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Message from Miss Talbot

A Great Start to the Year

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term 1 already—the weeks seem to have gone by so quickly. We are really pleased with the fantastic start that the children have made to the new school year, especially our new Reception starters. It has been a pleasure to start to get to know our new children and families.

We have lots of exciting things to look forward to this year including the reintroduction of our special class assemblies which parents will be able to come and watch and a full programme of PTFA activities for children and their families to join in with.

We look forward to working with you this year and hope that your children have a rewarding and fulfilling school year.

Godinton Primary School

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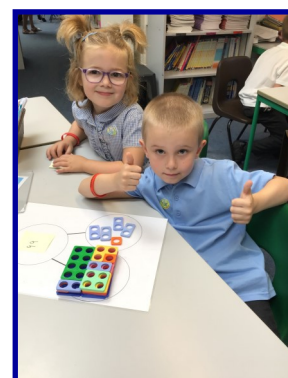
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Class News

Year 5 Riots and Revolutions

Magpie and Cuckoo class have made a great start to their first term as Year 5. They have really enjoyed diving into their topic of 'Riots and Revolutions' in Learning Adventure and have been inquisitive about the life of 'Street Child' Jim and what it would have been like if they had been living in the workhouse during the Victorian period. As part of their English sessions, the children have tried to see Victorian life through different perspectives of characters from our class book, including 'evil and greedy' Mr Spink (the landlord), including taking on these characters in a freeze frame activity before writing their diary entries. They have enjoyed discussing and comparing life today and the grizzly life of the Victorians.

Magpies have been very excited about their time outside at Forest School with Mrs Smith – Cuckoo Class have lots to look forward to when it is their turn next term.



Year 2 Take Flight



Year 2 have settled into the new school year well and are enjoying the new topic of 'The history of flight'. They have been learning about the record-breaking achievements of Amelia Earhart and how flight travel has changed since hot air balloons. The children have written some fantastic stories using their ideas about what happened to Amelia after her fateful last flight.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant start to the year and have settled well. At the beginning of the term, the children tested their knowledge of all things chocolate with a quiz. Mrs Ellis and Mrs Burchett had a deep understanding of this topic. The children are looking forward to using their research to help them design their own chocolate bar. The children have also been enjoying their gymnastics unit of work, completing some amazing balances during indoor PE sessions. To begin with, the children practised the balances themselves progressing to group balances with some travelling in between. Their bunny hops were particularly spectacular!

Year 1— Only One Me



Year one made an explosive start to the year by exploring all about ourselves and discovering that there is 'Only One Me!' The children have been exploring their bodies and finding out why we have bones. They have created self-portraits using pencil and even explored portraits in the style of Picasso and Frida Kahlo. The children's writing is being developed with some lovely autobiographies which include lots of information about themselves, their families and their past. They have been looking at routines and creating instructions, and have even learnt some super new songs to help them remember all the things they need to include in their writing!

Year 1 have been spending Term 1 sharing lots of stories and getting to know each other, the classroom routines and expectations. The children have made a brilliant start and their teachers are very proud of them all.



Year 3— It's all Greek to us

As part of our 'It's All Greek To Us' topic, Year 3 have had a great time exploring different aspects of Ancient Greek life and culture. The children created their own Archimedes puzzle, then tried to put the triangles back into a square again, which proved very tricky but they did have fun seeing which other pictures they could create from the pieces.

The children have also been exploring the Ancient Greek concept of democracy. They turned the classroom into a municipal assembly (voting place) and created their own boule (council) who had different laws they wished to pass. It was exciting to follow the Ancient Greek rules for democracy to find out who could and could not vote and see which laws were passed!

Homework Trails

Don't forget that the Term 1 Homework Trails are due into school on Tuesday 1st November, when your child will have the opportunity to share the tasks they have completed with their class during the Homework Showcase. New trails will then be set and sent out on Wednesday 9th November.

It is very important that children keep up to date with the maths homework they have been set on Mathletics. If anyone has difficulties in accessing this, please contact your child's teachers via the year group emails.

Further information about the Homework arrangements for your child's Year group, can be found in the Year group welcome letters which are on the school website.

Year 6— Medieval Madness

Three weeks into the new term and the summer holiday already feels like a distant memory. The children in Year 6 have been very busy adjusting to the new adults, routines and expectations in their new classrooms. They have classified living things in their science topic and travelled through time with Merdyn the Wild Warlock in their class reading book and . That is a lot to pack into just a few weeks. Year 6 marks the final stage of the children's journey through their primary education, so it is apt that the first topic of the year is 'Journeys'. In the coming months, the children will be going on a journey of discovery through the Medieval period, finding out about Medieval Canterbury, the pilgrimages that people undertook to the city's Cathedral and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. To mark the launch of this term's topic, the children were treated to a recreation of a Medieval feast, with pease pottage and rye bread, all served by peasants (the Year 6 staff) in traditional costumes of the Middle Ages. The children were randomly selected to be serfs, knights, barons and the King or Queen, and were treated according to their status. This helped them to understand the importance of knowing their place within the Feudal System. Whilst pease pottage, rye bread and the life of a serf did not appeal to everyone, the group was unanimous that life in the 21st Century is a vast improvement on life in the Medieval era.



Welcome Year R



What a start to our first term at school! The children have been busy getting to know their new classroom both inside and out, making new friends and getting stuck into learning. We are so proud of how well they have settled.

During our 'Investigation and Discovery' time, the children have been leading their own learning through play and are having lots of fun. In the outside area, lots of the children have enjoyed exploring the water. They have been washing and caring for the babies, swimming in the deep ocean with families of octopus and making cameras to take photos of their discoveries! They have also enjoyed using the pipes to create channels to wash the ducks into the tray. They have also loved using the chalk to make different marks on the playground and using the water, washing up liquid and brooms to sweep these away! In the kitchen, they have made potions with herbs, flowers and other natural materials. Our new stage area has also been a big hit! The children are so creative and have been putting on fantastic shows for their friends. They have used the pompoms and ribbons to make up dances and sing in rock bands! The children have also really enjoyed getting messy! Mrs Taylor mixed some Gelibaff last week, it was great! They watched how it changed from a dry powder to something much more fun (and messy!) as they added water. Sensory play is integral to our learning as it forms the developing skills of taking risks, being curious and exploring. We can't wait to see what else we will get to explore throughout the year.

Staff News

The start of a new year always brings changes to our staff team. This term sees us welcome new teachers and teaching assistants to Godinton. Miss Branson (Year 4), Miss Almond (Year 6) and Miss Nelson (Year 3) join our teaching team and Mrs Jury (Year 4), Mrs Spain (Year 1) and Miss Moody (Year R) have joined our team of Teaching Assistants. Miss Scanlan has also moved from her role as Midday Supervisor to part of the Year R Teaching Assistant team.

We are also joined this term, by our new Site Manager, Mr Rowson. You will see Mr Rowson on the Lockholt Close gate in the morning and out on the playground in the afternoon.

There are some changes to our Midday Meals team. Earlier in the term we said goodbye to Mrs Grayson and at the end of this term, Miss Mason will also be leaving us. Both Mrs Grayson and Miss Mason are moving on to Teaching assistant positions. I would like to take the opportunity to thank both Miss Mason and Mrs Grayson for all the support they have provided to our children. We welcome three new MMS to Godinton—Mrs Kirova joins our outdoor team and Mrs Heder and Mrs Byrne join our indoor team.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Day who is getting married over the half term break. We will still know her as Mrs Day when she returns to school after the break. On behalf of everyone at Godinton we wish you an amazing day.

Wrap Around Care



Thank you to everyone for all your patience and cooperation as we transferred our After School Club provision to the school from Kent Play Clubs.

Please remember that those of you whose children attend Night Owls will need to complete a new registration form by the end of term. Laura Pluckrose will have been in touch with you if we are still awaiting your form.

Over the last few weeks, our Night Owls mobile has been given a make over with repairs to the outside, steps and ramp. During half term week, new flooring will also be laid. We hope that this will provide a lovely new clubhouse for our children.

If anyone has any queries about Night Owls, please contact Laura Pluckrose,

afterschoolclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk



If anyone is interested in a place at our Breakfast Club please contact our Early Birds team at breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk



Reading and Phonics



This term sees the launch of a new phonics programme at Godinton – Monster Phonics.

To assist parents in supporting their children with phonics at home and to help you in your understanding of how the Monster Phonics programme works, we have put together a package of support for parents of children in Years R, 1 and 2.

Parents of children in Years R, 1 and 2, please come along to our Reading and Phonics Information Evening on **Tuesday 11th October at 6.30 p.m.** Our Lower School Team Leaders, Mrs Varnaseri and Mrs Day, will talk about how the programme works and how you can support your child with their reading at home. You will be able to pick up a pack containing all sorts of useful Monster Phonics resources to support phonics and reading at home.

All parents in Years R, 1 and 2 will be provided with a login to the Monster Phonics website, which will enable you to access 130 free decodable online books to support the Monster Phonics programme. These will be in addition to the colour-coded reading book your child will bring home to read. The decodable reading books form an online library, meaning that your child can access books matching the sound being taught in their guided reading sessions in class and read them as many times as they like.

Further up the school we have also made some changes to the colour coded reading books for years 3 to 6. We have widened the bands to incorporate a wider selection of books for your child to choose from – this includes a silver band for years 3 and 4 and a gold band for years 5 and 6.

Attendance

After the disruption of Covid over the past few years, it is more important than ever that children demonstrate good attendance and punctuality at school. Please remember that holidays during term time will not be authorised and unauthorised absences of 5 days or more within a 50 days period may incur a penalty notice. These days do not have to run consecutively.

I expect the attendance of all children to remain as close to 100% as possible. Of course, we are entering the season of coughs and cold and Covid is still around so we do of course understand that in these circumstances children will need time away from school to recover from illness and that this is unavoidable. Any attendance of 90% or less is considered poor and will result in further investigation to see what more we may be able to do to help.

At the beginning of November your child will be bringing home the first of their three reports this academic year. This report will indicate the % of missed learning, due to absence, which your child has accrued. Please be mindful of this figure and the impact that lost learning can have on your child's education.

We would encourage children to get to school as early as possible in the morning. 15 minutes of early morning work each day from 8.45 to 9.00, adds up over the course of a term and can make a significant difference to your child's learning. Gates open each day at 8.40. Your child must be in school by 9.00 a.m.

I know how difficult it can sometimes be to arrange medical appointments outside school hours, but please do so where possible.

If there are any difficulties relating to your child's attendance at school, please let me know as soon as possible so we can help with this.

Rainbows Bereavement Support



We are delighted to have been accredited as a Rainbows Bereavement School. Rainbows Bereavement Support is a well-respected national charity which supports children, young people and adults who are grieving or experiencing a significant and often devastating loss in their lives. Mrs McGibney and Mrs Ades have trained as facilitators for the programme and will be running groups throughout the year for children who have experienced loss. This may be the death of a family member or the loss of a parent who has left the family home.

Whilst we can only offer limited places within these groups, we can also help in other ways if you are experiencing loss of any kind. This can include support from our FLO, Mrs McGibney, the loan of books and resources, or signposting to charities which may be able to help. If your child is struggling with a loss of any kind in their lives, please get in touch with Mrs McGibney.

Break time Snacks

Please remember that the children are only able to bring fruit or vegetables to school for morning break every day of the week. This can be fresh or dried but does not include fruit winders or yogurts. Other healthy snacks e.g cereal bars are not permitted.

We also ask that only clear water is provided in the children's water bottles, thank you.

PTFA Dates

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTFA AGM at the end of the month. We were delighted to be able to elect in a committee who will take the lead with school fundraising this year. Lynsay Keech is continuing as Chair and is joined by Laura Gilroy who takes on the role of Vice Chair from Maryline Maurez. Jo Gandon is continuing as secretary and Nicola Smith as treasurer.

It was lovely to have so many parent helpers at the disco – thank you very much. Discos can be a loud and sticky affair so your help was very much appreciated!

We have two PTFA events next term to look forward to. On Saturday 26th November we have our Christmas Fair from 11 am to 2 pm and on Saturday 10th December we have our ever popular Breakfast with Santa. Details of both events will be sent out next term. If anyone is able to help at either event, please contact the PTFA: ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Updated Policies

Please note that the following policies have been updated and are now available on the school website:

- Child Protection,
- Behaviour, Discipline and Exclusion
- Class Placement
- Marking and Feedback

Key school policies can be found by following the link below. This includes policies such as attendance and admissions.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/school-information/school-policies/>

Other News and Reminders...

- Where possible, we would encourage all our children to walk or cycle to school. Where this isn't possible, please park over at the Chimney's car park rather than create congestion in Lockholt Close and Springwood Drive. I have had a number of complaints since the start of term about inconsiderate parking and driving on the estate which have been passed onto our PCSO. The safety of our children is paramount and dangerous behaviour on the road compromises this. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Don't forget to see how many acts of kindness your child can log in their Kindness Passports over the course of October. All the points will be added to the class kindness totals. Passports need to be returned to school after Half Term.
- Our Parent Handbook has been updated and can be found on the school website. This contains all sorts of useful information about the school. <https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/parent-handbook/>
- We are delighted to once again be in a position to invite parents into school to watch their child's class assembly. Each class will lead one of our Friday assemblies during the academic year showcasing things they have been doing in class. We start with Magpies class assembly on Friday 14th October. Cuckoos perform on Friday 4th November and Falcons on Friday 2nd December. Future dates are on the school calendar. Assemblies start at 2.40 p.m.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

We give our grateful thanks to Mr Taylor for volunteering to run our school football club. We are hopeful that this year more opportunities will open up for involvement in matches and tournaments.

The term 2 club timetable will be circulated this week and contains information about all the clubs that are running within the school.

Our Year 4 children participated with great enthusiasm in their Bikeability training sessions at the start of term. Before we break for the holiday, Year 6 will be participating in their Bikeability training, with opportunities for some of the other year groups later in the year. Our training is run by Spencer and his team at Cycle Circle who support cycling initiatives across the county including bike fix sessions, bike recycling and family cycle rides. Please see their website for more information:

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