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Message from Miss Talbot



Jubilee Celebrations

The end of last term, saw us celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was a once in a lifetime celebration of national importance which we wanted to mark accordingly with the children.

The morning was spent with the children finding out about significant moments and achievements in the Queen's life, watching clips of her coronation and learning about the succession to the throne. The children then enjoyed a celebratory lunch outside with special packed lunches and jubilee themed desserts. We ended the day with a host of activities on the field for the children to join in with. This included craft activities, multi-skill games and traditional fairground games such as hook a duck.

A book celebrating the life of the Queen, commissioned by the Department for Education has been sent home with all the children. We hope that they will enjoy reading this special souvenir.



More Jubilee Celebrations



The Year 5 and 6 art club were very busy at the end of last term, creating a panel of artwork, celebrating the Queen's Jubilee which has been installed at Ashford Station as part of a collaborative project involving local Ashford schools. Children from the art club attended the unveiling of the art work which will remain in place throughout the summer. If you are off out and about on the trains over the summer, look out for the Godinton artwork as you walk through the underpass linking the domestic station to Ashford International.

Well done to art club for all their amazing efforts.



Some of our Year 4 and 5 children also got creative to produce a Jubilee themed tree which



formed part of the Ashford Tree Trail which has been in place across the town throughout June. All the trees on the trail were decorated using recycled materials to create a tree which

celebrated the Queen's reign. The Godinton tree was decorated with Jubilee flowers made from plastic bags.

Class News

Year 5—Down by the River

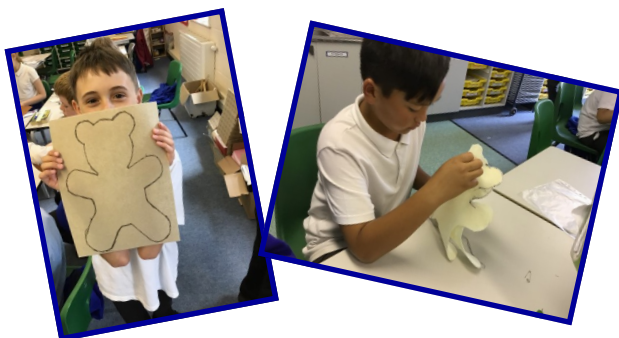
At the start of the term, Year 5 were introduced to their new topic of Ancient Egypt with Mr Smith and Miss Attenborough demonstrating some aspects of the process of mummification on an unsuspecting Miss Spriggs – don't worry she has made a full recovery! The children have really enjoyed learning about the Ancient Egyptians so far and how they were reliant on the River Nile to support the civilisation. They even had the opportunity to wade in the River Darent at Horton Kirby to see some of the features we have been looking at in a destination a little closer to home. The children completed their own fieldwork studies into the depth of the river at two different points and looked to see how quickly rubber ducks were transported by the water in different channels of the meander and the straight. They also made their own model rivers and looked at how humans try to shape rivers to prevent flooding using Lego to represent floodwalls and dams. Towards the end of the term, we have more exciting activities including the children writing their own Egyptian tomb suspense stories and adapting a recipe to make their own Ancient –Egyptian–style flatbread.



Year 4

Teddy Bear Making

This month, Year 4 have once again been transported back to the 1940's, and have been busy making teddy bears for evacuees. These wonky bears, that are being lovingly made by the children, have a vintage feel complete with their own gas mask box. The children started by choosing their fabric and exploring suitable templates. They then moved on to practising threading a needle and exploring stitches to be able to make informed choices when making the real thing. Our more experienced sewers will have the opportunity to design a jumper or jacket to clothe their bear. We look forward to seeing the finished results



Year 1 – Spectacular Science

Year 1 have been busy in their science topic, investigating the properties of different materials. This term the children looked at which material would be best to make an umbrella for 'Ted'. They worked in small teams, using pipettes to drop water onto different materials.

Ted was sitting in the jar, and the children checked to see if he has stayed dry each time. They found that plastic was the best option. It was waterproof and strong!



Year 6

Busy, Busy, Busy

Whoever said that term 6 was a time for winding down hasn't been in Year 6! It's all systems go this time of year as the children make the most of their last term at Godinton. In addition to Sports Day, Go Karting, Archery and Martial Arts activities, the classes are in the midst of preparing for their next educational milestone – transitioning to secondary school. Staff representatives from local secondary schools have been in to meet their prospective students and talk about what the children can expect to find when they start their new schools in September. The children will have the opportunity to see this for themselves as they visit the schools over the next fortnight for their taster transition days.

These past few weeks have aimed to support individuals in their next steps of social, emotional and personal maturity. James Hensman from Excelsior Safeguarding visited the children to raise their awareness of the dangers of gang cultures and exploitation. James, a former police officer, has worked with young people who have been victims of such criminal activities. Finally, last week, the children participated in Safety in Action at Ashford Fire Station. This was an event organised for Year 6 students to equip them with life skills which will hold them in good stead as they become more independent in their daily lives.

In the coming weeks, the children are looking forward to Activity Week and all the exciting undertakings which the adults have planned, rehearsing for their Leavers' Performance of 'Shakespeare Rocks!', in addition to maintaining their usual hard working standard in class.

So all in all, a very busy time for Year 6.



Martial Arts Day



We were very pleased to welcome Lisa Collins from Canton Martial Arts into school on Friday 10th June to deliver some short karate taster sessions to all the children from years 1 to 6. Mrs Collins said that all of the children listened intently to her instructions and clearly tried really hard with all the things she asked them to do. There were lots of big smiles, especially when they were encouraged to shout!

Further information about Canton Martial Arts has been shared via Parentmail for anyone whose child is interested in further sessions.



National Testing

May and June are always busy months as we have National tests and screenings taking place in key year groups. Due to Covid it has been three years since the formal National testing timetable has taken place. May saw SATs tests taking place in Year 2 and Year 6 and this month the phonics screening took place in Year 1 and for some Year 2 children and the Multiplication Screening took place in Year 4. The children took these assessments very much in their stride and we have all been immensely proud of the effort they have applied. The results of the tests and the screenings will be shared with parents with Reports before the end of the academic year.

Class Allocations for 2022-23

On Thursday, the children will be finding out which teacher they will be having next academic year. Please keep an eye out for a ParentMail which will provide further details.

On Monday 4th July, the children will have the opportunity to spend the afternoon with their new teacher during class swap afternoon. We then invite parents to come and have a look through their children's work after school between 3.30 and 5.00. This is also an opportunity to pop along and say hello to your child's current and future teacher. A ParentMail is being sent out this week which provides further details.

Reception 2022-23

Over the past few weeks, it has been a pleasure to start to get to know the Reception children who will be starting with us in September. Please find below a reminder of the dates of the various transition sessions that we have taking place before the end of term:

Thursday 30th June AND Monday 4th July – Storytime sessions from 1.45 to 2.45. Parents are invited to come along to the school hall and stay for a cup of tea and a chance to meet other new parents whilst their children are in class.

Tuesday 5th July OR Thursday 7th July – a chance to join us for lunch in the school hall at 11.15

We have lots of information on the school website for parents of new starters with new content added each week.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/welcome-to-godinton-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-reception-2022/welcome-to-our-new-reception-starters/>

Sports Day



It was a pleasure to welcome so many parents and guests to our Sports Day last week. As this was the first Sports Day we had held for three years, it was the first time that many of our children had taken part.

The morning was spent with the children taking part in more competitive events, including the flat races and relays. There was an excellent atmosphere out on the field with the children cheering on their House teams. The overall scores for the morning activities saw Rochester as the winning House and Walmer as runner up.

The emphasis in the afternoon was on teamwork and trying out a range of activities that played to different strengths. This included football, hockey and cricket skills, speed bouncing and throwing activities. Walmer scored most points in the afternoon with Rochester as the runner up.

Adding all the points together from the day, Walmer clenched victory with 5359 points, Rochester were second with 5009, Dover came third with 4961 points and Leeds took fourth place with 4723.

We were immensely proud of all the children. Well done everyone.



PTFA News

Summer Fayre

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our Summer Fayre last weekend and helped us to raise £1,600 for the school which is fantastic. It was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves.

I am immensely grateful to our PTFA committee and all the staff and parent volunteers to helped out in any capacity. Thank you so much.

If anyone has a blue lucky programme—number 37, please bring it along to the office to claim your prize.

Disco

We are delighted to announce that our first PTFA Disco for the children in over two years will take place on Friday 8th July (Lower and Middle School 4.30 to 5.30 pm and Upper School 6.00 to 7.30 pm). Further details will come out this week.

School Closed

Please remember that school is **CLOSED** on **Friday 1st July**. As the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee fell within half term, schools are able to take a day in lieu so that staff do not miss out on the additional day of holiday.

Athlete Visit

Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children as part of our Athlete Visit from Sports 4 Schools. Your generosity helped us to raise over £2000 in vouchers that can be used to purchase equipment or used to fund further athlete led workshops.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember that our school is a non-smoking site. This means that smoking and vaping of any kind is not permitted in school buildings or in the school grounds at any time. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Children are only permitted to wear stud earrings to school. Hoop earrings or dangly types are not allowed. All earrings must be removed for PE lessons. If the children can't remove them themselves, then please take them out before they come to school. If you are thinking about getting your child's ears pierced, please do so at the start of the summer holidays so that they will be able to take them out by the start of the new year.
- When the weather is hot, we want to ensure that our children drink as much as possible. Please remember that only water is permitted in the water bottles that children access during the school day. Squash and cartons of drink can be brought in, but are for lunchtime only.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

High 5 League: For several Fridays across May and June, Year 6 pupils from our High 5 Club were selected to play in league matches, competing in ability pools with several other local schools. These matches took place at Courtside, Stanhope after school – with each team playing two matches most weeks. The children all showed great sportsmanship throughout, and Mrs Crowfoot & Mrs Ellis were so pleased to see how their skills developed as the weeks went past. Overall, both teams came 5th in their respective groups. We would like to thank the parents of the children involved for transporting and supporting our teams each week. Well done everyone!

KS2 Go-karting & Archery:

The children in years 3–6 had a great time on Thursday 9th June when it was their turn to have a go at Go-Karting and Archery, which extended to Go-Kart dodgeball and Archery Tag for the older children. These activities allowed the children to experience new sports in a safe and fun environment, and potentially develop a new interest. Venture Camps run a variety of day camps during the school holidays – further details of which have been shared via Parentmail.

