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Message from Miss Talbot

How well is my child doing?

With the children having now settled into the rhythm of their new school year, this term provides parents with the opportunity to have feedback as to how well their child is getting on at school. The Autumn term reports will come out to parents on **Tuesday 7th November**. The first report of the academic year is a target setting report. Within this report you will have a written overview from your child's teacher describing how they have settled into their new year group. You will also have information about their effort across the curriculum, their attitude to learning and targets to work on. We would then like to welcome you to our book viewing evening on **Thursday 9th November**. Parents are welcome to drop into school anytime between 3.30 and 7.00 p.m. to have a look at their children's work in the classroom. Children are welcome to come along as well, to show parents all the amazing things they have been doing so far this year. Finally, you have the opportunity to attend a parent consultation appointment with your child's teacher. These appointments will take place on **Wednesday 15th November** between 3.30 and 5.30 and **Tuesday 21st November** between 3.30 and 7.30. Further details about all these arrangements will be sent out next week.

If you do have a concern, or something that you would like to discuss with your child's teacher, please don't feel that you need to wait until parents evening. Teachers can be contacted via the year group emails.

Godinton Primary School
Lockholt Close,
Ashford,
Kent.

TN23 3JR

Tel: 01233 621616

www.godinton.kent.sch.uk

office@godinton.kent.sch.uk

headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Roof Update

It has been lovely to return to a fully functional school hall this term. The marquee was removed over the holiday and this week has seen assemblies, lunch and PE in the hall for the first time since mid June. For our Reception children—it has been the first time that they have been into the hall! We have also now returned to our usual arrangements for drop off at Breakfast Club.

The remaining RAAC has not been removed from the school but the panels have been strengthened to provide secure support. The roof has been assessed by engineers and these areas are safe to use and meet the requirements. We will continue to have regular surveys and assessments whilst we work with the DfE to gain funding for the removal of all remaining RAAC from part of the hall and the surrounding storage rooms.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your support with this issue over the past few months. I am very grateful for the measured and supportive approach taken by our school community in managing this issue.

Term Dates

Term dates for 2024–25 can be found on the school website.

Please click on the link below:

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

Charity Update...

Harvest Donations

At a time when so many people are facing financial difficulties we were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity to our harvest festival appeal. We were inundated with tins, packets, toiletries and fresh fruit and veg which will make a significant difference to those in need within the Ashford community.

We received a lovely thank you card from the People's Pantry at Repton Connect who asked that their gratitude is passed onto all who made a donation. Bright Light Church have also expressed their thanks.

Children in Need



Friday 17th November marks the annual fundraising event for the BBC's Children in Need appeal. This year, Children in Need are calling on schools across the UK to celebrate the power of positive relationships, and the impact of these relationships in helping to support children and young people throughout the school years. We will be supporting Children in Need this year by asking the children to come into school dressed as someone they admire or look up to in exchange for a donation to the Children in Need appeal. This could be a Teacher, Midday Meals Supervisor, Family Member, Sportsman/woman or even a favourite Superhero! We have created a fundraising page for Children in Need on the JustGiving site called 'Godinton's Fundraiser for BBC Children in Need' <https://www.justgiving.com/page/godinton-primary-school-childreninneed2023>

Kindness Challenge



We have already had a number of Kindness Challenges returned to school—showing an amazing array of different acts of kindness. Don't forget that Kindness Challenges need to be returned to school by Friday 3rd November—all children taking part will receive a special kindness badge.

Our Kindness Ambassadors have been appointed to each class to help spread a school message of showing kindness and respect to others. They have already made a brilliant start to the year and are looking forward to working with Miss S King and Mrs McGibney throughout the year. Miss S King, is our new Pastoral Support Teaching Assistant, who will be working with Mrs McGibney to support pastoral interventions across the school.

Kindness Ambassadors for each year are as follows:

Year 1: Matilda, Oakley, Meghan, Harley

Year 2: Maggie, Dell, Abigail and Albie

Year 3: Sienna, Harry, Faye and Seb

Year 4: Alice, Ethan, Emma and Ben

Year 5: Faith, Elijah, Ella and Ewan

Year 6: Lily, Finley, Millie and Malachi

We will be choosing our Kindness Ambassadors from our Reception classes after Christmas.

I know that all the children are going to be brilliant in their special role. Congratulations!

Meet the House Captains

A new school year, means a new set of Year 6 House Captains are now in place. Shortly before half term, potential House Captain candidates pitched to their Houses, their reasons for wanting to take on the role and what they could bring to the position. All the Year 6 children who gave speeches and delivered presentations did an amazing job—we are very proud of all their efforts and all of them would have been worthy of the role. However, after a secret ballot, the following children have been appointed to the roles of House Captains:

<p>Dover</p> <p>House Captains Evin and Noah</p> <p>Vice Captains Isabella and Zach</p>	<p>Leeds</p> <p>House Captains Mia and Leo</p> <p>Vice Captains Lianna and Neo</p>
<p>Walmer</p> <p>House Captains Isabelle and Harry</p> <p>Vice Captains Emily and William</p>	<p>Rochester</p> <p>House Captains Tommy and Lina</p> <p>Vice Captains Harley and Ava-May</p>

We wish all of the House Captain well in their positions.



Our Brilliant Buddies



Our Year 5 and 6 playground buddies are always amazing at providing support for our younger children on the playground. They help to engage them in games and activities and look out for anyone who may be feeling sad.

Congratulations to the following children who have been appointed as buddies:

5C: Ava, Olivia, Ella, Jocelyn, Freya, Ewan, Ben, Honor

5M: Aaria, Faith, Isla, Isabelle, Elijah, Sam, Torrian, Jake

6E: Harley, Tommy, Holly, Annabelle, Erin, Evin, Aubree, Skyelah

6F: Naveen, Olivier, Jesse, Emily, Isabelle, Imogen, Malachi

Mini Management Team

We are delighted to have a new Mini Management Team in place. These are children elected from their class to represent their ideas about how we can make our school an even more brilliant place to be. I am very much looking forward to working with the following children:

Year 1: Freya and Olivia

Year 2: Martha and Phoebe

Year 3: Liv and Oliver

Year 4: Oliver and Perryn

Year 5: Aariya and Joshua

Year 6: Jenson and Bella

PTFA News

We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November between 12 and 3 pm. We have craft stalls, games, refreshments and the opportunity to meet Father Christmas to look forward to. Our grand raffle has a first prize of £100 so please buy some raffle tickets when they are sent home for a chance to win.

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. The event takes place on Saturday 9th December—please look out for details in the ParentMail which will follow shortly.

We are moving to an online booking system for tickets to PTFA events such as Breakfast with Santa or meeting him at the Christmas Fair. Details of this new system will be sent out this week.

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.

We are still looking for a Treasurer to join our PTFA committee. This is an important role, currently held by Nicola Smith. Nicola's son will be leaving Godinton at the end of the year and so we are looking for someone to initially shadow Nicola before taking on the role. If anyone is interested, please see Miss Talbot or contact the PTFA.

Our email address for the PTFA is:

ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you at our PTFA Christmas events as we head towards December.

Attendance

The attendance of pupils at Godinton has always been very good, with average attendance figures above National averages. This reflects how many of our children enjoy school very much and how supportive our families are in promoting good attendance. Our aim is to ensure that this remains the case and to help support families, where we can, who may be struggling with illness or other issues which are impacting on their child's attendance.

At the end of last term, I sent out some information out via ParentMail to help parents in assessing whether their children are well enough to attend school or not. This included links to some useful NHS information.

From term 2, we will be awarding attendance certificates to those children with excellent attendance at three points throughout the year: for attendance of 100% in Term 2, in Term 3 and 4 and in Term 5 and 6. This means that all children have the opportunity to gain a certificate at some point during the year, even if they have a day or two off school as they are unwell.

Good school attendance gives your child the opportunity of greater success and helps develop skills for life. Your child should attend every day unless there is an unavoidable cause such as illness. Missing school damages a child's learning, disrupts routines and can impact on their wellbeing.

Please visit the attendance pages on the school website for further information about supporting your child's attendance at school.

Water in Class

All children should have a water bottle in school every day. This should be a clear plastic bottle, no larger than 500ml and should contain only water (unless another arrangement has been made with Miss Talbot). We want to ensure that our children have plenty to drink during the school day, as good hydration is essential for good concentration, however we are noticing that an increasing number of children don't have a bottle.

If a child forgets their bottle, we have plastic cups that they can use. At present these are disposable cups, but as we move to reduce single-use plastics in school, these will no longer be in ready supply. Paper alternatives are very expensive and reusable cups bring issues with washing up so please can I ask for your help is ensuring that the children come to school with a water bottle (don't forget to put their name on it too).

New Intake 2024



On Monday 6th November between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m. we have our Open Evening for children due to start school in September 2024. We also have a number of tours of the school taking place throughout November. Please see the school website for more information.

Other News and Reminders...

- This week has started to feel very much like autumn. As we head into the colder months, please can I remind parents that children should have a warm, waterproof coat in school every day. We will always try to get the children outside at playtimes, even when it's a little drizzly, as that change of scenery from the classroom always helps aid the children's concentration.
- Christmas is coming and over the next few weeks, we will be sharing our plans with you for our Christmas celebrations. All Christmas diary dates are on the school website so you can plan ahead, but further detail will follow.
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone within our school community. Please remember that if anyone has a safeguarding concern about a child it can be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) at the School. Miss Talbot is the main DSL and Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney, the Deputy DSLs. Further information about safeguarding can be found on the school website.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 10th October, a group of children from across Years 3 and 4 competed in a multi-skills festival at The Lenham School. There were a number of schools that took part, with each school completing a range of skill-based activities. Our children enjoyed the experience and put a huge effort into all of the activities that they were asked to complete; the adults that accompanied the trip were extremely proud of their manners, behaviour and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon.

We are looking forward to taking some of our Year 1 and 2 children to a similar event on Tuesday, 14th November.

We are pleased that now the hall is fully functional again, we have been able to resume our PE lessons in the hall. Staff have had to be very creative in how PE lessons have been delivered over the past few months. Thankfully the warmer weather meant that lots of activities could be completed outside.

