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Message from Miss Talbot

Coronation Celebrations

Godinton was awash with red, white and blue earlier this month as we joined together to celebrate the King's coronation. The children spent the morning of our celebration day, finding out about what a coronation is and exploring some of the symbolism in the ceremony. A special assembly gave those children who had made wonderful crowns, the opportunity to show these off to the rest of the school. We were wowed by such a wide range of amazing creations and could see where so much hard work had gone into these. Thank you for all the support given to the children in making these at home. The day finished with a party outside in glorious sunshine where the children joined in with traditional fairground games. We hope that the children will enjoy their coronation medals as a special souvenir of this event of National significance.



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Crowns fit for a king



We were immensely impressed by the wonderful crowns which the children made to celebrate the King's Coronation. It was very difficult to choose winners but after much deliberation, prizes were awarded to the following children for their amazing creations:

Lower School: Oliver E and Eadie B

Middle School: Hannah F and Lucy H

Upper School: Sam G and Aubree S

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Science Week Winners

There were lots of super entries into the Science Competition this year – with many children taking different inspirations with the theme of 'Connections'. All participants produced some fantastic presentations or pieces of work which made the judging challenging – particularly the entries from Middle School! Work that the children created ranged from a presentation including a functioning light bulb; extracting DNA from a strawberry; food chains; the importance of bees to a superbly-colourful chicken laying eggs! Thank you again to all of the children who took part in and to adults at home who have supported the engagement with the challenge for this year.

Lower School: Rory S and Nate C

Middle School: Amy H and Oliver R

Upper School: Ewan Q-E and Zariah N

Year R enjoy a right royal adventure



Our Reception children have had a right royal time over the past term, enjoying their topic 'A Royal Adventure'. From making crowns, building thrones to designing pants for the King, the children have loved learning about the Coronation, dragons, castles, knights and drawbridges. After planning a lavish banquet for the King, we knew this meant only one thing... we had to do some cooking! We enjoyed making pizza portraits of King Charles which were very accurate, making good use of a mushroom and a slice of pepper! We continued our exploration of castles by writing facts about their different features. This sparked lots of interest in castle building during Investigation and Discovery Time. We used our WOW words to describe our creations such as drawbridge, arrow slit and moat. This week, we have created some super castle banners linked to our work on colour mixing. Next term, we will embark on our final topic of Year R 'To Infinity and Beyond!' I wonder what adventure awaits us...



Year 6 have a world of fun!



It has been a busy few months for Year 6, but with their SATs out of the way, the children discovered the true definition of 'fun in the sun' last Thursday, when they were treated to a day out at Chessington

World of Adventures. The sun shone all day as the children swapped their books and pens of the classroom for the loops and bends of the rides. After an early departure from school to arrive in time for the park's opening, the different groups made a beeline for the attractions of their choice, with the accompanying adults bringing up the rear. Whether the children sought thrills and spills or something a little more sedate, all tastes were catered for. And the fun was not just restricted to the rides – the groups enjoyed reliving their experiences through their souvenir photographs afterwards as well.

The children have worked very hard throughout the year, and with completion of the recent SATs tests, as well as preparing for their transition to secondary school, a well-earned treat such as this was definitely in order.

At the end of the day, the classes returned home, happy but tired. It had been a day of fun and adventure – Chessington, World of Adventures, to be precise, and all children agreed that they would gladly swap their Learning Adventure lessons again for another day like this in the future.

A big thank you to Mrs Crowfoot for organising the day and to all the adults that accompanied the children on the trip.

Year 6 Chocolate Rocks!

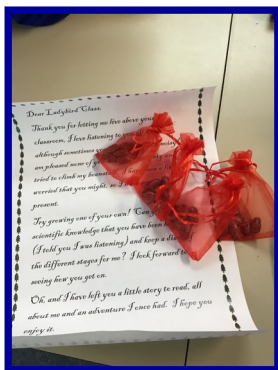


The mere mention of the word 'chocolate' is enough to make anyone's ears prick up. Now imagine yourself as a 10- or 11-year-old, in a class with 29 of your peers. There are still two hours to go until lunchtime and your teacher says that you will be re-enacting the rock cycle using four different types of chocolate – immediate excitement ensues! This was the Geography lesson which greeted the children of Year 6 last month, to mark the beginning of their topic on rocks and soils.

During the course of the lesson, the children were carefully guided through the continuing processes that rocks undergo over millions of years. Just like rock, the chocolate was ground into small particles (to emulate weathering) and then compressed to make sedimentary rock. This sedimentary rock, combined with other chocolate, was partially melted and cooled to form metamorphic rock. Finally, the sedimentary and metamorphic rocks were amalgamated and heated to create an entirely smooth liquid form, mirroring the formation of igneous rock.

After all their hard work during the session, the classes were rewarded with the chance to sample their delicious treats, as well as polish off any unused chocolate that was left over! Still buzzing from the excitement, and energised by the chocolate, the children were inspired to write a set of instructions to explain how the three different types of rock were made. How sweet is this for an activity? The topic of rocks and soils has never been so much fun – or tasted so good!

Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum— There's a surprise for Year 2



Year 2 had a surprise package waiting for them in Term 5. A giant beanstalk had grown in the classroom over the holiday and a mysterious package and letter was waiting for the children.

The letter was from a friendly Classroom giant who left the children some mystery seeds to plant. In science week the children learnt how seeds grow into plants and what a plant needs to thrive. The children carried out an experiment to find out what would happen if a plant did not have sunlight. Thankfully none of the seeds have turned into giant beanstalks, or we'd have another roof project to contend with!



Year 2 have also been working really hard at their SATs tests this month. 2023, sees the last year of formal National testing in Year 2 although formal testing will continue for Year 6 next May.

Well done to all the children who have given their very best efforts—we can't ask for more than that and are always proud of our children whatever the outcomes.

Class Assemblies

We have very much enjoyed seeing the amazing class assemblies that the children have presented this year. In recent weeks, Kingfishers have educated us about the Anglo Saxons and Bumblebees have taken us back in time to the Roman era.

We are very much looking forward to the rest of our class assemblies on the following dates:

Friday 26th May—Foxes

Friday 30th June—Ladybirds

Friday 14th July—Moles, Badgers, Rabbits and Hedgehogs (please note that this is a change of date).

We look forward to welcoming parents to school to watch their child's performance.

Homework Trails

Don't forget that the next Homework Trail Showcase takes place on Tuesday 6th June and is the last opportunity this year to claim an 'extra mile' sticker.

In Term 6, we set one Homework Trail for the whole school, which focuses on outdoor activities and family opportunities. We hope that you will enjoy taking part in the exciting activities that we have planned.

Sports Day

Don't forget that this year's Sport's Day takes place on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st June. Further details will follow after we return from Half Term.

Timings of the School Day– September 2023

The Government have outlined an expectation that by September 2023, all schools would be expected to operate a 32.5 hour week. The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end to the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5 hour minimum includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time. We currently operate on a 9.00 a.m. official start and a 3.15 p.m. official finish, which means we are 15 minutes per day under this figure.

We have given careful consideration as to how these extra minutes could best be added into our daily timetable. We are therefore proposing that from the start of next academic year (September 2023), our operating hours will be as follows:

Close of morning register at 8.50 (all children to be in school by then)

End of school day at 3.20

Gates would open from 8.35, slightly earlier than they do now and children would be able to come into school from this time.

Reception children would start at 8.50 but would continue with a 3.10 finish as they are exempt from these expectations.

We would welcome parental feedback about this proposal. Click below to access the feedback form: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ynpWSsYy6kWKTrBMaHw_-yhziNeRdVLt6o2clwToipUM05BUIVaWkE5WkoYWVZPSENWRkgxMVFRRi4u

PTFA News– Our Summer Fayre is coming

Don't forget to put a note in your diaries for this year's summer fayre which will take place on Saturday 24th June between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. We have an exciting array of stalls and great entertainment in our arena– so a fun packed afternoon is bound to be had.

Friday 9th June is a non-uniform day in exchange for bringing in some items for the fayre. This could be:

- ♦ Bottles of drinks – for the bottle tombola, these can be anything from wine to lemonade! Empty screw top wine bottles – for the water or wine stall
- ♦ Cuddly toys – for a Teddy Bear tombola and adoption centre! Smellies, sweets, small toys and stationery – for other tombola stalls School uniform (in good condition) – for the second-hand uniform stall Books (in good condition) – for the second-hand book stall
- ♦ Party bag items – for the jam jar tombola Any other items that you can donate will be very gratefully received.

To make the event a success, we would be very grateful for any additional help on the day, particularly to help set up and clear away. If you can help in any capacity, please complete the slip that will be coming out this week or contact the PTFA:

ptfa@goditon.kent.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you all at the fayre later next month.



Message from Mr King— Chair of Governors

Since long before we had to endure the Covid pandemic we have found recruiting Governors difficult. We had been running up to 4 short of our complement of 11 for a long time. There are different categories of Governor although the role is the same for all of us. Our complement is made up of the Headteacher, one Staff Governor, three Parent Governors and six Member Appointed Governors.

Member Appointed Governors are appointed by the Members of the academy who are 5 individuals who are independent of the Governing Board but are the guardians of the governance of the academy. Members have a limited role but one of their tasks is to appoint the Member Appointed Governors.

I am pleased to be able to report that our long running difficulties have now come to an end as we have been able to fill the last 3 Member Appointed Governor posts. At our board meeting in April we welcomed Mrs Amanda Stevenson, who is a retired Headteacher, Mrs Dora Grant, who has a background in governance in the finance community and Miss Alexandra Prickett who is a strategy consultant. All of our new recruits have started their induction and begun to take an active role in governance at the school. Their various skills are going to assist the board in achieving its objectives and help to reduce the workload of our existing Governors.

We recently sought nominations for the Parent Governor post held by Rob Wellard whose term of office was coming to an end. With the deadline for nominations now past I can confirm that the only nomination came from Rob who is seeking to stand for another term of office. As no other nominations were received I have the pleasure of re-appointing Rob to the role.

Although now up to our complement we have recently had the opportunity to appoint Miss Kerry Baines, an ex-teacher with experience of Special Educational Needs and Disability. To accommodate Kerry, the existing board approved the appointment of a Co-opted Governor which allows us to exceed our complement.



Governor Profile : Rob Wellard (Vice Chair of Governors)

Rob first became a governor at the school in 2019 and has been Vice Chair of Governors since 2022. He is a Parent Governor and has provided the following detail about himself...

I have two children at Godinton School already and my third is joining in September 2023; I have been a Parent Governor since June 2019 and in my professional life, I am the Information Security Manager at Saga. When the Governor role came up, I thought it could be an opportunity for me to use some of my skills and experiences to give something back to the school to support the incredible work that our teaching and support staff put in. In the subsequent four years, I have learnt a significant amount about the inner workings of the school and in my role as Governor, I am involved in the monitoring and scrutinising of various elements of the school operations. I get to work closely with lots of the staff, and fellow Governors, as part of this but among all of the Governor activities, the highlight for me is when I get the opportunity to go into the school and talk to some of the children about their learning and experiences. I feel very lucky to have this opportunity and see it as a huge privilege to be able to contribute to the success of the school.

Outside of my work and Governor roles, I spend most of my time ferrying my kids between their various clubs and parties; there's no doubt they all have better social lives than me! However, when I'm not playing taxi driver, I like to tackle home improvement projects, spend time outside in the garden (often over the BBQ), play board games with friends and family and, very occasionally, dust off the golf clubs.

Other News and Reminders...

Caught on camera this month...

- Fingers crossed the weather will become warmer and sunnier as we head towards the end of the academic year. With this in mind, please ensure that you apply sun cream before the children come to school if they are unable to apply this themselves. A hat is also a good idea.
- We have had further reports of dangerous, inconsiderate parking at the top of Lockholt Close with cars obstructing the safe crossing of Springwood Drive. These incidents are reported to the police as they violate traffic regulations. We have approached Ashford Borough Council to consider whether any further measures can be taken to help keep our children safe.



Sports Report

What better way to enjoy the sunshine than by being out and active in the warm weather, and with the official arrival of summer there are lots of exciting sporting events and activities to look forward to in term 6.

On Friday, 9th June, a group of children from Years 4 and 5 will be representing the school in this year's Kent Challenger Games at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to use their collaborative skills to take part in a number of activities, alongside children from other Ashford schools, which rely on communication and cooperation between the group members. The tasks are designed to promote the participants' self-confidence.

For something a bit closer to home, the annual Ashford and District Primary Schools Sports Association (ADPSSA) Hi-5 tournament takes place on Saturday, 10th June. It is split across two sites due to the number of teams entered. Our Hi-5 team, which comprises of children from Year 5 and 6, will be taking part at Willesborough Junior School against children from other schools in local area. This event starts at 9am and parents of those chosen are welcome to stay and support their child.

Also in term 6, Godinton will be welcoming a number of organisations to work with a variety of classes throughout the school. Venture Camps will be working with students in Year 2 to develop their athletic skills. They will also be offering an afterschool Multiskills Club. At the same time, Charlton Athletic will be in school supporting children in Years 4 and 6 in their 6-week programme, 'The Joy of Moving'. The course covers concepts such as healthy eating, taking care of oneself, keeping active and cardiovascular exercises. Charlton Athletic will also be running an afterschool club for children in Year 3. Details of all these exciting provisions will follow shortly.