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Message from Miss Talbot

Welcome Back

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer holiday and that your children are starting to settle into their new year groups. Coming back to school in September can be a challenge for some children after 6 weeks at home, whilst others I know were chomping at the bit to get stuck back into things. At the start of the year there are all sorts of new things to get used to: new teachers, new classrooms, new routines and new timetables but there are also all sorts of exciting experiences to look forward to. We hope that your children will enjoy the opportunities that this year will present and will approach these with enthusiasm and excitement.

To ease the children back into the year, we began the term with a Team Building Day, designed to strengthen the cooperation and teamwork of children in each class. We were delighted to welcome the 'Wise UP' team to Godinton, who presented the children with a range of group challenges that needed to be solved. You can read more about this experience on page 5.

We are very much looking forward to getting to know all the children and families who have started at Godinton this term. I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to you all and wish your children a very happy and successful time as part of our Godinton family.



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Class News...

Sensational Starts to our Learning Adventures

Year 5– Arts and Craft

This term Year 5 have travelled back in time to the Victorian Era. In art, the children have created mono print motifs in the style of William Morris—best known as the 19th century's most celebrated designer and a key figure of the Arts and Crafts movement. The children drew their motifs based on the theme of nature just as Morris did in his iconic designs. Using earthy colours, the children inked tiles with rollers before stamping motifs to paper. Creating 4 versions of the same print in various colours, the children then used symmetry, rotation and reflection to create a small piece of their very own Victorian wallpaper. The results were amazing and showed great attention to detail from many of the children. As the term carries on, the children will be learning lots more about this period of history. Have a look at the curriculum overviews on the school website to find out more.



Year 6 –

A Step Back in Time



The children of Year 6 had a taste of medieval life, both literally and metaphorically, when they were transported back in time to the Middle Ages at the beginning of term. Students were invited to a medieval banquet, where the traditional dish of pease pottage was the order of the day, served with a selection of breads and drinks. The experience was designed to show the children how different members of society were treated, based upon their rank. The King/Queen held absolute power, supported by their Barons and Knights. Peasants were the lowest members of society and were treated accordingly. The overall consensus amongst the participants was that social hierarchy in the Middle Ages was very unfair, particularly when the Queen, Knights and Barons enjoyed extra playtime, whilst the peasants were left to clear up the mess! All children participated well and entered into the spirit of their role, even if they did not necessarily enjoy their food or the task of tidying up.



Year 3 –

It's all Greek to us

Year 3 have made a brilliant start to the year and have been enjoying learning all about life in Ancient Greece. They have learnt that lots of information about life and culture can be gathered by studying Ancient Greek pottery as the pictures painted on these pots depict what life was like during these times. The children then went on to design their own Greek pottery which they will sculpt and paint throughout the rest of the term. We are looking forward to seeing the finished results! Here are some of the children's wonderful designs—what a creative bunch.



Year 4–Pure Imagination



Year 4 have taken steps into a world of Pure Imagination, exploring all things chocolate! Kingfishers and Nightingales successfully solved Willy Wonka's puzzles to win an elusive, golden ticket which gained them entry to his chocolate factory. Each team had to answer mathematical problems based upon their place value knowledge showing terrific teamwork and considerate communication. As the term goes on the children will be exploring Roald Dahl's novel, Charlie and the Chocolate factory and learning about the Amazon Rainforest and the route chocolate takes from cocoa beans to supermarket shelves.

Year 2–Up, Up and Away



During this term, Year 2's learning has centred around the theme of 'Up, Up and Away'. In the first days of

term, the children discovered in an abandoned parachute in the woods, alongside a basket containing a clue to who might have crash-landed.

The discovery lead the children onto learning about the journey of the passenger and realising that they were on a journey themselves, that being the school year ahead.

Later on in this topic the children have gone on to study the theme of flight further, with stories about The Flying Bath and exploring biographies on Amelia Earhart.

Year 1–Fun on their Bikes



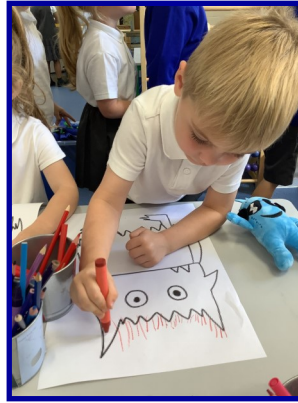
This year we have been delighted to welcome the Cycle Circle team back to school to conduct cycle skill training for our children. Last week, the team began with our Year 1 children who had the chance to take part in Cycle Ready Sessions. We were so impressed with the great resilience that the children showed on their bikes with many managing to ride without stabilisers for the first time or developing their balance and coordination.

Year 1 have also been finding out that there's 'Only One Me'. They have been talking about how they have changed since they were babies and writing about themselves and their families – telling their stories.



Cycle Circle will be returning to Godinton just before we break for half term to deliver Level 1 Bikeability training to Year 4. This training gives the children key skills needed to ride their bikes safely. Later in the year, Year 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to deepen their cycling skills with training out on local roads.

Welcome Year R



What an amazing start all the children have made to their time at big school! We have loved getting to know them and are so proud of the achievements they have already made.

The children have all been so brave coming in every day and already we can see confidence blossoming – it feels as though they have been with us forever!

The children have been having lots of fun at school. They have been getting to know the classroom, grown ups and are making new friends. With the sun shining, the children have spent lots of time outside, exploring the school grounds and have particularly enjoyed climbing on the pirate ship. This week the Colour Monster came to visit. He has helped the children think about our emotions and talk about how we are feeling. Lots of the children felt yellow and happy and some felt green and calm. Year R have started their first 'Drawing Club' in their classrooms, where the children have drawn their very own monsters, and used lots of exciting vocabulary to describe what they look like, where they lived and what we could do to make them happy! In maths, the children met Colin the Counting Puppet, who keeps making mistakes! The children have enjoyed being the 'teacher' and showing Colin how we count carefully. There are many more adventures approaching before the end of term, such as building houses with the Three Little Pigs and learning why it is so important to brush our teeth!

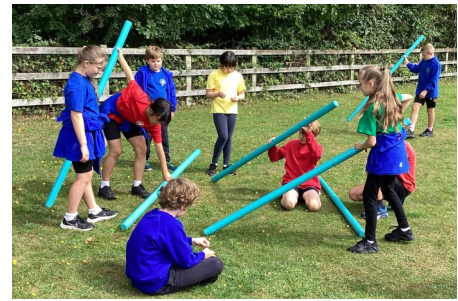


Our Amazing Team Building Day

Our children's teambuilding skills were put to the test at the start of term when we welcomed the 'Wise Up' team to Godinton to lead a series of team challenges. Our Year 1, 2 and 3 children completed practical puzzles to unlock clues to solve the mystery of who spoilt the perfect pie whilst Upper School were tasked with discovering who had kidnapped Kevin the Llama.



Split into teams of 8, the children spent a morning or afternoon working on different games and puzzles, all centred around our 'Guiding Stars' – the key skills we want all our children to have– to be able to take safe risks, to be motivated and demonstrate perseverance, to develop self-confidence, to be able to solve problems and think creatively, to be able to work as a member of a team or independently, to be good communicators and to achieve their personal best. The challenges ranged from having to work a ball through a tilt maze, emptying the contents of a pan using only string and moving a giant ball along a track, to using duo-skis, building giant towers and completing tandem skipping.



Each task required different skills and a huge amount of cooperation and teamwork. The children learnt how to listen to the ideas of everyone in their teams, the benefits of taking a trial and error approach and of persevering if they weren't successful first time.

I was immensely proud of the way in which the children approached their tasks and it was a pleasure to see their joy after successful completion.

You can find out more about our 'Guiding Stars' in the leaflet that will accompany your child's report after half term or by looking at the Guiding stars page on the school website.



Huge thanks to our amazing PTFA for funding this event for the children. Fundraising efforts throughout the year, enable us to build opportunities such as this into our calendar in order to enhance the children's experiences.

You can read more about the PTFA's fundraising plans for 2023-24 on page 6.

New Uniform Supplier

I'm sorry that some of you have experienced delays with uniform purchased from our new supplier. This was due to mechanical difficulties with one of their machines. We have been assured that everything is now back up and running. Parents are able to purchase school uniform items, showing the Godinton logo online at: www.countyprintandembroidery.co.uk

or from their shop which is located in Chapel Mews, North Street (just off the High Street).

Please view the school website for details of our school uniform policy and acceptable items of uniform including footwear (plain black only). Please ensure that all items of clothing worn to school are named.

We have recently updated our policy on jewellery in school. This information has been circulated to parents and is up on the school website.

Social Media

Whilst our team works hard to deliver the very best we can for our children, there may be times when things don't go as well as we would want it to. If that is the case, please get in touch with us rather than posting unkind remarks on social media that our team are unable to respond to. We are always here to help and would much rather know what has caused upset so that we can do something about it, than hear about it through the grapevine. Every year group has an email through which teachers can be contacted in order to deal with any issues that might arise.

As we embark on the start of our Kindness Month, let's all work together to show consideration and respect to each other.

Don't Forget about our New Timings

Just a reminder that we began September with new timings for the beginning and end of the school day.

Gates open at 8.35 in the morning and our school day begins at 8.50. All children must be in school by this time.

The school day will end at 3.20. Reception children will continue to be seen out of class from 3.10.

Now the children have settled into the year, look out for information about our special attendance certificates that we will be awarding throughout the year.

Roof Update

Thank you so much to everyone for your cooperation whilst the roof mitigation work is being undertaken. The contractors have been working hard to install the modifications required by the structural engineers and we anticipate that, all being well, we will be able to re-open the hall and surrounding areas after half term.

We are in regular communication with the DfE who are fully funding this work but we are still pursuing a longer term solution which will see the removal of any remaining RAAC from the school. A new roof is needed on the school hall and our aim is to secure funding for this over the coming months. I will of course, keep you all updated on how this is progressing.

Until we re-open, the car park will remain closed to parents dropping off for Breakfast Club.

October is our Kindness Month

We are lucky to have so many children at Godinton who show great kindness towards others. In October we celebrate this and ask the children to look for opportunities to be kind at home or at school.

The children will be bringing home a new Kindness Challenge this week which asks them to record the kind acts they do for others and for themselves. We hope that your child will join in with this. They can describe on their sheet, what they have done to show kindness and can draw pictures and include photos. Everyone who take part will receive a special kindness badge to celebrate their achievements. The Kindness Challenge needs to be returned to school by Friday 3rd November.

Throughout the year, we will be continuing to encourage the children to gain kindness points for their classroom charts. Three times a year, the class with the most kindness points will receive a 'Kindness Hamper'. This contains treats for the class as well as a certificate of achievement and vouchers to redeem as a reward for their kind acts. We will be encouraging the children to look at acts that are **caring**, show **compassion**, provide **challenge**, are **courteous** and **considerate**, show **collaboration** or **commitment**, help the **community**, that **celebrate** others or show **courage**.

We are pleased to have our new Kindness Ambassadors in post in Years 1 to 6. In our October newsletter, I will share with you the amazing start that they have made to the year in spreading kindness across the school. Our playground buddies are also doing an amazing job to help support our younger children at playtime. Well done everyone!

PTFA News

Thank you to all of you who attended the PTFA AGM this week. Lynsay Keech, Jo Gandon and Nicola Smith have all been re-elected to their roles on the committee as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. I am immensely grateful to them all for all their hard work over the past year to create such brilliant events for our children and families. We would like to thank Laura Gilroy, who is standing down from her role as Vice Chair, but who will still be involved in PTFA events—thank you Laura. With her youngest child now in Year 6, Nicola is looking at handing over Treasurer responsibilities during the course of the year so that she is on hand to guide someone new into the role. If anyone is interested, please come and have a chat with me or with Lynsay so we can discuss the role with you.

Our new committee's first event of the year will be the Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November, shortly followed by **Breakfast with Santa** which will be held on **Saturday 9th December**.

Breakfast with Santa is a lovely family event held in our school hall. We serve a continental breakfast, play Christmas music and all the children meet Father Christmas and receive a gift. Look out for further details coming soon. If anyone is able to help at any PTFA event please contact a member of the PTFA. We are always in need of volunteers and this is a brilliant way of helping to support the school.

Our next PTFA meeting will be held on Thursday 12th October at 6.00 p.m. If you'd like to get involved in the PTFA, please come along—the focus of this meeting will be our Christmas events.

Our email address for the PTFA is:

ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Other News and Reminders...

- Please can I remind everyone, that vaping and smoking are not allowed on the school site. We have recently noticed a number of vaping items have been found around the site by Mr Rowson when he does his morning sweep. Thank you for your cooperation with this.
- I don't know where the term has gone but we only have a few weeks until we break for half term. Half Term begins on Monday 16th October and we return to school on Monday 30th October.
- We are in the process of finalising diary dates for 2024-25 and will have these out to you before we break for October half term.
- Please remember that holiday absence is not granted during term time and that penalty notices may be issued for 5 days or more of unauthorised absence within a 50 day rolling period.
- With the number of spaces in the school car park, currently reduced, staff are experiencing difficulties in parking as nursery parents are using the school car park to drop off. Unfortunately our school car park is for school staff and not for nursery parents. We have encountered nursery parents being abusive towards our staff when reminded that they shouldn't be using the school car park. Please can I ask for everyone's help and cooperation with this.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Over the course of the year, we hope to continue to be able to offer a variety of different sporting clubs for our children. This term, we have been able to offer High Five and football. Our grateful thanks go to Mr Taylor who has kindly volunteered his services to coach our Upper School boys' team. Our football team went from strength to strength under his guidance last year so we look forward to seeing how our team get on this year.

We also have 'Venture Camps' in school running an after school football club for our Middle School children. Venture Camps will be working with us during the year on a variety of other sporting activities both during the school day and after school. We will keep you updated with the opportunities for the children as they arise.