursday!





## Year 2

Year 2 had a sensational start to their new topic of the **Great Fire of London**.

It began with a collection of strange smells that the children had to investigate in order to reveal the clues to identify their new topic.



A week of **Science** followed, exploring the properties of 'Everyday Materials' and their suitability for a task. Butterflies and Ladybirds were science detectives and found out what happened when heat was added to some materials. The children predicted if or how quickly the material would burn, then they recorded their observations. This enabled them to make connections as to why the **Great Fire** spread so quickly across London back in 1666. The children then compared the materials that are used for buildings today compared to the past and understood why brick, metal and glass is more suitable.



To support this topic, all classes in the school had a workshop led by the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. This presentation helped the children to understand the dangers of fire and how to alert the emergency services.

## Year 4

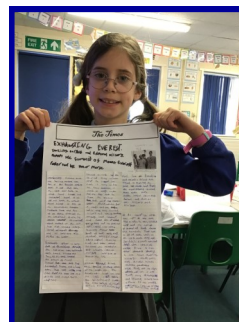


Year 4 have been exploring rocks in **Science**. We discovered the difference between natural and man-made rocks and stone before using our observation skills to investigate how different rocks and stone have been used throughout the school grounds and discussed the purpose of rocks and stone in the wider environment. We deepened our observation skills by looking closely at the characteristics of rocks to accurately classify each one linking our mathematical knowledge of Venn diagrams to sort the rocks using our own criterion.

## Year 3

Year 3 became reporters this term to describe an exciting event in history; the day that Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.

The children have used a headline, sub-headline, byline and date in their reports and have written their amazing facts in past tense on a newspaper template. Captions and pictures provided perfect finishing touches.



## Year 6



Year 6 made a forceful start to this term's topic – through their work on forces! The last couple of weeks have seen the children exploring different types of forces, such as gravity, air resistance, water resistance, upthrust and friction, as well as considering their application in everyday life. There have been parachutes launched from roofs (by an adult, of course), balls dropped into flour and cocoa, tin cans rolled across the floor and items dragged through water, all in the name of Science! It's been an explosive start to the new term, to say the least.

Before the children had time to relax from their work on Forces, they were put through their paces again, but this time in PE. During the last couple of weeks, the children have been practising their Orienteering skills, to navigate themselves around specific locations on the school grounds, using maps.

Last week, the classes had the opportunity to put their new-found Orienteering skills to the test in the introduction of their topic for the remainder of terms 3 and 4 – Paradise Found. The children were taken on a treasure hunt around the school grounds, solving clues, which would eventually reveal the premise of their new topic: The Caribbean. Since then, the classes have been studying the geographical elements of this group of islands. There are lots more Caribbean-themed activities to come. Why not have a look at the Year 6 Curriculum overview for terms 3 and 4 on the school website, where all will be revealed?

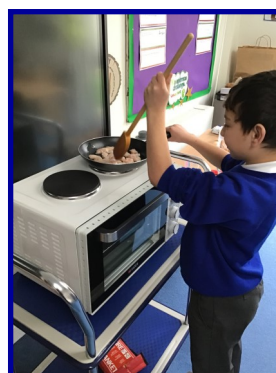
## PTFA News

Our PTFA have been busy planning their next events which will take place next term.

Our **Mother's Day Present Shop** will take place on **Wednesday 23rd March**. The children who take part will have the opportunity to select a lovely gift to give mum on Mother's Day. In return for a non-uniform day on **Friday 11th March**, we would ask for any donations for the shop to be brought into school–this could include toiletry items or chocolates.

On **Saturday 26th March**, the PTFA will be holding the Easter Bingo event. This is the opportunity for families to come along to school and join in with games of Bingo in an attempt to win lots of Easter eggs. Again, in return for a non-uniform day on Friday 25th March we would ask for donations of Easter eggs to be brought into school. Further details about both events will be sent out after Half Term.

I know that the children are keen for us to get school discos up and running again. We are hoping to do this shortly. The disco originally planned for 4th February is cancelled.



We are very grateful for the latest donation that the PTFA have made to the school. Three new cookers and trollies have been purchased which the children can use for cooking activities. Their first use was making a chicken stir fry!

If you would like to get involved in the work of our PTFA, the next meeting is on **Monday 21st February** at 6.00 p.m. Alternatively catch our Chairperson, Lynsay Keech on the playground.

I'm very grateful to our new committee for all their hard work and the support given to the school.

## Non-uniform Day



We will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 4th February** to raise money for our new Wellbeing Room. Please refer to the ParentMail that was sent out last week which explains how to make a donation and which gives you an idea of what we are hoping to achieve. Our target is to raise £4,000. If anyone has any links to businesses who may be interested in supporting us with this venture, please share the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/godinton-primary-school2>

Thank you so much for all your support.

## National Online Safety Day

Tuesday **8th February** is National Online Safety Day. We use this day as an opportunity to reinforce online safety with the children and the safety rules we have in school to support staying safe online. In a world where technology is rapidly changing, it can be difficult for parents to keep up. This week, we will be sending out some useful links to information and activities that might help parents to support online safety at home.



## Year Group Heroes

At Godinton our Guiding Stars are the key learning skills needed for the children to be successful learners. Teachers look for learning opportunities which will help to develop the children's skills in each of the areas below:

communication, perseverance, creative thinking, risk taking, motivation, self-confidence, problem solving, personal best, teamwork and independence.

In order to enhance our children's general knowledge and to provide examples of individuals who represent our Guiding Stars, each year group has been assigned three 'Year Group Heroes' – famous figures who are either:

- A STEM superstar
- A crusading campaigner
- A sports hero
- An intrepid explorer
- A creative genius

At informal points in the week, children learn about the contributions made by these individuals to their field. Children learn about the ways in which these individuals represent our guiding stars. One of the Homework Trail tasks either this term or next will focus on the Term 3/4 hero for your child's year group.

Don't forget the Term 3 Homework Trail work is due in on **Tuesday 22nd February**.

## World Book Day

**Thursday 3rd March** is **World Book Day**. We haven't been able to celebrate World Book Day as we usually do over the past couple of years so this year our celebrations are back with force. It's time to get creative, as we would love to see the children come into school in book themed fancy dress—this could be your favourite book character or something from a non-fiction book e.g. an animal or famous person for example. Further details will be sent out after Half Term.



## Other News and Reminders...

- Thank you to everyone for your patience with our interim drop off and pick up arrangements for Years R and 1. You may have noticed that scaffolding is coming down quickly and we hope to gain our usual entry and exit points after Half Term. I will keep everyone updated.
- Don't forget that term dates for 2022-23 are on the school website and that this academic year, the **school will be closed on Friday 1st July**. All schools are able to allocate an additional day of holiday in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Children are permitted to wear stud earrings to school but please can I ask that dangly or hoop earrings are saved for after school or weekends. Thank you.
- Please remember that dogs are not allowed on site, even if they are being carried.
- If your contact details have changed (address, phone number or emergency contacts) please let the school office know so that we can update your child's file.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report–Football Coaching



Since October 2021, over 50 boys and girls from years 3-6 have enjoyed participating in an after-school football club run by ex-professional football player **Sammy Moore** (The **Sammy Moore Soccer School**—<https://www.sammymoorecoaching.co.uk/>). Sammy has been incredibly impressed with the behaviour and dedication that the children have shown, attending club each week no matter what the weather. As well as developing skills and playing matches at school, Sammy is also hoping to arrange a fixture for the Year 5 and 6 children against another local school very soon.

What the children say:

*"We had fun warm up games like different courses where we got to zig-zag, jump and run around. The best bits were when we played an actual match against each other."* Sam G (Year 3)

*"Sammy is good at teaching us skills and he's a good coach. It is very fun."* Teddy P (Year 5)

*"I think that he really supports you in helping you to improve your skills. Also, it is really fun!"* Emily K (Year 6)

We are pleased that **Sammy** has been such a success already and are looking forward to the other clubs that he will be running in school for the remainder of the academic year. In term 4 he will do multi-skills, and in terms 5 and 6 he will run cricket clubs. These clubs will again be run over two nights and split into Years 3/4 and Years 5/6.