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Message from Miss Talbot

Outdoor Classroom Week

Last week we took learning outside for all the children as part of our engagement with National Outdoor Classroom Day. This is a global initiative to make outdoor learning an integral part of school curriculums. All the classes had opportunities to take their learning out into the woodland, our wildlife garden or out onto the school field. Woodland sessions were set up by our Forest School lead, Miss Attenborough which saw Year R making Jubilee crowns and having a woodland tea party, Year 1 making spring collages, Year 2 building towers out of natural materials, Year 3 exploring Roman dyes, Year 4 building dens, Year 5 ship building and Year 6 investigating trees. Alongside the lessons in the woods, the children also used our site to enhance aspects of their Maths, English and Science lessons.

To find out more about National Outdoor Classroom Day, please click on the link: <https://outdoorclassroomday.com/>



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



The Young Voices Experience at the O2



This month saw our second Godinton trip to London this academic year, this time to the Young Voices event at the O2. It has been 2 years since this event last took place which sees the coming together of school choirs from across different areas of the UK to form the largest school choir in the world.

40 children from years 4, 5 and 6 joined 7000 other children to sing a wealth of different songs including a Beatles medley, a collection of songs from The Lion King and songs from The Muppets. Something for everyone! Our children sang their hearts out and we were immensely proud of their efforts and enthusiasm. An added bonus was that we had been placed in one of the VIP boxes which our children richly deserved.

Our school choir will start up again in September and we will be looking for participants to take part in next year's Young Voices event which will take place in January.



Class News

Year 6—Day Trip to Chessington

Last week, Year 6 swapped their pen-stained fingers for white knuckles as they spent the day at Chessington World of Adventures. Year 6 is always a busy year with hard work, high expectations, the recent SATs tests and preparing for the transition to secondary school to name but a few, so the children definitely deserved this treat.



It was an early start for the girls and boys in Eagles and Falcons classes, as they departed for their exciting day at 8am on Thursday morning. Fortunately for them, they left the grey clouds and rain behind in Kent and were greeted by warm and sunny weather in Surrey.

The day itself was a high-thrill, jam-packed experience with rides, shops, food, games and arcades. The children had an opportunity to sample as much of the park as they wished. Whether that was flying through the treetops on the Vampire ride, gently floating down the stream on the Gruffalo attraction or searching for animals on an African Zoofari, all thrill-seeking tastes were catered for – and with short queues to boot!

The children had an amazing day, and all agreed that they would happily swap their Learning Adventure lessons for Chessington World of Adventures again. A big thank you to all the adults that joined Year 6 on the day.

Year 2—Busy in the Kitchen

Year 2 have had a busy start to their new topic, Turrets and Tall Tales.

The children have been reading the traditional tale of Jack and the beanstalk and in Learning Adventure have written their own alternative version. Alongside this, in Geography the children have been learning about land use and farming in Kent. They know about the different types of farms and what is grown or reared on them. Year 2 grew their own broad beans and in DT they have been learning about healthy foods, leading to designing and preparing their own fruit salad. The children also worked with the Independent Catering staff, having a tour of the school kitchen, the equipment and even helping to prepare the daily salad cart and vegetables for school lunches.



Cycling—Year 6

This week, many of our Yr 6 students have participated in Cycle Confidence sessions run by the Cycle Circle Team. The sessions help build cycling skills and confidence which are very important as we know that some of our pupils will be cycling to secondary school next year. During the sessions, the children have cycled many miles, venturing as far as Ashford International Station, The Designer Outlet, Victoria Park and the Stour Centre. The children were amazed as to how far they could cycle and the places they could cycle safely to, using mainly cycle paths and local roads. The Cycle Confidence sessions are the final event in our cycling calendar. We look forward to Autumn Term where cycle ready sessions will be offered to Years R and 1 and Bikeability training for Years 4, 5 and 6.

Athlete Visit



The children were put through their paces yesterday morning when title-holding, kickboxing athlete, Jessica Fleischer (not to be confused with 80's television novelist-cum-detective, played by Angela Lansbury!) paid a visit to the school. Jess had come to Godinton as part of the Sports for Schools initiative, a national scheme designed to both raise money for schools to improve their physical activity provision, as well as support athletes and para-athletes through their training.

Each child, and even some of the adults, participated in a series of four 1-minute drills. Beginning with 'Spotty Dogs' (jumping with alternate arms and legs), the children progressed onto 'Mountain climber', press-ups or squats and finally star jumps. By the end, there were lots of red-faces, sweaty brows, audible panting but big smiles.

The morning's visit concluded with an inspiring assembly and Question and Answer session, during which Jess spoke to the children about her journey as a title-winning athlete, and the ups and downs she experienced along the way. Some children were invited to share their aspirations with the school, whilst others had the opportunity to try out some kickboxing moves, under Jess' guidance. The children were left with the message that, for any goal in life, it's important to 'dream big, start small and to never give up'.

A couple of weeks ago, the children brought home their sponsorship forms for this event. If you are able to sponsor your child for their hard work during yesterday morning's exercises, we would be grateful for any support you can offer. Please bring the form and any monies raised back into school within the next week. Many thanks in advance.

Science Prize Winners



Congratulations to all the children who took part in the Science Week Challenge on the subject of growth. We had almost 60 children take part, investigating a wide range of topics such as how animals and humans grow, growing crystals and growing plants from seeds. All children who took part received a special certificate and prizes were awarded to the following children in each School:

Lower School – Harry T (Y1) WINNER; Paige Quinn (Y1) RUNNER UP

Middle School – William G (Y2) WINNER; Scarlett P (Y2) RUNNER UP

Upper School – Ollie S (Y5) WINNER; Jessica P (Y5) RUNNER UP



We have another exciting competition for the children to join in with. Look out for details of our Jubilee art competition which will be launched this week. I hope that lots of the children will want to participate with the chance to win some special prizes.

Year 4

Design Technology



Year 4 have been learning about cams and cam mechanisms in the Design Technology element of this term's Creative Adventure. The children explored how a dowel and follower work together to turn a cam to create a moving part and investigated how different shaped cams affected movement. They then designed their own simple toy with a moving part. The activity was a great lesson in adaptability and perseverance as the children had to re-engineer several times before deciding on the best prototype. They learnt how to use hacksaws, glue guns and hand drills correctly and safely to make our models. This topic has also helped to reinforce the importance of Godinton's Guiding Stars; helping each other and collaborating, being independent and sharing equipment.



Year 1 Phonics

Information Session

Thank you to all the Year 1 parents who came and joined their children for a phonics session at school earlier this month. We hope that you found it an enjoyable and useful way of finding out a little more about how phonics is delivered at school.



What does the Queen have for Tea?

The children in Reception have had such an exciting term and have thoroughly enjoyed their topic, 'A Royal Adventure'.

On Tuesday something very exciting happened, they spoke to the Queen! The children thought of lots of questions that they could ask her such as what it was like to be the Queen, whether she wears her crown all day long and about her plans for the Jubilee. She told the children that she loves to have eggs for breakfast and all about her favourite things to do in Windsor Castle. We also learnt that her favourite animal is a corgi.

We are all looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Jubilee on Friday this week with a special street party picnic lunch and a party on the field in the afternoon. Don't forget to come to school dressed in red, white and blue!



Small Business Fair

On the first Saturday of every month, local small businesses come together to hold a fair at Godinton Village Hall. The next fair is on **Saturday 4th June from 12.30-3.30**; there is free entry, free parking and free children's activities including messy play and a gaming truck to look around. There will also be free hand & arm massages, spiritual readings (paid or free with purchase), free beauty samples with purchase, and stalls including crafts, cakes, home fragrance, beauty products/services, utility savings and flexible/home based earning opportunities to name a few...and tea & coffee!

More information can be found on the Facebook event page <https://fb.me/e/3Ah4Yl1jH>

PTFA News Summer Fayre

Our Summer Fayre 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.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help on the day—whether that is helping out on a stall or helping to set up or clear away. If anyone else is able to help out in some capacity on the day—please let a member of the PTFA know. We are still looking for some football-mad parents who may be able to help with the 'Beat the Goalie' activity!

We had a brilliant response to items for the Summer Fayre on our non-uniform day. We are still looking for some more toiletry donations and for empty screw top wine bottles. These can be dropped off at the main school office.

Raffle tickets for the grand raffle are being sent home this week. These can be sold to family, friends or work colleagues. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Fayre on the 18th June.

Disco

We are delighted to announce that our first PTFA Disco for the children in two years will take place on Friday 8th July. Further details will be provided next term.

Next PTFA Meeting

The next PTFA meeting is on **Tuesday 14th June at 6.00 p.m** at school. All our welcome to attend.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember that school will be closed on **Friday 1st July**.
- If anyone has any items of unwanted school uniform (jumpers, cardigans, fleeces, trousers, skirts, summer dresses etc) that could be used by other families, please hand this in to the school office. We will be selling second hand school uniform at this year's **Summer Fayre**.
- **Godinton** is a nut free school—this means that any nut based products are not permitted to be brought into school. This includes raw nuts, nut based cereal bars and peanut butter. We have some children with severe nut allergies and are therefore unable to have nut products in school.
- Don't forget to name all items of clothing which your child wears to school. It will be almost impossible to return lost jumpers if they do not have a name in them.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Go Karting and Archery—This year, we have tried to provide the children with lots of exciting opportunities to try out different sports and physical activities which they may not have tried before. This week, we were pleased to welcome the team from **Venture Camps** to school to lead sessions for our **KS1** children to try out scooters and go-karts and to try their hand at archery. The children had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Next term we will be offering a similar experience to **KS2** and will be having a whole school martial arts day so lots of lovely things to look forward to.



High Five— On **Saturday 14th May**, Mrs Ellis and Mrs McGoldrick took 10 children to **Great Chart Prep School** to participate in a **High Five Tournament**. The children played 5 other schools from across **Ashford** in the tournament. Their hard work and enthusiasm paid off and the children made it through to the play-offs, playing for 3rd or 4th place. They made it to 4th place and all received a medal to acknowledge their success. The children played fantastically and were a credit to the school. Mrs Ellis and Mrs McGoldrick were very proud to be there with them. **Congratulations to the team** and thank you to Mrs Ellis and Mrs McGoldrick for all their support.