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Message from Miss Talbot

Out and About

It is always exciting to take learning outside of the classroom whether this is into the school grounds or to special places of interest which enhance our curriculum. Particularly in the current economic climate, we are immensely grateful for the voluntary contributions which parents make in order to enable us to continue to offer such lovely experiences for the children. No child is ever excluded from a curriculum visit though inability to pay but without sufficient contributions some events may not be viable.

We have a summer of opportunity open to the children with trips planned to Kent Life, Horton Kirby, Bewl Water and Leeds Castle. I am sure that these educational visits will help to bring the children's learning to life and give them some great, practical hands on experiences.



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Year 2 Explore our Kitchen



At the start of this term, Year 2 visited the school kitchen and were given a guided tour by Jo our cook. The classes will be growing and preparing their own salads in Design Technology and were keen to find out what goes into preparing items for our very own lunchtime salad bar.

Jo showed the children around the kitchen and briefed them on the steps our kitchen takes to ensure high levels of food hygiene. The children then had the opportunity to practise their chopping and slicing skills with Jo to help our catering team prepare items for the salad bar.

We are looking forward to the children growing their own produce which will be used by the kitchen later in the term.



This is a busy term for our Year 2 children as they take their Key Stage One SATs this month. The children have all been working immensely hard and we are very proud of them all. This is the final year that the DfE will be setting tests for children in Year 2 with only SATs for Year 6 taking place from next summer onwards.

Year 5 Residential Visit to Kingswood Activity Centre

High ropes and climbing walls were the order of the day for some of our Year 5 children as they took part in a two day residential to the Kingswood, Grosvenor Hall activity site in Ashford.

The site offers a variety of activities designed to challenge the children, from those which develop self-confidence, perseverance or motivation to others designed to strengthen teamwork skills. We are always immensely proud of the children, especially when they push themselves out of their comfort zone to try something new or when they have success in something they didn't think they could do.

As part of the fun, the children also enjoyed a disco, a chance to dress up after the muddier activities during their stay.

Our children were very lucky to be accompanied on the trip by some of our hardworking team who volunteer their own time to support the children on this adventure. My grateful thanks goes to Mrs Crowfoot, Miss Coveney, Mr Smith, Miss King, Mrs Ellis and Mr Rowson, as well as Miss Walker who helped out during the day.

Having been to Kingswood last year, some of our Year 6 children will be venturing to Bewl Water next month for their residential trip. The Bewl Water experience includes a variety of water sport activities for the children to try out. This visit forms part of the Year 6 Activity Week which takes place the week after Half Term. Those children not taking part in the residential have a variety of exciting activities planned for them including the Black Wolf Bushcraft experience.

Year 1 Visit Godinton House



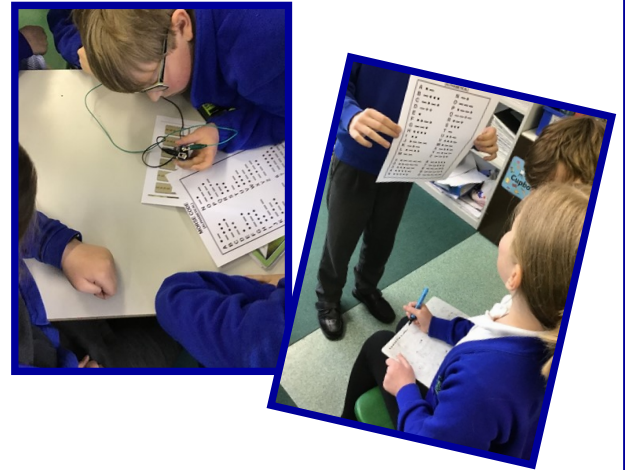
Our Year 1 children have ventured a little further afield this term and took part in their first ever school trip to Godinton House. We are so fortunate to have this amazing resource on our doorstep, with the house easily reachable within a 45 minute walk up through the top part of the Godinton Park Estate and out across the fields. So it was best foot forward as the children walked to the house and back.

The team at Godinton House guided the children through a range of different workshops within the house itself and out in the beautiful grounds. The children climbed up to the servants accommodation in the attic to see what life would have been like for those who worked in the house and climbed down into the cellars to experience how this part of the house would have been used for storage. The children also explored the splendour of the Great Hall and learnt about how this would have been used when the house was first built in the 14th century. The extensive grounds had just as much to offer with the children taking part in a guided tour of the formal gardens and greenhouse and then exploring the woodland walk.

The children's behaviour throughout the visit was excellent – they listened attentively and were keen and interested in the information shared with them. They did a brilliant job to walk there and back with little complaint. We were immensely proud of them all.

Year 4 Crack the Code

Year 4 have once again been transported back to the 1940's. This time it was back to 7th September 1940 (the first day of the Blitz), where the children re-enacted through drama, what it would have been like to have heard the piercing warning sound of the 'Wailing Winnie' alerting people of the time to the dangers of the German bombing campaign. After the 'all clear' siren sounded, the children collected witness statements that they will be using to inform newspaper articles which they will be writing over the coming weeks.



The children have also had fun in their science lessons too. As a way to create buzz around their new topic, the children learned about Morse Code and its important significance during World War II. Building an electrical circuit to create their own Morse code machines, the children transformed themselves into Morse code breakers, transmitting and deciphering secret messages around the classroom.

At the end of this term, Year 4 are heading off on an educational visit to the Kent Life centre for a day of exciting workshops, including experiencing what it would have been like for city children to have been evacuated to the countryside.

Making Great Strides on the Homework Trail

Every term, I am always astounded by the amazing effort that many of our children apply to their Homework Trails. This term was no exception with all sorts of fantastic creations coming into school from carnival floats to wonderful writing, stories in a jar to eco-system models.



Our Homework Trail tasks are designed to stretch our children's creativity across a variety of subjects enabling them to apply skills they have learnt in class or to make new discoveries in relation to their Learning Adventures. At the Homework Trail showcase, the children have the opportunity to share their homework with their classmates so that success can be celebrated.

Those children who 'go the extra mile' will be able to collect their special sticker. If they collect three stickers across terms 1 to 5, then they will be able to take part in a special movie afternoon towards the end of the year.

Our term 5 Homework Trails are due in on Tuesday 6th June.



Summer Events

If you are looking for activities to keep the children busy over the summer months, then there is plenty going on in Ashford and the surrounding area.

On Sunday 28th May, the village of Challock opens its gardens for visitors to explore. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and starts at Laurenden Cottage, Church Lane, Challock, TN25 4AU, where you can buy tickets (£5 for adults, children under 16 go free) and pick up a free map and programme.

The village is also holding a Children's Miniature Garden Competition. Create a miniature garden in any container of your choice and drop it off between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Challock Village Hall. Prizes will be awarded in two age categories (7 and under and 8-12 years) at 4 p.m.

For further details go to:

www.opengardens.co.uk

If you are inspired by Year 1's visit to Godinton House, there are plenty of events taking place there over the summer. The end of July sees the start of the annual Sculpture in the Garden exhibition and an outdoor production of Alice in Wonderland takes place on Saturday July 22nd.

Further information can be found on the Godinton House website:

<https://godintonhouse.co.uk/whats-on/>

Keep an eye on the Love Ashford website, which has information about upcoming events in the town centre:

<https://www.loveashford.com/>

Night Owls

Night Owls have had lots of fun celebrating the fact that Spring has sprung!

The children have had a wide range of different arts and crafts activities available, such as painting blossom trees, decorating cupcakes as lambs and crafting Easter Bunny cups for chocolate treats. They have also had fun outside practicing their DIY skills with hammers, wood and nails. The children love this, and when trusted to use the tools, and shown how to handle them safely, it's a real confidence boost for them, as well as developing their concentration, and motor skills. We are looking forward to better weather later this term so the children can enjoy activities out on the field and visit the Forest.



If you are interested in a place at Night owls for your child, please contact our After School Club Manager, Laura Pluckrose:

afterschoolclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Or visit the Night Owls page on the school website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/after-school-club/>

PTFA News

We have three dates to look forward to over the coming months courtesy of our PTFA. Firstly on Thursday 15th June, we have our Father's Day Present Shop. This will run in the same way as our Mother's Day Shop but will give the children the opportunity to buy a present for a dad, grandpa or uncle. Further information will be sent out about this event shortly.

On Saturday 24th June between 12 and 3 p.m. we have our Summer Fayre to look forward to. We have a variety of exciting stalls and activities taking place so spread the word to extended family and friends—everyone is welcome.

Finally on Friday 14th July we have our end of year children's disco.

If anyone is able to help out at any of these events please contact our PTFA:

ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Staff News

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Mrs Sharrad who has moved on to a Teaching Assistant position at the Duke of York Royal Military School in Dover.

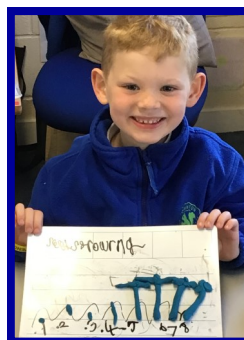
Although she has only been with us a short time, Mrs Sharrad has provided brilliant support for our children. We wish her well in her new role.

You may notice that Mrs Kelleher is not in the school office at the moment. She has recently undergone surgery to her arm following a fall. We have sent her our very best wishes.

Other News and Reminders...

- With the weather getting warmer, it has been brilliant to see more children coming to school on bikes or scooters. Please can I ask you to remind children to dismount from their cycle or scooter before they come through the gates and onto the school site. Likewise, please can they be reminded to be careful as they come out of school and are aware of the vehicles and pedestrians around them. Bikes and scooters can be secured in the cycle shelter by the main gate to the playground.
- I would be grateful if parents could refrain from drinking hot drinks or energy / fizzy drinks as they come onto site to drop off or collect their children. With so many people around, we have had a couple of sticky and hot spillages. Thank you.
- We are delighted to welcome our 2023 Reception children into school over the coming months to help with their transition to school. We would ask that the initial acceptance forms, sent out with your welcome pack are returned to school by Monday 15th May.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Cycling

This term has seen Year 5 take their turn to develop their cycling skills with over 45 children completing their Level 2 Bikeability award. This level sees the children venturing onto local roads with their instructors to help put into practice the core skills they have acquired through their sessions on the playground. In Term 6, cycling training passes on to Year 6 with some children developing their cycling skills in readiness for transferring to secondary school.

High 5

Eleven of our Year 5 and 6 children have been representing our school in the Ashford Netball Youth League since 24th May. For the first half of the season, we were placed into a mixed-ability group of 7 and had to play 6 matches in total, the final match being Friday 5th May. We had mixed success during the first half, finishing fourth in our group. The league has now been split into three pools for the second half; our team has been placed into a pool of 5 similar ability schools and will therefore be playing a further 4 matches. Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot have been proud of the great sportsmanship that the children have shown, and the improvement that they have seen each week. We hope that the team continues to go from strength to strength, and can't wait to see what the next half brings.