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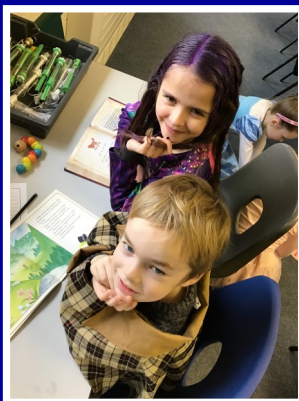


Message from Miss Talbot

World Book Day

Our World Book Day celebrations are always a highlight of our school calendar and the part we enjoy the most is when the children get to share books with children from other classes. This year, saw children from our older classes joining with those from our younger classes to read together and share favourite stories. It was great to see the children in their costumes too—they looked great—thank you so much for all the effort that went into these.

We hope that your children will join in with our World Book Day reading challenge. The children will gain a prize for the number of challenges completed and have until Monday 26th June to take part.



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Class News

Year 2 Trip to London



Year 2 enjoyed their trip to London this term to see the landmarks of the city as they travelled along the river Thames by boat it was very exciting for the children to see for themselves the places they have been learning about in class. They used a map of London to follow their progress along the river and could name lots of landmarks along the way.

It was of course, an unforeseen event when the coach broke down on the return journey, but we would like to once again praise the children for their patience and outstanding behaviour whilst waiting for the mechanic. The children took everything in their stride and we were immensely proud of them.



Phonics

Thank you to those parents who attended the phonics screening information sessions this week. These sessions were planned to help parents to support their child's phonics development as we head towards the National phonics screening in June. Packs have been prepared for parents and will be distributed to those parents who were unable to attend.

For further information about phonics teaching at Godinton, please visit the phonics pages on the school website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/phonics/>

Join the Library

Joining Ashford library is an excellent way to extend the range of books your child has access to. Joining the library is free and you can do so by clicking on the link below:

<https://kent.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

By joining the library you may even be able to find some books that will help your child to complete more of the challenges on their World Book Day.

Check out the Ashford Library website for details of holiday activities taking place, including some LEGO workshops for children aged 6-9. Create exciting STEM based constructions and explore ways to improve the constructions on Tuesday 4 April 11am - 12pm and Thursday 13 April 2pm - 3pm. Advance booking is essential. Contact the library for further details.



Fun on 2 wheels

This week has seen our Lower School children whizzing around on 2 wheels and practising their cycling skills! Our Year R children completed 'Balance Bike' sessions a few weeks ago and this week the instructors returned this week to develop their skills further with Cycle Ready sessions. Cycle Ready sessions look to move children from Balance Bikes (no pedals) straight on to pedal bikes. Foxes and Otters took their bikes on Thursday and Friday. For some children this was a chance to practise balance bike skills and then move on to the pedal bikes. For those children who are already cycling on two wheels without the use of stabilisers, they were given the opportunity to enhance their skills further and grow in confidence. Our instructors have been very impressed with the balance and cycling skills demonstrated by our Year R and 1 children over the past few weeks.



After Easter, Year 5 children begin their Bikeability sessions. These sessions practise signalling and manoeuvring on the school playground before putting the skills into practise on local estate roads. We also have Year 6 Cycle Confidence Days booked in for week commencing 22nd May. The Year 6 sessions allow the children to enhance cycling skills further and see them cycle routes that some of them need for Secondary School. In past years, groups have cycled to Ashford Station, Stour Centre and the Designer Outlet. On these sessions, the children can cycle approximately 5 -6 miles on their 90 minute cycle session. Look out for the letter after Easter!



Coronation Celebrations

We are in the process of planning a day of celebrations for the King's Coronation on Friday 5th May. We are looking at ensuring that we mark this special occasion with lots of activities for the children to join in with.

The Coronation Ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. The Coronation will see people across the UK and the Commonwealth coming together to celebrate this historic day.

Here in Ashford the day will be celebrated with a community event in Victoria Park. This will include a live screening of the Coronation, and will be followed by 'The Coronation Procession' which will include performances from local groups and individuals.

A church service in honour of the newly crowned King Charles III will take place at St Mary the Virgin Church, Ashford, on the morning of Sunday 7th May.

For further details of local and National celebrations, please see the Ashford Borough Council website :

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/your-community/history-and-heritage/ashford-celebrates-the-coronation-of-king-charles-iii/>



Comic Relief

Wearing pyjamas and onesies to school last week helped us to raise an amazing £467 for Comic Relief—the Red Nose Day Charity. Thank you to everyone who took part and made a donation—you all looked fabulous!



Local Easter Activities

If you are looking for activities to keep the children busy over the Easter holiday, there are a range of exciting events taking place at Victoria Park over the coming weeks.

There is natural printing family workshop on Wednesday 12th April from 10.30 to 12.00 for children aged 5+ who must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets cost £3. For further information and to book tickets, please go to the Eventbrite booking site:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/natural-ink-making-young-peoples-workshop-tickets-590082531737>

Returning for its third year is Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership's popular Easter trail. Pick up your trail sheet from the tent near the coffee cart and enjoy exploring the trail around Victoria Park and Watercress Fields. There will also be an animal sculpture competition for you to cast your vote on! The event takes place on Friday 14th April between 10am–3pm.

Staff News

We have two members of staff leaving us over the coming weeks. At the end of this week, we will be saying goodbye to TA, Mrs Smith. Mrs Smith has provided excellent support for children across the school in her role covering classes, as a Year 6 TA and in leading some of our Forest School sessions. We have all loved working with Mrs Smith and wish her well in her new job at Maidstone Museum.

A few weeks after Easter, we also say goodbye to Miss Brooker, Otters class teacher. With two little girls of her own, Miss Brooker is moving to a career outside of teaching which enables her to work from home and fulfil more mum duties. Mrs Kelleher will take over the reins with Otters class, becoming their class teacher when Miss Brooker leaves. We will be very sorry to see Miss Brooker leave and send her our very best wishes as she sets off on a new career path.

We also welcome a new face to Godinton. Mrs Carr has joined our outdoor Midday Meals Team. We look forward to working with her.

Policy Updates

The following policies have recently been reviewed and the latest versions can be found on the school website:

- Educational Visits
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Online Safety
- SEND (special educational needs and disability)

Governor News

Starting in this edition of the Godinton Gazette, we will be including information about our school Governors and including a monthly message from our Chair of Governors, Mr Steve King.

Governor Profile

Mr King (Chair of Governors)



Steve first became a governor at the school in December 2000 and has been Chair of Governors since May 2005. He is a Member Appointed Governor and has

provided the following detail about himself :

I retired in 2018 having completed 40 years in the civil service, most recently working for the Home Office as a budget manager. I was keen to become a governor at Godinton to enable me to put my skills to good use to support the school in recognition for all they were doing for my children. By 2005 my children had left the school but its continued advances made me want to stay and share in its future successes. My experience in financial management, property management and health & safety assist me in my governor role and in leading the schools team of Governors. As Chair of Governors my main role is to chair meetings of the Governing Board and act as main point of contact with the headteacher. I also have joint lead responsibility for finance and I share the other responsibilities of the Governor role with my fellow Governors. I am married with two grown up children and I have lived on the Godinton Park estate since 1988. My spare time activities include gardening, woodworking and, due to advancing years, long naps in front of the television.

Message from Mr King

Last month we held a Governor Training Day in school which enabled the Governors to learn about new developments and school processes as well as providing an opportunity to meet with some children to look at and discuss their books with them.

The day began with looking at the work undertaken to develop the curriculum. We learned that 10 Guiding Stars (*Risk Taking, Motivation, Personal Best, Problem Solving, Independence, Perseverance, Self-confidence, Teamwork, Creative Thinking and Communication*), which are linked to our school values, provide the golden thread in the curriculum with each subject being linked to a Guiding Star. The Guiding Stars are the key life skills that we want our children to use in order to be successful in their learning. They look at developing the children's abilities to work with others, achieve their personal best and to aim high in all areas. The Guiding Stars are designed to encourage our children to be active learners and to develop resilience if they should find anything tricky. We looked at the information about the curriculum on the school website which, although still being developed, provides a good insight into the children's learning. You can find the information under the 'Curriculum' tab in the 'Menu', including a curriculum overview and details of the learning adventures for each subject.

As well as looking at the reading curriculum and attendance, we also had the opportunity to talk to the children about their learning. Children from all year groups were keen to present their books and explain their content. All appeared very happy in school and were very positive about their learning.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember that we have two Bank Holidays coming up in Term 5: Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May. School will be closed on both these days.
- Thank you to everyone who has donated items of spare clothing to Lower School that can be used in the event of any accidents. If anyone has any further unwanted items, we will gladly take these off your hands. Please drop them into the school office.
- National Offer day is Monday 17th April and is the time when parents will hear which primary school they have been allocated. We will be writing to all our new starters after the Easter break to welcome them to Godinton and to provide further details of the transition arrangements.
- To all our families who are celebrating Ramadan over the next month, Ramadan Mubarak! We wish you all a peaceful and happy Ramadan. And to all those of you celebrating Easter, we wish you a very happy Easter.
- We return to school on Monday 17th April. We hope that all the children have a good break.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Cross Country

40 of our children recently took part in a cross country competition, competing against children from other local schools. Our children did amazingly well and some of our Year 5 and 6 children gained places within the top 20 runners. We were very proud of our children's sportsmanship and effort. Well done everyone.



Venture Camp Gymnastics Workshops

We have enjoyed working with the team from Venture Camps over the past few weeks who have been delivering some gymnastic workshops to the children in Years 1-3. This has seen the children participating in a range of different activities in the school hall.