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## Message from Miss Talbot

### Young Voices at the O2

One of the most magical opportunities available to our children is the opportunity to be part of the Young Voices choir and to perform at the O2 arena. Each year, Young Voices, joins together school choirs to perform at a series of arena venues across the country—celebrating the power of music and fostering a love for singing and performing. This year in London, 8,500 children sang together to a packed audience of family and friends—creating an amazing and often emotional experience for everyone. This is the 10th year that Godinton has participated in the Young Voices choir with 55 children taking part from Years 3 to 6. The repertoire of songs this year was as diverse as always and included a Moana mash-up, a Matilda the Musical medley and a 90s pop medley which got the teachers up and dancing!

We were immensely proud of all the children who took part and sang their hearts out. I'm sure this experience is something that they will remember for a long time to come. My gratitude goes to Mrs Stein and Mrs Fagg for leading the event and to all the staff and parents who helped to give the children an amazing time.



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## Sensational Starts to our New Topics

This term every year group starts an exciting new Learning Adventure and Creative Adventure Topic. Our sensational starts help to generate excitement for the learning to come. For more information about our curriculum, visit the curriculum pages on the school website.

### Year 5– Stars and Stripes



Year 5's Sensational Start to their topic, 'Stars and Stripes' meant a hop across the pond to America. Teams went head-to-head to battle for house points, answering questions about America's vast diversity, iconic personalities and incredible geography. Who could recognise the towering Washington monument or the breath-taking views of the Grand Canyon?

The quiz starts the children's thrilling journey to America as they discover the fascinating history and incredible landmarks that make America a truly special place.

## Year 4– Go Back in Time



To introduce their new topic, Year 4 became archaeologists and investigated the mystery of Godinton Hoo! Using artefacts discovered by Mr. Rowson over the Christmas holidays, the children used their inference skills to surmise who the items belonged to. The children concluded their investigation, suggesting it was a poor male from the Anglo-Saxons times. After leaving the archaeological site, the children continued their investigation by thinking of relevant questions to further their own understanding.

The children will be going on to explore what life was like during Anglo Saxon times in Kent and will be completing a village study of Chilham after half term as part of their history learning and geography fieldwork.

## Year 2—Follow the Scent



Ladybirds and Butterflies became 'Scent Detectives' for the day, exploring clues for their new topic—What's that smell?

The children identified cheese, bread, fire, perfume and something very, very smelly! They matched the smells to pictures and found out the correct answers. These led them to clues linked to The Great Fire of London—their topic for terms 3 and 4. The children are very much looking forward to learning all about this historic event and what life was like in 1666. They will have the opportunity to find out more in a special online workshop next term.



## Year 1—Go Exploring



This term, Year 1 launched their new topic: 'Ocean Explorers'. The children have been learning to name the seven continents and five oceans. They have learnt about the famous explorers: Christopher Columbus who sailed across the Atlantic and Matthew Henson who explored the North Pole.



The children even had a mysterious message arrive from the 'Night Pirates' – it's a good job that the children have been learning about the key features of a letter so they can write back to them! A special pirate day next week—will be a highlight of their topic.

## Year R– Brrrrrr it's cold outside!



Rabbits, Hedgehogs, Moles and Badgers have had such an exciting start to the new term and are enjoying being back at school, following the Christmas break. Their topic this term is 'It's Cold Outside' which they have been exploring in a range of ways. The children have enjoyed sharing the story, Jack Frost through art, music and dance activities. Jack Frost even took the time to write a letter to the children to tell them he had visited our school and had left some plastic animals trapped in the ice. The children had so much fun in the outside area, exploring how they could free them. They also drew and created a new sledge for Jack Frost and a magical 'Winter' spell so that he could stay for a little longer.

Over the next few weeks, our Reception classes will be exploring penguin stories and finding out about polar animals. It is lovely to see the children enjoying their learning so much and to see them becoming confident with phonics and number activities.



## Year 3– Wild World

Year 3 had an explosive start to Term 3. They were set the challenge of trying to fit a solid, liquid and gas into the same container. The children all had to stand right back to watch as we placed the solid into the bottle. The excited squeals of the children could be heard throughout the school as the liquid fizzed up and out of the container, flooding the surrounding area. Take a look at some of the animated faces caught on camera during this investigation.



Dragonflies and Bumblebees have also been using a range of materials to expand their knowledge of the world we live in and some of the extreme weather that can be found. We cannot wait to see what else we discover over the course of this term.



## Year 6– Find Paradise

As long, cold, dark winter nights draw in and memories of summer have faded, what better way to bring a bit of sunshine back into our lives than by learning about warmer climes? Year 6's new topic this term, Paradise Found, does exactly that as it centres around the Caribbean islands. A Caribbean-inspired treasure hunt provided the classes with a fun introduction to the topic. The children's newly-acquired orienteering skills from PE were put to the test, as they searched for clues around the school building. These clues gave Eagles and Falcons an insight into what they could look forward to finding out about in the coming weeks.



So far, the children have studied the human and physical geography of this Central American archipelago. They have also looked at cultural elements such as the significance of carnival and are in the process of designing and making their own carnival masks from papier mâché, to be worn at a special event later in the year.



This term's topic offers many opportunities for the children to practise their extended writing skills. Recently, the children wrote some exciting adventure stories, which incorporated elements of suspense to draw their readers in. Next is persuasive writing in the forms of a webpage to advertise a luxury resort, as well as a persuasive letter to convince those in government of the importance of importing Fairtrade products. Finally, the topic concludes with the penning of a biography of a member of the Windrush generation – a migrant that came from the Caribbean to the UK after World War II to help re-build the country.

A very exciting tropical topic awaits Year 6 in terms 3 and 4, and the children will '*carry-on-being*' amazed by what the Caribbean has to offer!

## Updated Policies

The following school policies have been updated this term and the revised copies are now available on the 'school policies' page on the school website:

- Freedom of Information Policy
- Pupil's Privacy Notice
- GDPR Policy
- Personal Care Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Race Equality Policy
- Reporting to Parents Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

# National Online Safety Day

## Day

Safer Internet Day takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people.

This year, Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day sees thousands of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. From cyberbullying to social networking, to digital identity, each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns.

In school, during the week of Safer Internet Day, the children will participate in activities to remind them how to stay safe online.

Further information about Online Safety Week can be found on the school website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/safer-internet-day-2024/>



## LifeVac

### Anti-Choking Device



There has been a lot of publicity in local media recently about the tragic case of Oliver Steeper who died after choking at an Ashford nursery a few years ago. In response to this, all nursery settings are being provided with a free LifeVac device which can be used to assist with choking incidents in both adults and children. This device is not currently being offered to schools free of charge however the parents of one of our Year 3 children have very kindly purchased one of these devices for us. I am extremely grateful to them for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Our LifeVac device has been set up in the school hall and training to staff in how to use this device has taken place. I hope that this is something that we will never have to use however it is extremely reassuring to know that it is there should the need ever arise.

Further information about the LifeVac device and how it can be of huge benefit in the event of a choking situation can be found at:

[www.lifevac.uk](http://www.lifevac.uk)

## Parking and Traffic on the Godinton Park Estate

I don't think a week goes by without some issue regarding parking, traffic or dangerous driving on the estate being reported to be. Most recently, a car speeding out of Lockholt Close, clipped a parked car with sufficient force to shunt it onto the pavement, a car was seen parked across the junction with Lockholt Close and Springwood Drive and a line of double parked cars was photographed in Lockholt Close at pick up. It is this type of inconsiderate and dangerous activity that is highly likely to cause a serious accident. This isn't acceptable.

For a long time we have been working with the Council and with the Police to try and look for solutions. Last Week, I arranged a site visit with Cllr Peter Feacey from Ashford Borough Council and Cllr Paul Bartlett from Kent County Council so they could observe, first hand, the difficulties being faced in Lockholt Close, Springwood Drive and Loudon Way in particular. They were able to see cars double parked in the Close, cars parked right up to the vehicle exit gates at the school and cars parked both sides of our road crossing patrol in Loudon Way.

I have asked them to go back to the Council to ask for some permanent solutions to the problems we are facing,

Including:

- Consideration of a suitable crossing point in Springwood Drive— either a dropped kerb or reinstating a road crossing patrol officer to ensure that children can cross safely and to deter motorists from parking across the junction.
- Consideration of road markings (yellow zigzags— similar to those outside Repton Manor Primary School) in Loudon Way, either side of the road crossing patrol to prevent motorists from parking in hazardous position.
- Consideration of road markings in front of the school gates to prevent motorists from blocking the entrance and exit to the school and creating hazards for pedestrians.
- Consideration of more appropriate signage to alert motorists to the location of the school.
- Reinforcement of penalty notices for traffic violations.

I will continue to work with the Council to push for measures to be implemented as soon as possible but would ask for your support in this matter. If you do spot any traffic violations or dangerous driving or parking, please take a photo and report it to the Police or to KCC Highways. Please let me know as well. This will help to strengthen our case for steps to be taken to protect the safety of our children.

Please consider whether it is necessary to drive your child to school or whether you can help to ease congestion on the estate by walking.

## Other News and Reminders...

- Thursday 7th March is World Book Day and we will be taking part to celebrate books and reading. This year, in response to the cost of living crisis, we won't be asking the children to dress up as a book character, but will be setting some simpler (and hopefully just as fun) things that they can join in with. Further details to follow.
- On Friday 15th March, we will be fund raising for Comic Relief—on this day we are inviting the children to come into school wearing anything red. This could be a red t-shirt or jumper, a pair of red socks, red pyjamas, red hair—anything you like! A Just Giving page will be set up for any donations after half term.
- We are able to make arrangements for anyone with a Blue Disabled Badge to park in the school car park at drop off or pick up if disabled access is needed. In order to do this, the blue badge must be presented to the school office, clearly showing the name of the person in the car who requires access. Without this, access will be denied.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

Last week, we took a team of Year 5 and 6 athletes to compete in the Sportshall Athletics competition held at the Stour Centre. It was a busy morning with over 400 children competing in a wide range of track and field events. Our children had great fun competing in events such as the 1 x 1 relay, the 6 lap paarluf, 2x2 relay and the obstacle race to name a few track events. In the field events, children participated in events such as: chest pass, standing long jump, triple jump and vertical jump. Throughout the event, our children demonstrated great skills and sportsmanship. Our athletic squad were:

Year 6: William, Grace, Lilly, Mia, Harry, Finley, Ollie, Amalie, Amaia, Skyelah, Shay and Jesse.

Year 5: Oliver, Kai, Sabine, Ava, Ralph, Freddie, Poppy and Isabelle.

**Congratulations to you all!**