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### Message from Miss Talbot

### Supporting Pupil Wellbeing

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of January. A lot of the children find this a tricky month—the mornings are dark and cold and there's the come down from the excitement of Christmas. For those children who struggle with their emotions or with aspects of their wellbeing, there are lots of different things that we can do in school to support them, from assigning a superhero to provide check ins during the week to make sure that all is ok, to more structured pastoral groups focusing on challenges such as friendship issues and dealing with loss.

Before half term, we will be encouraging the children to join in with activities at home as part of Children's Mental Health Week. This week raises the profile of how we can all work together to support children's wellbeing and mental health. Further information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.



# Children's Mental Health Week



National Children's Mental Health Week 2023 will take place from 6-12 February 2023. This year's theme is Let's Connect.

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging our children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. We have a special activity for children to complete at home to celebrate this important week. Look out for the letter coming out next week. All children who take part will receive a special certificate.

For more information on supporting children's mental health, please visit the Place2Be website. Here you will find resources, activities and information leaflets on a range of wellbeing and mental health related topics, especially designed to support parents in supporting the mental health of their children.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

## Project Linus

This week, we received a donation of 10 beautiful patchwork quilts from Project Linus. The project make handmade cotton quilts to anyone under the age of 19 that is in need of a hug. These quilts will be a brilliant addition to our wellbeing room, to our FLO's room and to the classrooms of our youngest children.

If anyone knows of anyone in need of an individual quilt, please let us know and we can get in touch with the project coordinator.



## Rainbows Programme

Our first Rainbows programme for children who have experienced bereavement and loss came to a conclusion last week. Led by Mrs McGibney and Mrs Ades, the 12 week programme has provided support for a group of children in Year 6 who are facing difficulties surrounding loss. The children have responded really well, engaging with the sessions sensitively and with thought to the other children taking part.

Our second group starts this week, this time involving children from Middle School. I am sure that the benefit of this support will be just as useful for these children.

If parents have any pastoral or wellbeing concerns involving their children, please get in touch with our Family Liaison Officer, Mrs McGibney.

## Attendance

At Godinton Primary we aim for every child to reach their full potential and to have a happy and successful time at school. Research shows that children achieve better if they are punctual for school and have good attendance. In order to provide children with the best education, we aim for every child to achieve at least 96% attendance, with a goal of achieving 100%.

Children who attend school regularly:

- Make better progress, both socially and academically
- Find school routines and school work easier to cope with
- Find learning more satisfying and enjoyable
- Have an easier transfer to secondary school

We have recently reviewed our attendance page on the school website to provide further information for parents about our attendance expectations. Here you will also find our new attendance leaflet 'Be an Attendance Hero'.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/attendance/>

The Local Authority have recently given all schools access to a School Liaison Officer who is able to meet with parents regarding attendance issues and who can help provide further support where attendance levels are causing a concern. The school is able to flag up those children who are persistently absent and hope that this service will offer an additional layer of support.

We are here to help all our children achieve good attendance. If you have any questions regarding any attendance matters please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## National Online Safety Day



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February is National Online Safety Day.** Although staying safe online is promoted whenever children access the internet in school and age specific units of work delivered to the children as part of the computing curriculum teach children how to email and use social networking sites safely, Online-Safety Day is a further opportunity to provide guidance to our children on how to stay safe online. An activity to promote National Online Safety Day will be incorporated into this week's learning for children in school.

To celebrate National Online Safety Day, we will also be launching our involvement in the National Online Safety Organisation's 'Wake Up Wednesday' Campaign. Every Wednesday, we will be sending out via ParentMail, a guide providing expert advice on the latest platforms and online risks that parents and carers need to know about. The guides are written by industry professionals and subject matter experts who have extensive experience in their field. All the guides that NOS have produced can be found on their website:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Please look out for the letter coming out via ParentMail next week which provides further information about how parents can help their children to stay safe online.



## Staff News

Mrs Jones will be leaving Godinton at the end of this term. Her last day with us will be Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Jones has been a very well respected member of our teaching team since she began her career with us 4 years ago however she has decided to now spend more time with her family.

Losing a teacher mid-year is never ideal and it has been important for us to do all we can to fill the vacancy with the right person in order to continue the children's education in the best possible way. We have appointed a teacher to replace Mrs Jones on a permanent basis and are delighted to welcome Miss Moss back to the team. Miss Moss has previously taught in Year 2 at Godinton and will be taking up almost the same position that she left two years ago. Miss Moss is a very good and experienced teacher with a flair for the teaching of maths. She has been teaching at Lenham Primary School for the past couple of years and is very much looking forward to her return to Godinton.

Unfortunately, Miss Moss is not able to join us until after the Easter break, meaning that we will have to put a temporary arrangement in place for Term 4. We have another familiar face returning to Godinton to cover Ladybirds class in the interim. Mrs Fagg left Godinton four years ago after starting her family and is now looking at coming back to teaching. Mrs Fagg is also an experienced teacher who has also taught in Year 2 at Godinton. She will teach Ladybirds from Monday to Thursday for the 6 weeks of Term 4 with Mrs Kelleher, who is already a familiar face to the children, covering Fridays. We look forward to working with all our new appointees.

We will be very sorry to see Mrs Jones leave Godinton, she has very much been an asset to the team, and I'm sure that you will join me in wishing her well for the future.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Cummerou, one of our Midday Meals Supervisors who has been with us since the autumn. Mrs Cummerou and her husband have been given the fantastic opportunity to move to Denmark. We wish Mrs Cummerou well and thank her for all the support that she has given to our children.



Some of you with older children who have been through the school will be very familiar with Mr Owen who has been one of our Beanstalk reading volunteers for over 15 years. Mr Owen provided valuable 1:1 reading support for some of our children and was one of the nicest people we have ever had the pleasure of working with. Sadly, Mr Owen died just after Christmas. He will be very much missed by all the team at Godinton.

## Year Group Emails

Please remember that every year group has a dedicated email address via which staff can be contacted. These addresses are [yearXparent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yearXparent@godinton.kent.sch.uk) where X is replaced with the number of your child's year group or R for Reception. Staff will endeavour to get back to you within 48 hours but will not email out of hours (evenings and weekends). Please do not use these email addresses for urgent messages—these are better going through the office as teachers are likely to only look at messages before or after school.

The school office email address is [office@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@godinton.kent.sch.uk) or you can complete the 'contact us' link via the main menu.

## PTFA News

Our PTFA have been busy arranging some fantastic events for the spring.

On Friday 10th February, we are holding a non-uniform day in return for bringing in an item for our Mothers' Day present shop. The shop itself will be held on Wednesday 15th March (this is a proposed day of industrial action—so this date may need to change). Further details about the present shop will be coming out this week.

At the end of March we have our Easter Bingo event (Saturday 25th March). This is a lovely opportunity for families to come to school and join in with games of Bingo in the hope of winning lots of Easter eggs. Friday 24th March is a non-uniform day in return for bringing in an Easter egg for the event.

We also have a couple of new events to look forward to. Our adult Quiz Night will take place on Friday 21st April and we have our Fathers' Day present shop on Thursday 15th June. Further information about these events will come out later in the year but put the dates in your diary.

## Updated Policies

Please note that the following policies have been reviewed and updated and can be found on the school policy page on the school website:

- Race Equality
- Complaints
- GDPR

Please click on the link below to be taken to this area of the website:

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

## Pre-Loved Clothing Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our pre-loved clothing sale—whether this was items of school uniform or winter clothing items. We had a wide range of brilliant items—some clothes were new with tags still attached which will help families out over the winter months.

Our next pre-loved school uniform sale will take place in Term 5.

We will be holding a further second hand clothing sale in the spring—further details will follow.

## Thank You

We are delighted with the astroturf that has been fitted onto our small Reception playground to replace the gravel area that was there previously.

We give our thanks to parent Ashley Close from Trulawn for supplying and fitting this for us.

## Homework Trails

Well done to all the children who gained their 'Extra Mile' stickers on their homework trail. We had some amazing pieces of work completed, many of which have been photographed and are now attached to the children's proud pegs.

Please encourage your children to complete their homework trail tasks. This does get the children into good work habits and helps to develop their skills of motivation, creative thinking and perseverance. The next Homework trail Showcase is on Tuesday 21st February.

## Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember to be considerate when driving and parking at drop off and pick up. We still have a number of parents who are parking dangerously and driving erratically in Lockholt Close and the surrounding roads. We have access to a brilliant, large car park over at Chimneys which parents should be using rather than trying to drive down Lockholt Close.
- The club timetable for Term 4 has been sent out this week. Please complete the online form to sign your child up to one of our after school activities. I am grateful to all the staff at Godinton who give up their time to run such an exciting programme of activities for the children.
- Don't forget to check your child's data collection sheet that was sent home last week. If anything requires updating, please contact the school office. It is important that the school has at least 2 contacts for every child.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report— Sports Hall Athletics

On the morning of Monday 9th January, 18 children (9 boys and 9 girls) from years 3 and 4 participated in a Sportshall Athletics event at the Stour Centre. There were 18 local primary schools competing in a number of track and field events including: obstacle relay, over/under relay, various lengths lap relays, 5-strides, standing long jump, vertical jump, chest push, soft javelin and speed bounce. The children had been practising many of these events in school before Christmas, but some of them were completely new to them as well. Every member of the team completed two track events and two field events each. The adults accompanying the children (Mrs Crowfoot, Mrs Ellis & Mrs Mechie) were extremely proud of how much effort all of them put into each activity, how sensible they behaved and how well they listened to and followed instructions – they were a true credit to our school. Despite coming 15th out of 18, the children all said that they'd had a fantastic time and returned to school with huge smiles on their faces.



In the afternoon, 18 children from years 5 and 6 (again 9 boys and 9 girls) competed against 20 other local schools in their Sportshall Athletics event. Each member of the team again completed two track and two field events, although their track events were longer than those completed by the younger children in the morning. Mrs Crowfoot and Mrs Sharrad were with the children in the afternoon and were equally proud of how the group represented our School – they all put a huge amount of effort into each event, showed great respect to the adults and young leaders running the event, and behaved impeccably throughout. All of the children left the event with their heads held high, knowing that they had tried their very best (we came 18 out of 21). Well done everyone!