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Message from Miss Talbot

Out and About

The sun has been shining over the past few weeks, and the children have been out and about enjoying learning opportunities beyond the school grounds. Our Year 4 children completed a village trail around Chilham as part of their geography fieldwork last week and Year 2 have ventured further afield to London and a boat trip down the River Thames.

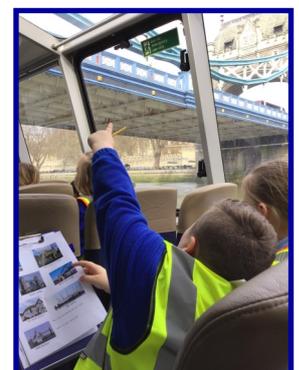
We are continuing to make good use of our school woodland. Year 2 will be having forest school sessions after Easter and we will be giving Years R and 1 some woodland experiences too. With Forest School having proved so successful this year, we will be looking to extend this opportunity further next academic year.

This week, our Year 5 children head off to Kingswood for their two night residential visit which will see them completing a wide range of outdoor activities.

It's lovely to be able to enhance the children's learning experiences in this way—we've got lots of other exciting things planned for the rest of the year too.



Godinton Primary School
 Lockholt Close,
 Ashford,
 Kent.
 TN23 3JR
 Tel: 01233 621616
www.godinton.kent.sch.uk
office@godinton.kent.sch.uk
headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk



Class News

Year 2– Visit to London

Beautiful sunny weather provided the perfect backdrop for the Year 2 visit to London earlier this month.



Leaving Ashford by coach, the group travelled up to the O2 to start their journey down the River Thames.

The children boarded the Thames Clippers, river bus service for a birds eye view of many iconic London landmarks. As they cruised down the Thames, the children spotted The Shard and The Tower of London and sailed under Tower Bridge and past HMS Belfast before reaching their destination at Westminster Pier. After a short hop across Westminster Bridge where they could see The Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, the children were rewarded with playtime in Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank, right in front of the London Eye.

I am so immensely proud of the children—they were brilliantly behaved throughout the trip and everyone, from the staff who accompanied the visit, to the coach driver and boat staff, was very complimentary about the group. Taking the children so far afield requires a huge amount of organisation so I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and parent helpers who took part in the visit. I would also like to thank all of the Year 2 parents for placing such trust in our team, in giving the children an amazing day.



Year 4– Chilham Village Trail and Anglo Saxon Afternoon

Our Year 4 children have been exploring the differences between towns and villages as part of their geography work this term. To see for themselves how a village compares to Ashford, the children visited Chilham, learning about the history of the village and exploring how buildings and facilities are different and similar to those found in Ashford. Both visits were blessed with fantastic weather and once again the behaviour of our children was excellent.

The year group has also been learning about Anglo Saxon life and to complete their history work, spent an afternoon in the woods, taking part in some Anglo Saxon crafts and making 'ash bread' (which by all accounts, no where near as good as a Hovis loaf!).



Homework Trails

Don't forget that the Term 4 Homework Trails are due into school on **Wednesday 20th April** when the children will have the chance to share their homework efforts at their class Homework Showcase. We look forward to seeing all the exciting things that the children have been up to. Don't forget that by 'going the extra mile' the children will be awarded a special sticker.

Year 3–Kite Making

As part of the Wild Weather topic, Year 3 have had a great time exploring and experimenting. The children worked together to make their own kites so they could investigate wind speed, force and direction. They worked with a partner to saw and cut materials to size and had to ensure that they used materials light enough to enable the kites to fly. The assembly part was tricky but the finished kites looked great. The children had lots of fun testing out their creations on a very windy day!



Science Week

The theme of this year's Science Week was 'Growth'. During the course of the week, each class explored things that grew—from finding out about different life cycles to planting seeds.



Many classes took their learning outside using the school wildlife garden for Science Week. Using clipboards and pencils, and working in pairs, Year R made tally charts of the flowers they found. They noticed that flowers could be found on both shrubs and ground plants. Year 1 had a 'germination race' – exploring what seeds need to grow and which seeds will germinate first.

Calling all scientists.....it's not too late to take part in our Science Week Home Challenge on 'Growth'. Your challenge is to carry out a project relating to this theme. You have until Friday 22nd April to return your entries and to stand a chance of winning a science prize.



World Book Day



We had some amazing costumes on World Book Day –thank you for the huge effort that went into these. I was very impressed by the Captain Underpants, Mary Poppins, Harry Potters, Hungry Caterpillars and all the other wonderful creations we had on the day.

World Book Day is a chance to celebrate books and a love of reading and to share our favourite books with each other. One of the highlights of the day was the paired reading sessions that we arranged, where our older and younger children joined together to read and share books.



This week we will be awarding prizes to the winners of our reading challenges. Thank you to everyone for encouraging your children to take part in this. Reading is an essential skill and is important that children keep up with daily reading practise. Please continue to promote reading at home and to share and enjoy books with your children—it makes a crucial difference to their reading ability if they read with regularity.



PTFA News

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help out with the Mothers' Day Present Shop last week and to all of you who made such generous donations. We hope that mums enjoyed the gifts selected for them as much as the children enjoyed choosing something for you.

Our PTFA also had success with the Easter Bingo afternoon last weekend. Thank you again to all of you who donated an egg



or came along to support this event. It was lovely to see families going home with armfuls of Easter eggs and raffle prizes.

I will let you know how much has been raised in the next newsletter.

The next PTFA meeting will be held at school on **Thursday 21st April at 6.00 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day saw superheroes of all descriptions arrive at school as well as lots of children dressed in red, all in support of the charity Comic Relief.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the charity—we raised £402, which is fantastic.



Staff News

After 10 years at Godinton Primary, Mrs McPhee left us our school last month. Throughout this time, Mrs McPhee has worked across the school providing valuable support for our children in her role as a teaching assistant. On behalf of the school, we wish Mrs McPhee all the very best for the future.

Mrs Stanton is also leaving us at the end of this term. Most recently, Mrs Stanton has been delivering the Sounds Write intervention across the school and has provided excellent support for the children. We all wish Mrs Stanton well too.

Miss Tunbridge has also left her Midday Meals Supervisor role due to ill health. We wish Linda all the very best for the future and thank her for all she has done for our school.

Our Teaching Assistant team is being joined by Mrs Jo Sharrard who will be working in Year 5 and 6. We welcome Mrs Sharrard to her new post.

The staff photo board in the entrance foyer has recently been updated so that you can put names to faces.

Cycling Success

Well done to all our Year R children for the confident way in which they approached their pedal bike sessions earlier



this month. Many children learnt to ride a bike on their training day whilst others significantly increased their balance skills.

Year 6 children will be given the opportunity to participate in some cycle sessions later in the year in preparation for cycling to new schools. They will have the chance to work with instructors to explore cycle paths in Ashford. Details will be provided later in the year.

Other News and Reminders...

- In our monthly attendance checks, I have noticed some lateness creeping in. Please can you ensure that you do all you can to get the children into school by 9.00. Coming into lessons late can be very unsettling and we want to ensure that the children have the best start to their day.
- We have had some issues with our neighbours throwing garden waste over into the school woodland whilst our Forest School sessions have been taking place. We would kindly ask that waste is not disposed of in this way and that the woodland is respected. We are using the woodland with increased frequency and it is disruptive to the sessions.
- Just a reminder that we return to school after the Easter holiday on **Tuesday 19th April**. I hope that the children have a lovely Easter break.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report— Football and High Five

HIGH 5: Over term 4, boys and girls from years 5 and 6 have competed in a number of friendly matches against other local primary schools: Ashford Oaks and Rolvenden. These matches were planned in place of regular club sessions, as a way to extend the skills and understanding that our pupils have been developing since September. Whilst we did not win any of our matches, the children demonstrated great sportsmanship throughout and a clear progression was seen in their skills, especially in their defensive and tactical understanding. We have a further friendly match coming up on Friday 22nd April against Kennington Juniors, and then selected children will represent the school in the High 5 League throughout terms 5 and 6. We are also hopefully that a Saturday tournament may happen at some point during the summer terms.

FOOTBALL: This term, a number of boys from our year 5 and 6 football club were chosen to represent Godinton at two different football tournaments. During both of the events, the boys worked really hard to apply all of the skill that they had been developing during their training sessions. Despite not progressing in the tournaments, the boys demonstrated great teamwork and sportsmanship and were a credit to our school. We would like to express our thanks to all of the parents who attended these events and supported the boys, especially Mr Taylor and Mr Jones who managed the team in Sammy Moore's absence.

