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Message from Miss Talbot

Reading Partners

We love looking for times when our older children and younger children can work together—they thoroughly enjoy this. So World Book Day presented the perfect opportunity for some paired reading across the school. The classes doubled up and the children spent time with a partner from a different year group sharing their favourite books. They enjoyed reading to each other and talking about their favourite parts of the story. We will be setting up similar opportunities in Term 5 and 6 as the experience for the children was so positive.

I can't emphasise enough the importance of regular reading and sharing stories together at home. Reading is an essential skill to unlock all other aspects of learning. Even reading for 5 minutes a day can help develop fluency and comprehension skills. Our school website contains lots of information about how parents can support reading, including support with the children's phonics skills.



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Amazing Potatoes



We were blown away by everyone's creative talents in decorating a potato as a book character for World Book Day. You managed to turn a humble spud into Supertatoes, Hungry Caterpillars, Mr Men, Oompa Loompas, Harry Potters, Wimpy Kids and even Egyptian pharaohs—they were all amazing.

The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing these with their classmates and displaying them in their classrooms.

I know that there was some disappointment that we didn't dress up for World Book Day this year. We thought that this year we would try some different things instead as we are conscious that dressing up is not everyone's cup of tea and costumes can be expensive. I'm sure that there will be opportunities to dress up in the future for World Book Day.

Thank you for supporting your children's creativity and enabling them to make such amazing characters.



Extreme Readers

We were also inundated with entries for our Extreme Reading competition which asked children to send in a photo of them reading in an unusual location. The children certainly rose to the challenge and snapped themselves reading in all sorts of locations from ball pits to sand pits, vegetable patches to parks, up trees, up observation decks, on motorbikes, on shed rooves and on horses. Who knew that books could be enjoyed in so many locations! Well done to everyone who took part.



We had 4 winners:

Lower School: Max N

Middle School: Freddie T

Upper School: Skyelah P

Overall winner: Amy H

See The World Through My Eyes

Creative talents haven't been limited to decorating potatoes this term, as we had many entries into our Children's Mental Health Week challenge to decorate a large pair of glasses. Over 120 children took part and brought amazing creations into school, decorated with things that are important to them—family, hobbies, interests, clubs, or favourite things.

Our Mini Management Team helped to award certificates and prizes to everyone who took part in our assembly last week. Three overall winners were also announced:

Lower School—Reggie T

Middle School—Harry T

Upper School—Naomi W

Well done to everyone who took part.



Chicks and Tadpoles

This term, our 'Squirrels' nurture room has been home to chicks and tadpoles. It didn't take long for the 5 Brahma hen eggs in the incubator to hatch, revealing 4



yellow and one little grey chick who have been very happily chirping away ever since. It turns out that the chicks love cuddles as much as the children enjoy giving them. We have all enjoyed watching them grow and at the end of the week they will be going to their new home at Mrs Jury's house so we will be able to have regular updates as to how they are getting on.

Mrs Ellis has also had a tank of frogspawn in or Squirrels room. The children have found it fascinating to watch the tadpoles grow and develop over the past few months. The tadpoles will be returned to a more natural habitat before they turn into frogs.

Comic Relief



Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to our fundraising efforts for Comic Relief. Your generosity helped us to raise £326 for the charity.

Year 4—out and about in Chilham

Last week, Year 4 took their geography field work to the historic village of Chilham for their school trip, comparing life in a Kent village with that of Ashford. Each class spent two hours exploring the village, which included a visit to the church, a look around the (very tiny!) village shop, a stroll through the beautiful village square and a quick stop at the very quirky Chilham St Mary's Primary School. The children found out many historic facts along the way, the most popular among the children being the discovery of two skeletons, dating back to 1380, that were found buried underneath the pub in the square! Spooky!

Back in the classroom, the children have used what they have learnt to make comparisons between Chilham village and Ashford town including identifying differences in facilities and buildings.

Live field work very much helps to bring geographical studies to life. Thank you to everyone for their support with this trip.

The children were wonderful ambassadors for Godinton Primary School and were superbly behaved throughout. Well done Year 4!



Year 2—Fire, Fire!



Year 2 have had a great time travelling back through history to 1666 and the time of the Great Fire of London. The children have explored what life was like during that period and what caused the fire to be such a significant event. They enjoyed drama and dance activities to truly immerse themselves into the period and we witnessed some very creative fire dancing! The children used their drama experiences to write some amazing stories on escaping the Great Fire and some detailed diary entries from the perspective of Samuel Pepys. Recently they became bakers for the day, made some fabulous loaves of bread and then used their writing skills to create sets of instructions to try out at home. In their Creative Adventure, the children designed their own Tudor style buildings and then used pastels to 'set them on fire!'



The children in Ladybirds' class shared the highlights of their topic with the school and parents in their class assembly last week. We were all impressed by the enthusiasm that the children have shown for the topic. Well done Year 2.

A buzz in Year 3

Year 3 have been learning all about electricity in Science. The children have looked at common items around them which use both mains powered electricity as well as battery powered items. The lessons have had a real buzz to them, with the children enjoying the hands-on element of how to create their own circuits, how to light bulbs, what makes the buzzers work and how to create a gap in the circuits using switches. The children also tested a range of different materials found around the classroom to see if they were conductors or insulators which they all found absolutely fascinating. Finally the children have used this knowledge to design their own lamps suitable for an explorer scaling Mount Everest with specific design criteria.

High Five League

Last Friday, our High 5 Team had their first match of the season. Our initial pool was chosen at random; they were playing against a team from Kennington Junior School, and the children were both nervous and excited all at once. When the first whistle blew, the team leapt into action, scoring two goals in the first 5 minutes and defending superbly. By the end of the third quarter, our lead had been reduced to only one point, so we went into the final few minutes, knowing we still had to work hard. The children all demonstrated great sportsmanship and teamwork; Mrs Crowfoot and Mrs Ellis were so proud of the team's eventual 7-4 victory. We are looking forward to our next matches on 19th April.

Well done team!

Ofsted

We were delighted to share with you the outcome of our recent inspection, which confirmed that Ofsted continue to judge Godinton to be a good school. The final report is now available on both the school website and the Ofsted website.

The report highlight so many positive aspects of life at Godinton including the excellent behaviours and attitudes displayed by our children and the sense of pride that they have in our school community. The report captures our school very well, both in terms of the rich learning experiences provided for the children and the nurturing support given by our team.

All Ofsted reports include action points. The first focuses on the continued development of our curriculum and ensuring that sequenced knowledge is in place in all subjects. Having already achieved this in most subjects, we now need to focus on the last remaining subjects in our curriculum re-design – R.E and French. Our second action point is about phonics and ensuring that we continue to embed our new phonics programme to ensure complete consistency. This is an area which we are already working on.

I hope that you will feel as proud as we do of the comments made in the report. It is lovely to know that the strengths of the school have been recognised so clearly through the inspection process.



Staff News

We are delighted to welcome 2 new Teaching Assistants to the team. Miss Brenchley who also works at Night Owls will be joining our Year 2 and 3 team and Mrs Peters, who has been volunteering with us this year, will join our Year 5 team. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them both well in their new positions.

Staff Wellbeing Week

Earlier in the year, we held the first of our two Staff Wellbeing Weeks this academic year. Our next Staff Wellbeing Week of the year, will take place during the week commencing **Monday 29th April**.

The wellbeing of our team is very important to us and these weeks are designed to promote the positive mental health of our staff. Anyone who has worked in a school will know, that despite being immensely rewarding in so many ways it can also be a very tough and demanding job at times. Our Staff Wellbeing Week is timetabled to help support staff's work life balance and as recognition of the commitment and effort they bring to their roles.

During our Staff Wellbeing Week, no after school clubs run by teachers or support staff will run, however our two football clubs (run by Venture Camps and by Mr Taylor) will still take place as usual as will Night Owls After School Provision. No after school meetings will be scheduled next week and I would ask that any communication with the team, which is not urgent is delayed until the following week. Of course our staff will still be on hand to take calls or deal with any

matter should an urgent need arise – our commitment to looking after the children and responding to any difficulties that have arisen is still a key priority. So if there is something important that needs to be addressed please let us know. Lessons will remain the same during this week and there will be no differences to any aspects of practice within the classroom.

We are so fortunate to have an amazing team who go above and beyond to support our children. Our Staff Wellbeing Week might be the perfect opportunity for the children to write a short note of thanks for their teacher or TA or to draw them a picture to say thank you.

Maternity Cover

Mrs Burchett is due to start her maternity leave at May half term. Nightingales class will then be taught on 3 days a week (Wednesday–Friday) by Mrs Atkin and on Monday and Tuesday, the class will be taught by Miss Almond. Miss Almond will continue to teach Year 6 on a Thursday and Friday.

Class Assemblies

We are really enjoying the children's class assemblies and sharing these with parents. Each class presents one assembly each year, showcasing the things that they have been learning about in class.

Our Term 5 assemblies will take place at 2.50 on the following dates:

Magpies– Friday 10th May

Nightingales– Friday 17th May

Dragonflies– Thursday 23rd May

Bumblebees– Friday 24th May

Other News and Reminders...

- We have had a number of new items of clothing land in the lost property box over recent weeks—including coats. In order to ensure that everything can be returned to its rightful owner—please label all clothing brought into school.
- On behalf of all the team at Godinton, we would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and Eid Mubarak to all those of you who will be celebrating the end of Ramadan over the break. Please remember that we return to school on Monday 15th April.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report—Well done to our Football Team

Neither chilly temperatures nor driving rain could dampen the spirits of the members of the Godinton football team, who played their socks off in a tournament at Ashford School in Great Chart on Friday afternoon. The competition kicked off just after lunchtime, with the nine Godinton players competing in a series of seven-minute games against other schools from the local area.



The team started strong with a series of draws and wins against Ashford Oaks, St Teresa's, Mersham, Victoria Road and Goat Lees. Two decisive goals were scored by the team in the second and third games pushing the boys ahead in the league. By 4pm, the team had made it to the quarter-finals stage, where they played Goat Lees, and won the game. However, their path to victory was not without obstacles, when the team discovered that they were tied in fourth place with St Teresa's; a sudden-death penalty-shoot out would decide who would go through to play in the next round. The players held their nerve, with William scoring the first goal and Frankie saving the opposition's, which secured the team's place in the semi-finals. Sadly, the next match would see the boys' journey to the final cut short, where opposing team Furley Park won 4-0.

The team demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment, resilience and overall outstanding sportsmanship throughout the entire afternoon. They supported each other brilliantly and were excellent ambassadors for the school – we were really proud of them. A huge thank you to Steve Taylor and Jack Taylor and to Mrs Gandon for volunteering to accompany the team, as well as parents and grandparents that supported the boys throughout the afternoon.