

Contents

Meet our new House Captains..2
House Quiz.....2
Mini Management Team3
Playground Buddies3
Black Culture Month.....4
Homework Trails.....4
Phonics.....5
Staff News.....5
Congratulations Mrs Humphrey.5
Admissions 2023.....6
Governors.....6
Other News.....7
Sports Report.....7



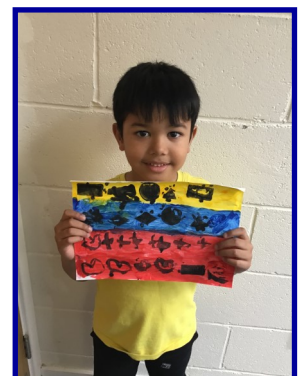
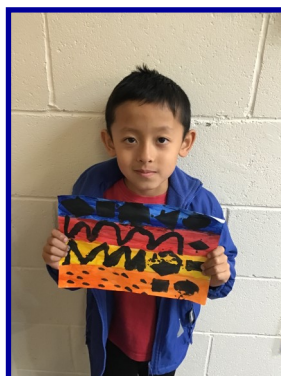
Message from Miss Talbot

Class Assemblies are Back

At the end of last term we welcomed the parents of children in Magpies class to school to watch the children's assembly. It has been lovely to reintroduce this aspect of school life after almost three years.

Magpies treated their parents to an assembly that took us back in time to the Victorian era and the world of 'Street Child' Jim Jarvis. We learnt about what life was like in the workhouse through a performance acted out by the children and the reading of diary entries written by the children. Well done Magpies!

At the end of this week, Cuckoos will entertain the school and then parents with their assembly. The dates of all the other class assemblies this year can be found on the online school calendar.



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

Meet our new House Captains

At the end of last term, Upper School children voted for the Year 6 children they wanted to lead their Houses as our House Captains and Vice Captains. It was wonderful to see so many Year 6 children put themselves forward and deliver their speeches, outlining why they thought they would be excellent in these roles; we were very proud of them all. With all votes cast, the following children were elected into post. Congratulations to them all.

The House Captains began their roles by helping with the Inter-House quizzes and will be invited to help out at the new intake information evening for prospective parents next week.

Walmer House

House Captains: Nicholas R and Myles D

Vice Captains: Harrison H and Abby B

Rochester House

House Captains: Jack T and Lucy F

Vice Captains: Jenson J and Isabella M

Leeds House

House Captains: Daniel B and Evie D

Vice Captains: Ethan A and Faye S

Dover House

House Captains: Reuben W and Imogen B

Vice Captains: Finn S and Gracie B



House Quiz

Our Inter-Houses quiz mornings took place last term and put the quiz teams through their paces, testing them on various aspects of general knowledge. It was lovely to see everyone supporting their teams by wearing their house colours. Congratulations to everyone involved.

In the Lower and Middle School quiz, and in the Upper School Quiz Rochester were the overall winners with Leeds as the runners up.

The points from the House Quiz mornings have been added to the overall House Point totals for this term which saw Rochester as the winning House. The children will enjoy an extended break time and squash and biscuits this week to celebrate.



Our New Mini Management Team

Our children know our school really well and often come up with the best ideas as to how we can improve our school. I am therefore very much looking forward to working with our newly elected Mini Management Team who will be helping me to come up with new ideas to enhance provision at Godinton. Feedback from the children is very important and all those who have been elected to this position delivered excellent speeches, outlining the things they would like to see or do at Godinton. I was immensely proud of all the children who put themselves forward for these positions; delivering a speech in front of your classmates is a very brave thing to do. Congratulations to those children who have been elected to the Mini Management Team.

Year 6—Fae and Woody

Year 5— Skyelah and Naveen

Year 4—Emily B and Emily P

Year 3—Felicity and Blake

Year 2—Ariel and Sienna

Year 1—Carter and Noah

I look forward to meeting with the children at our first meeting next week and hearing all of their exciting ideas!

Playground Buddies

This year, we have finally been able to re-implement so many of the initiatives that we had to suspend due to Covid restrictions.

One such initiative that we have been very pleased to reinstate is our Playground Buddies. These are children from Year 5 and 6 who have been chosen to help provide playground support for our younger children at playtime and lunchtime.

Our buddies have made an excellent start to their new roles, helping the children to play games, encouraging them to join in and making sure that no one is lonely.

Our first playground buddies for this year are:

Year 6: Jack T, Zariah N, Sam K, Myles D, Lucas T. Kaycie G, Jenson J, Gracie B, Fae S-B, Isabella M, Ethan B, Eddie S

Year 5: Lilly S, Tommy J, Ava-May H, Zach C, Malachi P, Bella P, Amelie G, Lianna H, Raphael T, Harry P, Lily C, Leo P.



Our Playground Buddies are easily identifiable by their orange hi-vis jackets. They will also be looking out for children at the Friendship Stops on the playground.



Black Culture Month

Throughout October we have been celebrating Black Culture month with a series of assemblies focusing on inspirational black role models. This has included Maya Angelou, Oti Mabuse and Johannes Radebe from Strictly and tennis superstars, Serena and Venus Williams. Assembly music this term has been from Louis Armstrong, Beyonce and Ella Fitzgerald. We are very proud of the diversity within our school community and celebrating this is important to us.

We have recently updated our class reading books to include a wider selection of books by black authors and featuring leading black characters which we hope will continue to inspire our children and develop their appreciation of the wide ethnicity of our Godinton community.

Reading

We have had a thorough overhaul of reading books in the school in order to extend the books available for the children to take home to read. Reading is a crucial skill that helps your child to unlock other areas of the curriculum. Please encourage your child to read every day as this will significantly improve their reading ability.

We would ask that children take care of the books they borrow and return them to school in a suitable condition, allowing others to borrow them.



Homework Trails

We have all been very impressed by the wonderful homework tasks that the children have completed as part of their Term 1 Homework Trails. I hope that they enjoyed sharing their tasks with their classmates at the Homework Showcase this week.

Those children who went the 'Extra Mile' will receive their special sticker. If they collect three stickers over the course of the year, they will be able to take part in a special film afternoon in the summer term.

The homework tasks are designed to support your child's curriculum understanding and give them opportunities to make new discoveries and put knowledge into practice.

The term 2 Homework Trails will be sent out on Wednesday next week and will be due into school on Wednesday 4th January.

Jewellery

Only stud earrings are permitted to be worn to school. These should be small studs which can be easily removed for PE lessons. If your child is unable to remove them independently, please help them to remove them and leave them at home on PE days.

No other items of jewellery are permitted including necklaces, bracelets and rings.

Parking

Please can I ask for everyone to show consideration and care when driving on the estate. We have had ongoing reports of dangerous driving and parking at drop off and pick up which is endangering our children's safety. Incidents will be reported to the PCSO.

Phonics



Thank you so much to all of you who attended the Year R to 2 Phonics and Reading Information Evening before we broke for Half Term – it was lovely to see such a supportive turn out. For those of you who were unable to make the meeting, your child will have brought home a phonics information pack which gives you lots of information about our new phonics scheme and the ways in which you can support your child at home with their phonics.

Your information pack, included information about the free library of Monster Phonics eBooks which will help to support your child's phonics knowledge. Each week, the teachers will be informing you as to which eBooks to read at home, this information will be put into the children's reading record book. The eBooks can be accessed on a tablet, smartphone or laptop; if anyone doesn't have access to technology at home, please get in touch. We would encourage parents to look at the eBooks books during the day rather than at bedtime.

These eBooks support the guided reading sessions that your child will be engaging with in school and different children will be looking at different books. Please remember that your child will also have their colour coded reading books which they should also be reading regularly at home.

In order to access the eBooks, please follow the link in your information pack or in the ParentMail sent out this week.

Staff News

Next week, we say goodbye to Miss Attenborough as she heads off onto her maternity leave. We all wish her well and look forward to meeting her new arrival.

We also have some new staff members to welcome to the team. Mrs Cumerou joins our team of outdoor Midday Meals Supervisors and Miss Dowling joins our Early Birds, Breakfast Club team.

Congratulations

Mrs Humphrey

Congratulations to Mrs Humphrey who has won a Kent Green Award for being an amazing Road Crossing Patrol Officer. This award is very well deserved as Mrs Humphrey works so hard to keep everyone safe out on Loudon Way.

Mrs Humphrey will receive her award at a special ceremony in November.



School Admissions 2023

Do you have a child starting school in September 2023?

Next week we are holding our information evening for prospective parents of our 2023 Reception cohort. This will take place between 5.30 p.m and 7.00 p.m on Wednesday 9th November and is an opportunity for parents to meet with staff and have a look around our Reception classrooms. Throughout November we then hold small group tours of the school led by Miss Talbot and our Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Partridge and Mrs Stein. This is an opportunity to view the school in day to day operation. Please contact the school office if you'd like to book a place on a tour. No booking is required to attend the information on the 9th November.

The Admissions pages on the school website provide further information.



Safeguarding

Miss Talbot is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). She is assisted in this role by Deputy DSLs, Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and therefore if anyone has any concerns about the safety of any of our children or any child protection concerns, please contact our safeguarding team. The safeguarding pages in the school website provide further information.

School Governors

At Godinton, we are very fortunate to have a team of such supportive and pro-active school Governors. The Governing Body plans the strategic direction of a school, makes sure public money is well spent, and holds school leadership to account.

A strong Governing Body ensures robust debate, which in turn leads to better educational outcomes for children. Whilst we don't currently have any vacancies for Parent Governors, we do have vacancies for Governors who do not have children at Godinton.

Whatever your professional background, your skills could have a positive impact on a school. If you know someone who would make a good School Governor (particularly those with a background in education, finance, HR, law, health and safety or IT), please get in touch with Miss Talbot. School Governors are the largest volunteer force in the country. Becoming a School Governor is an excellent way to give back to the community.

Alongside Miss Talbot, our current School Governors are:

Steve King – Chair of Governors

Rob Wellard – Vice Chair (Parent Governor)

Kelly Holden-Smith (Parent Governor)

Sam Messenger (Parent Governor)

Rachael Dray

Karen Ward (Staff Governor)

PTFA News

Don't forget that Friday 11th November is a non-uniform day in return for bringing something in for the Christmas Fair.

Our Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday 26th November between 11 and 2. Further details will be coming out shortly.

We also have Breakfast with Santa on Saturday 10th December. Again, details will be coming out soon.

Other News and Reminders...

- Thank you for encouraging your child to complete their Kindness Passports, recording acts of kindness completed during October. These kind deeds will be added to class totals and the kindest class in the school will receive our special kindness hamper on Friday.
- This term sees the count down to Christmas at Godinton. We will shortly be sending out the details of all our festive activities taking place this term. Our Christmas Diary Dates are already up on the school calendar on the website.
- On Monday 7th November your child will be bringing home the first of their three reports this academic year. Tuesday 8th November is book viewing evening. Parents are invited to come along into school and have a look at their child's work in the classroom. Please can we ask that any younger siblings who come along too are supervised appropriately. Further details will be sent out this week.
- Please can we ask that you remember to keep your contact details up to date in the school office. This includes, any change of address, changes to parent contact details (emails and phone numbers) and details of any other emergency contacts.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

We are very much looking forward to being able to compete against other schools again from this term onwards. This week and next week pupils from years 3 to 6 will be competing in a virtual cross country event – where they will run either 800m or 1600m on our school field. The top 5 times for boys and girls in each age group will be submitted and compared against other schools and medals awarded for the top 3 in each category. There will also be 3 additional medals for children in our school who demonstrate the school sports values: determination, passion, respect, self-belief, teamwork and honesty.

We also have some other exciting sporting events to look forward to. Year 4 will be competing in a Multi-Skills competition against other local schools which will see them putting a variety of sporting skills to good use. In January children from years 3–6 will compete in Sporthall Athletics events at the Stour Centre—this will include a mix of track and field events such as hurdles, soft javelin, speed bounce and standing long jump.