

Contents

Year 1 Godinton House	2
Year 3 Maidstone Museum.....	2
Funky Lunch at Repton	
Connect.....	3
District Sports Athletics.....	3
PTFA Update.....	4
Opal Play.....	4
House Points.....	5
Attendance Matters.....	5
Sports Report	6



Message from Miss Talbot

Wishing you all a very happy summer

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to take the time to thank you all for the support given to the school over the past year. We do very much value the contribution that you make to your child's education—whether that is helping to support them with reading or homework tasks, ensuring that they arrive at school on time, coming to watch events such as sports day or their class assembly or ensuring that they have what they need to participate in activities such as Forest School.

It's hard to believe that our Reception children have reached the end of their first year at school. It has been a privilege to get to know them and to see them blossom over the past year. At the other end of the school, our Year 6 children will be leaving us as they move onto their new schools. This was my first Reception cohort as Headteacher— the past 7 years have flown by. I wish all our Year 6 children the very best for the successful futures that lie ahead of them and thank those parents, who are seeing their last child through the school, for their support over the years.

On behalf of all our team, I wish you and your family a very happy summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.



Godinton Primary School
Lockholt Close,
Ashford,
Kent.

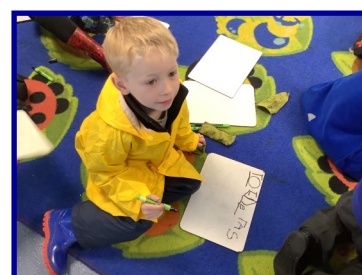
TN23 3JR

Tel: 01233 621616

www.godinton.kent.sch.uk

office@godinton.kent.sch.uk

headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk



Year 1 Visit Godinton House



Our Year 1 children enjoyed a fun packed visit to Godinton House at the start of the month. It is really lovely to have such a fabulous resource so close to school which we can use for all sorts of activities. This visit focused on the grounds of the house and in particular exploring the gardens, which of course look so pretty at this time of year. The children walked through the fields at the back of the estate to Godinton House to enjoyed a picnic in the grounds.

D.I.S.C.O!

Thank you to everyone who helped out at our PTFA discos last week. They are a very popular event with the children (less so with the staff!) and certainly showed that we've got some good movers and groovers (I'm showing my age) especially in our Reception classes!



All Roads Lead to Rome—Year 3

Never has the phrase 'all roads lead to Rome' rung more true than it did this morning, when the children from Year 3 Dragonflies and Bumblebees hopped on a coach and travelled up the M20, bound for Maidstone Museum, to take part in a Roman-themed day.



The event itself was hosted by the lovely Nat, the Teaching Assistant formerly known as Mrs Smith who left Godinton last year, in her new role as Education Officer for the museum. As well as seeing familiar, old relics (sorry, Mrs Smith!), the children participated in two workshops. One enabled the classes to handle genuine artefacts from the Roman era, as well as find out about the daily challenges in the life of a Roman soldier. The other gave the classes the opportunity to recreate clay oil lamps, which would have been used during the time of the Romans. In the afternoon, the groups had time to explore the remaining exhibits of the museum, and a great time was had by all, simply 'roman' around.

Thank you to all the adults who have helped out on school trips this year.



A Funky Lunch at Repton Connect



You may remember back in the Spring, we sent out details of an exciting competition, run by the team at Repton Connect, to design a healthy recipe. 13 children took part, designing amazing recipes such as carrot and apple cake, rainbow fruit gateaux and pasta and salmon salad: delicious!

To reward them for their efforts the children were invited to a 'Funky Lunch' event up at the Repton Connect Community Centre. During this special cookery workshop the children made faces out of wraps, bread, bagels and a selection of fruit and vegetables. They chopped, sliced, grated and peeled to create dragons, owls, clowns and people. Their creations were amazing! The team at Repton Connect will be compiling all the children's recipes into a special booklet over the summer which will then be distributed within the community to hopefully inspire other children to get creative in the kitchen. Well done everyone!

Our grateful thanks go to Maria, Charlie and Diana at Repton Connect for inviting us to take part and for arranging such a lovely experience for the children.



District Sports— Athletics



It was a very cold and blustery July day for this year's District Sports Athletics tournament which was once again held at Ashford Prep School. This event sees children from Ashford schools coming together to compete in track and field events over the course of the morning. We entered a brilliant Godinton team this year, composed of children from Years 4, 5 and 6, who all worked immensely well as a team, cheering each other on and relishing in team success. I was very proud of them all.



We came third in our group and had a number of team and individual successes, bringing home some silverware too. Amaia came first in the girls mega howler event, our Year 4

boys relay team came first out of all the schools participating and Reon and Harley both won medals for being the fastest boy and girl from Year 4 out of all the schools taking part.

It was a privilege to see our team's amazing efforts and the gracious way in which they accepted both success and defeat. My congratulations goes to all the children who took part: Elliott, Reon, Ben, Max, William, Jesse, Frankie (who valiantly stepped in on the day), Jack, Amaia, Poppy, Ffion, Harley, Eden, Lina, Grace, Amelie, Honor and Naomi.



PTFA Update

Our PTFA have worked very hard with their fundraising this year—funding our amazing team building day at the start of the year and more recently investing in large pieces of equipment to complement our Opal Playtimes. One very large tepee is already up on the field and another is due to be erected over the summer. These will provide shelter and places to play at break times.

Our PTFA Chair, Lynsay Keech, is stepping down at the end of this academic year, although she has promised to be on hand to guide someone else in this role. The role of the Chairman of the PTFA is to act as a central point of contact and organisation—it doesn't mean you have to do everything yourself. We have a very good team of committed helpers, including the amazing Mrs Humphrey who knows all things PTFA like the back of her hand and Mrs Gandon who has been a fantastic secretary over the past few years. Anyone coming into the role of Chair would be very well supported by me and the team. We have talked about the possibility of having separate committees to run and organise different PTFA events, for example a disco committee or a summer fair committee, in order to share the love. However a good Chairperson (or co-chairs perhaps if two of you wanted to do this jointly) would help to draw everything together.

If we can't find anyone to step into this role we won't be able to run all the events that we know our children and families love so much—it would be a real shame to lose this.

If this is something that you could help with, please come and have a chat with either myself or Lynsay so that you can find out more about what the role involves.

We would hope to elect our new committee into office at our PTFA AGM on **Tuesday 24th September**.

ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Opal Play

Thank you so much to everyone for all the amazing donations that came into school on Friday to help us make a start with Opal Play in September. I hope that this will really transform playtimes at Godinton and I am very much looking forward to us rolling out different activities at lunchtimes as the year progresses. This will be a slow approach—we can't possibly do everything all at once but will be introducing new elements on a regular basis.



We will be asking for help in all sorts of different ways—thank you to those of you who have been able to source some of the big stuff—tractor tyres, railway sleepers and large cable drums for example. Any more of these items would be gratefully received!



I am also putting a call out to anyone you know who may be good at crocheting! We are creating a 'festival chill out' area at the edge of the field, planned by the Mini Management Team and we would like to yarn bomb one of the big oak trees. If

anyone is able to make and donate some colourful crocheted granny circles or flowers (ideally about the size of a hand or bigger), these can be dropped into school over the summer and left in the foyer—don't forget to let us know who has made them so we can pass on our thanks.

Don't forget to get wellies and waterproofs ready for September. If you have any spare unwanted wellies, we would happily accept these too.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for helping us to transform playtimes for our children.

House Points

Plenty of house points were gained following the children's amazing efforts on Sports' Day. Walmer came in first place with 3079 points, followed by Rochester with 2956 points, Dover with 2943 and finally Leeds with 2727 points. These points will be added to the overall House point totals which will be announced at the end of term.

This year 46 children gained their prestigious gold house point badge and were rewarded with an afternoon Bowling trip.

Our congratulations go to all the children for their efforts in gaining House Points this year.



Staff News

As well as new teachers joining our team, we also have two new members of staff to welcome to our TA team: Mrs Holmes will be joining Year 4 and Miss Rossiter, Year 2. Miss Rossiter will also become the new manager of our After School Club. We look forward to working with both Mrs Holmes and Miss Rossiter over the coming year.

We also have 2 teaching assistants who are getting married over the summer. Mrs Brooker will return to school in September as Mrs Pope and Miss Scanlan as Mrs Myers.

Attendance Matters

In August, new national regulations regarding penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school come into force. The first time a penalty notice is issued for unauthorised term time holiday, or other unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, the penalty will be £160 to be paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days. There is no reduction for early payment.

A third period of unauthorised absence could then result in prosecution.

The above measures include absence during term time taken for the purpose of holiday.

All children must be in school by 8.50 a.m. Any arrival after 9.15 that has not been authorised, will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and will contribute to rolling periods of unauthorised absence which could result in a penalty notice as outlined above.

More information can be found in our updated attendance leaflet and policy which will be sent out to parents at the start of the new academic year.

Good attendance at school is essential and the expectation is that children achieve attendance as close to 100% as possible. We know that 100% attendance isn't always possible as colds and tummy upsets are just part of life. However some absence is preventable and we would encourage all parents to bear the following in mind:

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000

Absences below 90% are a serious concern and may result in further measures being taken, including referral to the school liaison officer for attendance.

Other News and Reminders...

- Our Parent Handbook has been updated for the academic year 2024–25. This contains lots of useful information about aspects of school life. It can be found on the Parent Handbook page of the school website. <https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/parent-handbook/>
- There are lots of events taking place in Ashford over the summer holiday to keep everyone busy. Please refer to the ParentMail that went out on Friday for further information.
- Please remember that all children in Years 1 to 6 return to school on **Tuesday 3rd September**, we look forward to seeing you then.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

As well as the District Athletics, there have been lots of other sporting and physical activities taking place this month.

High 5 League: Our team worked tirelessly throughout the second half of the season, continuously demonstrating great sportsmanship and teamwork, each week improving team and individual performances. The team were in a tough pool and ended up coming 5th, but Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot, who have been excellent coaches, couldn't be prouder. Well done everyone.

Ashford Rugby Club: Last week, Ashford Rugby Club came in to run some training sessions with our Year 5 and Year 6 children. There were four activities that the children rotated round, including an obstacle course with crash bag at the end. The children all had a great time and were a credit to our school with the way that they listened and participated with such enthusiasm.

Build-A-Fort: The team from Venture Camps have been back into school, this time working with our Year 1 and Year 2 children. They brought with them giant packs of building equipment and challenged the children to design and build their forts in small groups. They had to work hard on their communication and teamwork skills; we had some great forts built, including ones with two storeys!

Adults Vs Year 6 Match: Last Monday, we had our annual Adults vs Year 6 netball match, where various members of staff competed against the children. Several of the staff watching commented on how good the children were, and although the adults won in the end (thanks to some super goal scoring skills demonstrated by Mrs Wood and Miss Eaton), the children certainly gave them a run for their money. A great time was had by all! Well done everyone!

