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## Message from Miss Talbot

### Christmas Countdown Begins

On Saturday we began our Christmas countdown with our PTFA Christmas Fair. It was really lovely to have such a busy buzz within the school and to welcome children and their extended families to Godinton. We are immensely lucky to have such a hardworking PTFA committee and a fantastic group of staff and parent volunteers to help out at PTFA events. I would like to extend my grateful thanks to everyone involved in making the day such as success. Over £3000 was raised which will go towards the development of our outside areas.

Our PTFA festivities continue on 10th December when we have our Breakfast with Santa event. This is a lovely opportunity for your child to meet Father Christmas. We look forward to seeing many of you then.



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# Class News

## Year 6 Trip to Canterbury

It's not often that adults hand over the planning of the annual school trip to the children, but that's exactly what the teachers in Year 6 did, prior to their trip to Canterbury last month. The day itself was split into two parts: a tour and craft workshop at the cathedral and fieldwork based around the city centre, looking at the transport links, building use in the High Street and landmarks and tourism. In groups, the children planned their route through the town, identifying specific stops which they could research in line with their particular focus.

Both Eagles and Falcons had spent time in class studying Canterbury in the weeks leading up to the trip, looking at its geography, its history and its importance as a centre of pilgrimage, which inspired Geoffrey Chaucer to write *The Canterbury Tales*.



Inside the Cathedral, the highly anticipated climb up the 'Pilgrims' Steps' to the Trinity Chapel did not disappoint, with many children ascending the steps on their knees, as pilgrims would have traditionally done (much

to the entertainment of the other visitors in the Cathedral!). The craft workshop saw the children make traditional pilgrimage tokens that would have been given to travellers that visited the Cathedral during medieval times. Both classes also designed their own stained-glass windows and wrote certificates using the traditional method of quill and ink.

A fun but tiring day was had by all and the children represented the school very well. By the end of the trip, Year 6 had recorded a step count of over 20,000, but were grateful that, unlike medieval pilgrims, they did not have to make the return journey on foot, as the train at Canterbury West station beckoned them home. Thank you to all the adults that helped on the day to make this trip possible.



We know that times are financially difficult for many of you at the moment. Thank you for supporting our school trips and enrichment activities. Without parent contributions we would have to significantly restrict what we are able to arrange for our children.



## Charity News

### Children In Need

Godinton went spotty this year for Children in Need. Our annual fundraising for the charity was, as always, very well supported by our school community with children and staff wearing spots to school and raising £573.

The day started with a visit from dancers from Homewood School who were completing their Dance Dash around Ashford Schools, also raising money for the charity.

Thank you so much for helping us to support this charity.



### Wellbeing Room

Following successful fundraising earlier in the year, our new wellbeing room for the children is now almost complete. We will be having a proper opening for the room in the new year once the last few parts of the room have been finalised.



Last week, some of our children went on a shopping trip with Mrs Ellis to Dobbies to get some fish for the room. The fish are now settling into their new home.

## Forest School

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pullen have led very successful Forest School sessions for Year 2 and 5 over the past two terms and are drawing their current groups to a close over the next week with a campfire, marshmallows and hot chocolate in the woods. Next term, will see the turn of Year 3 and Year 6 and we will also be rearranging the cancelled sessions for our Reception Children.

We have had some developments in the woods over the past few weeks. A new woodland trail has been erected as well as a new bridge over the stream and a giant canopy to help with our wet weather provision (much needed over the past few weeks).

The Forest School pages on our school website are also in the process of being developed so you can view details of our Forest School curriculum.

Children need to wear suitable clothing for their Forest School sessions. This will be sent out to you ahead of the start of your child's sessions. We are always in need of spare items of outdoor clothing in case anything is forgotten. If you have any unwanted items (waterproof coats and trousers, long outdoor trousers, sweatshirts or wellington boots) we would be very grateful for any donations.



## Clubs

Before the end of term, the club timetable for Term 3 will be sent out so that you can apply for a place for your child. We are very fortunate to have a wide range of activities on offer for different year groups covering art and design, sport, music, STEM activities and PE.

Our staff give up their time to deliver these exciting enrichment opportunities for the children. Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child. Thank you.



## Updated Policies

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

- Health and Safety
- Anti-Bullying
- Sex Education
- Uniform and Possessions

Key school policies can be found by following the link below.

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

In January the following policies will be reviewed: curriculum and race equality. If anyone has any feedback on these policies please contact Miss Talbot.

## Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Miss Dowling to our Breakfast Club team. Miss Dowling joins Mrs Ellis, Mrs Coles and Mrs Lopez-Garrido and replaces Miss Smith (previously known as Mrs Spriggs who is now working at Night Owls)

Further information about a place at Breakfast Club can be found on the school website or by contacting the team:

[breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:breakfastclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

## 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.

## Class Assemblies

Our class assemblies have got off to a terrific start this year with excellent performances from Magpies and Cuckoos. This week, it is the turn of Falcons and in the new year we have Eagles' assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

All parents are invited to watch their child perform in their class assemblies – tickets are not required. Assemblies start at 2.40 p.m.

## Other News and Reminders...

- At the end of last term Nightingales Class were the well deserved winners of our Kindness Hamper. Well done Nightingales.
- Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Book Fair. We will find out shortly how much commission has been raised which we will be able to spend on books,
- 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.
- Good attendance at school is very important. Please only keep your children at home when they are too unwell to attend. Holidays during term time should be avoided and will be recorded as unauthorised absences. Please try to make medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report— Multi Skills Competition at The Lenham School

Not even the heavy rain could dampen the spirits of the nine Year 4 children that took place in the Multi-Skills competition at The Lenham School two weeks ago. Whilst the rain poured down outside, energy levels and enthusiasm soared inside in the sports hall. The children were put through their paces as they participated in different events which tested their speed, agility and accuracy. With the secondary school students overseeing the activities and taking scores, the various stations offered events such as speed stacking, bean bag tossing, hockey ball dribbling and basketball bouncing, which the children took part in for four minutes before moving onto the next. Each child tried their best and had fun in the process, and whilst the competition did not focus on placements, the children's efforts saw them gain first place in the speed stack station, as well as the team relay race. The team did a fantastic job in representing the school and demonstrated great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.

