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Message from Miss Talbot

Year 5 Kingswood Residential

It was freezing temperatures and snow which challenged the Year 5 children who took part in the Kingswood residential just before we broke for Easter. Despite these conditions the children all had a brilliant time and tackled their activities with enthusiasm and determination. The Kingswood centre in Ashford, provides a wide range of activities for the children to enjoy—each designed to encourage the children out of their comfort zones and to develop skills of perseverance, motivation and resilience. Activities range from archery to climbing walls and abseiling. Some of our children were also staying away from home for the first time so had this as an accomplishment too.

In July, our Year 6 children have their residential at Kingswood. I'm sure that they will have just as much fun. Thank you to all our team who help to make these experiences so special for the children.



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Class News

Year 4—Home Front Bus



Year 4 were taken back to the past last week when they were visited by the Home Front Bus. Home Front Bus is a unique living history experience. The classic double decker bus houses detailed reconstructions of a 1940s living room, a shop, a bombed out street and an air raid shelter, each containing period features and artefacts replicating the sights and sounds on the Home Front during World War 2. The bus is accompanied by a team in period costume who, combined with the bus, provide an exciting and inspiring educational experience for schools and events.

Our Year 4 children (and staff) dressed up for the experience and looked amazing as soldiers, land girls, evacuees and pilots. The children learnt about rationing and practiced a gas mask drill. They played traditional games played during WW2 such as tiddly winks and skipping. The day gave them an unforgettable experience of what life would have been like during the war.



Year 2—Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum



It's been a strange few weeks in Year 2! The children returned from Easter to launch discover giant beanstalks growing in their classrooms along with a letter from the giant asking them to plant their own

beanstalk and watch the stages of its growth over the coming months. The children are exploring the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and have been studying and describing settings from the story and will be working towards writing an alternative version of the tale this term.



All the children have also loved their Forest School adventures, and have been very busy making ogres on trees and a forest feast for their ogres too.



Year 1 – Visit to Godinton House

Year 1 have been back to Godinton House this week for their second visit of the academic year. This time, the trip focused on the house and included a visit up into the attic to see the maid's room and down into the cellar. The children also spent time in the Great Hall and learnt about the history of the house and the purpose of different rooms.

The children also went on a garden walk, discussing the seasonal changes compared to the last time they visited and were able to explore the woodland area.

We are very fortunate to have such a brilliant resource so close to the school. The House is lovely place to spend the day and has a lot of scheduled events throughout the year including Sculpture in the Garden, Open Air Theatre, horticultural events and more . Please see the Godinton House website for further details.

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

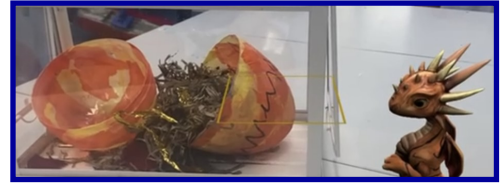


Homework Trails

A huge amount of hard work went into last term's Homework Trails with many children going the extra mile and collecting their sticker. This term's homework is due in **Tuesday 7th June** when the children will be able to share their work with their class at their Homework Showcase.

A Visitor to Year R

Our Reception children have had such an exciting start to the new term and are enjoying their new topic: 'A Royal Adventure'.



Last week something very exciting happened. A mysterious egg had appeared in the Reception classrooms during the Easter holidays. The children had some wonderful conversations about what could be inside it ranging from magical creatures to a BMW!. Then last Monday, the children noticed that the egg had started to crack. On Tuesday, they found that it had hatched and our CCTV camera had picked up some very exciting footage. It was a dragon and he was flying around the classrooms! For the remainder of the week, the children wrote 'Wanted' posters and went on dragon hunts during their child initiated learning. They shared stories such as 'Dragon Post' and 'Zog' and wrote letters to our dragon advising him about how to be a clever dragon. If anyone spots our dragon –please let us know.

What an exciting week! Learning in Reception is so much fun!

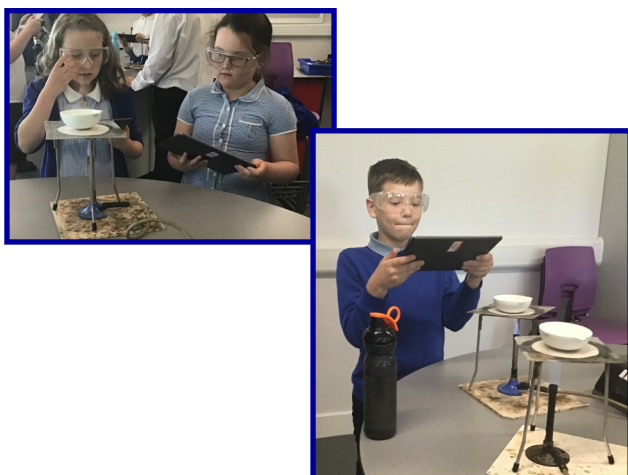
Year 3– Swimming

We are very pleased to once again be able to resume delivery of swimming lessons which form part of the Year 3 PE curriculum, following disruption over the past two years due to Covid.

Each of the children in Year 3 will receive a block of 8 swimming lessons at Ashford Prep School in Great Chart. The children will be taught in small groups, each led by qualified swimming coaches from Ashford Prep.

Feedback from the children has been very positive so far.

Year 5 Workshops at The Lenham School



It is always a pleasure to be able to tap into the resources available at our local secondary schools and to benefit from the expertise of secondary colleagues to support our curriculum. So we were delighted when The Lenham School went out to local primary schools asking for any ways in which they could provide curriculum enrichment using the facilities available at their school.

Working with staff at Lenham, some of our Year 5 children will be having a block of 4 science and computing enrichment mornings at the secondary school. This is an opportunity for the children to develop their interests in these two subject areas and to have the opportunity to experience more advanced scientific resources such as using Bunsen burners in the lab.

I hope that we will be able to develop these links further so that our children can broaden their experiences in other curriculum areas.



Jubilee Celebrations

Half Term is not long away and this year we have two bank holidays to look forward to that week to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We will be marking this significant National event with celebrations in school on Friday 27th May. Further details will follow shortly.

There are lots of events and competitions taking place in connection with the Jubilee both locally and Nationally.



We are delighted to have been selected as one of the schools to take part in The Ashford Tree Trail. This is a community

arts project driven by Arts Company Animate Arts which will see a trail of jubilee themed trees placed around Ashford—each decorated to celebrate the Queen and her achievements. We will spend the next few weeks making decorations for our 2m wooden tree which arrived in school this morning. The finished trees will be on display in the town centre from 2nd June to 26th June. We will give you details on where in Ashford you can find the Godinton tree nearer the time.

For more information about the Jubilee celebrations being held in Ashford, please click on the link below:

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/your-community/history-and-heritage/ashford-celebrates/her-majesty-the-queen-s-platinum-jubilee-celebrations/>

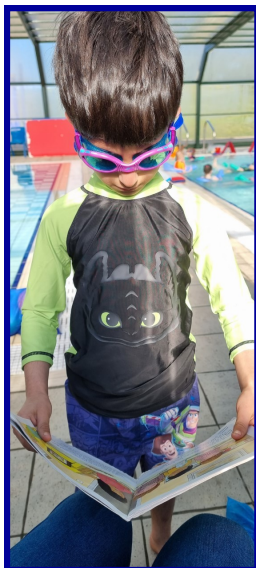
Visit the Kent Live website for Jubilee activities in the rest of Kent:

<https://www.kentlive.news/whats-on/family-kids/exciting-platinum-jubilee-celebrations-coming-6834492>

Prize Winners

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our World Book Day Reading challenge. We enjoyed looking at all the photos sent in showing the children reading in all sorts of weird and wonderful locations.

Winners were selected from Lower, Middle and Upper School and congratulations go to Cyrus K, Keira S and Jenson C for their great photos.



We also had a wide range of fantastic entries for our Science Week Competition which asked the children to produce a mini project on 'Growth'. We have been very impressed by the entries that came in and Mr Smith, our school science lead is busy judging. Winners will be announced in next week's Friday assembly.

House Points

Last term saw Leeds House with the highest housepoint total for the term. The children in Leeds were congratulated with an extended playtime and squash and biscuits.

We have a number of children who have gained their silver House Point badge and last week awarded our first gold badge of the year to Sam in Year 3. Well done Sam.

PTFA News

Summer Fayre

Our PTFA are busy making plans for our Summer Fayre which returns this year on Saturday 18th June from 12 pm to 3 pm. The fayre is always a highlight of our school calendar and it is lovely to once again have this event to look forward to.

Our PTFA would be very grateful for your help in making this event a success. On Friday 20th May we will be having a non-uniform day in return for bringing items in for the fayre. A letter will be coming out this week, listing useful items for donation. This is a good opportunity to have a clear out at home and to send in as many bits and bobs as you can.

We are also in need of some helpers on the day to run some of the stalls. A wide range of activities are planned from Hook a Duck to Lucky Dip, Tombollas, craft stalls and much more. Please let the PTFA know if you are able to help out. If anyone is creative we would love some extra help with the face painting stall and if you've got a passion for football, you could help out on our 'beat the goalie' game.

It is always really useful to have help in the morning to get tables lifted onto the field and stalls set up and help after the event to help tidy away. These are the less glamorous aspects of the fayre but are really crucial. Again if anyone is able to offer some help, whether that's even just half an hour, please complete the slip on the letter that will be coming out from the PTFA this week.

Disco

Our plan is to end the year with children's discos in July. I know how much the children have missed out on these during the pandemic. Further details will follow shortly.

Other News and Reminders...

- Spending time enjoying family holidays is immensely important, especially after the difficulties that everyone has faced over the past few years. There is an expectation however that holidays will be arranged to take place during school holiday periods and holiday absence during term time will be unauthorised. Penalty notices may be incurred for unauthorised absences of 5 days or more within a period of 50 school days. These days do not need to be consecutive.
- Traffic difficulties have plagued the M20 over the past few weeks which has had a knock on effect on traffic in Ashford. Please ensure that you allow plenty of time for your journey in the morning so that children aren't late to school.
- Please remember that only stud earrings are allowed in school—dangly earrings or hoops are not permitted.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report—Football and High Five



Cricket – On Wednesday 30th March, Matthew Fagg from the Kent Cricket 'Chance to Shine' Programme came in to Godinton and worked with the children in years 2 to 6. The children participated in a number of skills-based activities, based on a new game called 'Dynamos'. Despite the slightly damp weather that day, the children participated enthusiastically and enjoyed their sessions, Mr Fagg said that our children listened well, were well-mannered, and that many showed improvement even in a short space of time.

High Five– On Friday 25th March, we hosted Kennington Juniors for two friendly home matches. Although we lost both matches, the children all put a huge amount of effort into their performance and showed resilience throughout; indeed for some of the children, this was their first time playing in a match against a team from another school. This was our last friendly match for the time being, as our League Matches start on Friday 13th May. It has been lovely to be able to give our sports teams this type of opportunity again.