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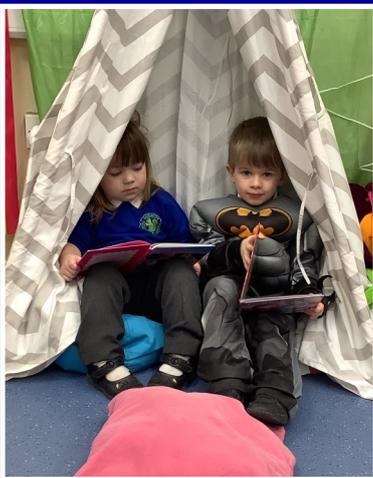


Message from Miss Talbot

Well done Year R and Year 1

I am always very proud of all our children, but over the past few months, I have been especially proud of our Reception and Year 1 children. With the building work and Covid having dominated so much of their school experience, the children have had to adapt to changes of classroom, different routines and varying collection and drop off arrangements. The children have very much taken these in their stride and it has been lovely to see them growing in confidence as the year progresses.

With the building hoardings down, our Reception children have once again been able to use their outside area in the way that we want them to and are very much enjoying the benefits of the outdoor space we have available to them. Now that building work is almost finished we will be putting our outside facilities back together again to ensure that the children have a wide variety of opportunities in their outdoor space just as they do in their lovely new classrooms. I am looking forward to the transformations as we head towards the summer.



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Class News

Year 2 – Great Fire of London



Year 2 have been exploring the Great Fire of London as their Learning Adventure this term. They have learnt about the circumstances in which the fire started and how Londoners in 1666 responded to the rapid spread of flames. But to see

how quickly the fire would have taken hold, Ladybirds and Butterflies conducted an experiment in which they set fire to model houses they had made. The paper and cardboard constructions were set out on the playground to depict a street from the time of the great fire. Some of the houses were tightly joined and others had small breaks between them. The children were able to see how quickly the fire spread and how crucial the breaks were to slow down the spread of the fire. Just as on the 2nd September, 1666, it was a windy day when the children conducted their experiment so they could clearly see the direction of the smoke and how the wind accelerated the fire.



Mr Lund was on hand to ensure that safety precautions were taken as the children watched from a distance. The experiment enabled the children to understand the dangers of fire and the damage it can cause and helped to reinforce the fire safety assembly they had from the Kent Fire and Rescue Service earlier in the term.

To conclude this part of their Learning Adventure, the children will be visiting London next month. Their day will start at the O2 stadium where they will catch the boat for a journey up the River Thames. This will enable the children to view many of the iconic London landmarks such as Tower Bridge, the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament. What an exciting day!

Year R and 1 Cycle Sessions

Last week, we began our Cycle Ready sessions for Year R. Our instructor from Cycle Circle, helped the children to find their balance on frog bikes, designed to help children before they move onto pedal bikes. The children were soon scooting around the playground on these bikes and it was great to see the confidence of many blossom over the sessions.

This week the children in Year R and 1 will all be introduced to pedal bikes. Those who are most confident and can already ride a bike will be supported with steering, turning, stopping and starting and those who are less confident will be guided by the instructors to getting a feel for pedals.

Now that the weather is improving, I hope to see more children across the school cycling in.

World Book Day

Just a reminder that **Thursday 3rd March** is World Book Day. I hope that the children will enjoy joining in with the challenge that Miss Causebrook has set everyone this year and I look forward to seeing all the amazing dressing up costumes. I'm working on mine!

Safer Internet Day

As part of our STAR week at the end of last term, all the children took part in a range of activities to support their online safety. In a world where technology is rapidly changing, it can be difficult for parents to keep up with ways in which they can support their child's online safety. So for further information, have a look at the safeguarding and online safety pages on the school website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/safer-internet-day-2022/>

New Faces in School

We have two new faces in school (of the furry kind!). Our school guinea pigs are settling into their new home. Bruno and Peanut will be based



in Year 2 but will have holidays to other classes in the school so everyone will have the chance to say hello to them.

Curriculum Updates on the School Website

We are in the process of further updating our school website to provide as much information as we can for parents about our school curriculum. From the curriculum homepage, you can now click on subject icons which will provide you with curriculum overviews and information as to how the subject progresses throughout the school.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overview/>

Just Giving Page

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to our new wellbeing room. We have almost reached our half way milestone of £2,000 which is incredible. We now have an empty shell to turn into a beautiful calm space for the children and have started the process of prioritising the resources to purchase with these funds. I look forward to being able to share some pictures with you of what our completed room looks like.

We are grateful to Givaudan for their donation to our fundraising. If anyone knows any other local companies who might be able to help by making a donation please just let me know.

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

Fantastic FRED Wellbeing Workshops

Next week we will be visited by the Fantastic Fred team who will be leading a mental health and wellbeing workshop for the children. Funded by the NHS, The Fantastic FRED Experience is a live performance-led mental health resource for primary aged children delivered by a team of trained actors. The age appropriate sessions are specifically designed to inform, equip and build resilience, it delivers simple, memorable and practical ways that young children can look after their mental health and explains the link between our physical and mental health.

Follow the link below to find out more about the Fantastic FRED experience and the content of the workshops.

<https://www.thefantasticfredexperience.com/for-parents-guardians>

Building Update

The end of the building work is now most definitely in sight. In the past week, the last of the mobile units and storage containers were removed from the school field. Mrs Partridge, Mrs Williams and I are now back in our offices, which is a lovely feeling.

With the hoardings removed, we have been able to implement our new drop off and collection arrangements for Year R and 1. I have been so impressed by the confident way in which the children have said goodbye to their grown ups and have walked into school. They have all been amazing.

The contractors will still be around on the site through until the end of the Easter holidays. They have some 'making good' work to do out on the field where the mobile classrooms were and have some internal work to complete as part of our fire safety updates. With this being the case, we will be continuing with the current drop off arrangements for Breakfast Club.

Thank you again for bearing with us whilst this vital work has been undertaken.

Reports and Book Viewing

Just a reminder that your child's report will be coming home on Tuesday 15th March. This is the more detailed report which provides information about your child's progress and attainment.

Book Viewing takes place on Thursday 17th March. Further details will be sent out shortly.



House Points

Congratulations to Dover who were the winning House at the end of last term. They enjoyed some additional playtime and squash and biscuits this week to congratulate them on their win.

We also have our first silver badge winners of the year. Congratulations to Abby B in Yr 5, Sam G in Yr 3 and William M in Yr 4. I am sure that this is going to be the first of many this term.

PTFA News

Following on from the success of Breakfast with Santa, our PTFA are busy planning our next two fundraising events.

On Friday 11th March we will be asking the children to bring things in for the Mother's Day present shop in return for a non uniform day. This could be unwanted toiletries, jewellery, ornaments or chocolates.

The Mothers' Day shop itself takes place on Wednesday 23rd March. Further details will be coming home, so you know how your child can join in with this.

We then have the PTFA Easter Bingo on Saturday 26th March. Children have a non-uniform day the day before when we ask that they bring in an Easter egg to donate to the event. Tickets for the Easter Bingo are expected to go fast and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The PTFA will also be organising an adult quiz night for Saturday 14th May. More details will follow in due course.

If you are interested in helping out with any of our PTFA events, please see the Chair, Lynsay Keech or Vice Chair, Maryline Maurez. You can also contact the committee via email:

PTFA@godinton.kent.sch.uk

The next PTFA meeting will be held on Thursday 21st April at 6.00 p.m at school.

Other News and Reminders...

- We now have a mud kitchen as part of our Forest School. If anyone has any unwanted saucepans, or kitchen utensils that we can add to the kitchen, please let us know and we will gladly take them off your hands.
- 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.
- Likewise, please let us know if your child's medical needs have changed so that we can update our records.
- Don't forget that your child is able to have a school dinner on any day they choose. Menus are always available on the school website so that you can help your child choose what they would like each day. School dinners for all children in Years R to 2 are free.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report— Jolf and High Five

Just before half term, the whole school participated in a 'Jolf Day'. Each of the classes were paired with another class and the children spent 40 minutes completing various golf 'holes', where they had to navigate around various obstacles to reach the flag. The focus for the session was very much about enjoyment and personal best – trying to reach each new hole in fewer strokes than for the previous hole. One child from each class was chosen to receive a 'Golden Golf Ball' for most sportsmanship shown and most improvement. All of the children really seemed to enjoy the session, and in particular supporting the children from the older or younger class that they had been paired with. We had some lovely feedback from the instructor: *The children were well behaved and reacted brilliantly to the session. They were a real credit to themselves and the school.* He was especially impressed with the 16 year 6 children who supported our reception classes, and they were all awarded a leadership certificate.



Wednesday 26th March saw 7 pupils from across years 5 and 6 participate in a friendly match against a visiting team from Ashford Oaks School. It was the first time that any of the children had played against another school and although we lost, they did incredibly well to keep it to just 3 – 1. We have other friendly matches coming up, so that by the end of this term all of the children in High 5 club will have competed in a friendly match against another school.