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Message from Miss Talbot

Dressed for Outdoors

Our school grounds are such an amazing asset—whether that's our woodland where we can indulge in exciting Forest School sessions or our playground and field which we are developing as we embark on our journey with Opal Play. We are very lucky.

We want to make the very best use we can of our outdoor space—children tend to spend a lot of time indoors, so extending their daily diet of outdoor time is important. To enable us to give the children the best outdoor time we can, we would be grateful for your help in ensuring that your children are suitably dressed to enable them to fully participate in all outdoor activities, including playtime, where we are out usually whatever the weather. The children must have wellies and a waterproof coat in school every day—the weather can turn very quickly at this time of year and whilst it might be dry when they come to school it can be pouring by lunchtime. The children should also have suitable outdoor clothing for Forest School and outdoor PE sessions. By being suitably dressed we can keep giving children magical outdoor experiences.



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Class News

Year 2 – Up, Up and Away



It's been an exciting start to Year 2 in Butterflies and Ladybirds Classes. As an introduction to their topic 'Up, up and away', the children found a mysterious hot air balloon in the woods.

This led to some exciting work in Learning Adventure, including finding out and writing biographies about the famous aviator Amelia Earhart. Amelia was the first woman to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean.

In Science, whilst learning about living things and their habitats, the children had a very special visit from some tortoises – one of which was Maggie the real tortoise! This helped them to understand how we know the differences between living and non-living things. A habitat hunt in the school grounds was also a great way to bring Science to life.

The children are really looking forward to the next part of their 'Up, up and away!' topic!



Year 3 Get Creative



Year 3 have settled in well to the year group and have been working hard, studying life in Ancient Greece. In class, the children have been exploring Ancient Greek myths and writing our own fabulous stories based on these.



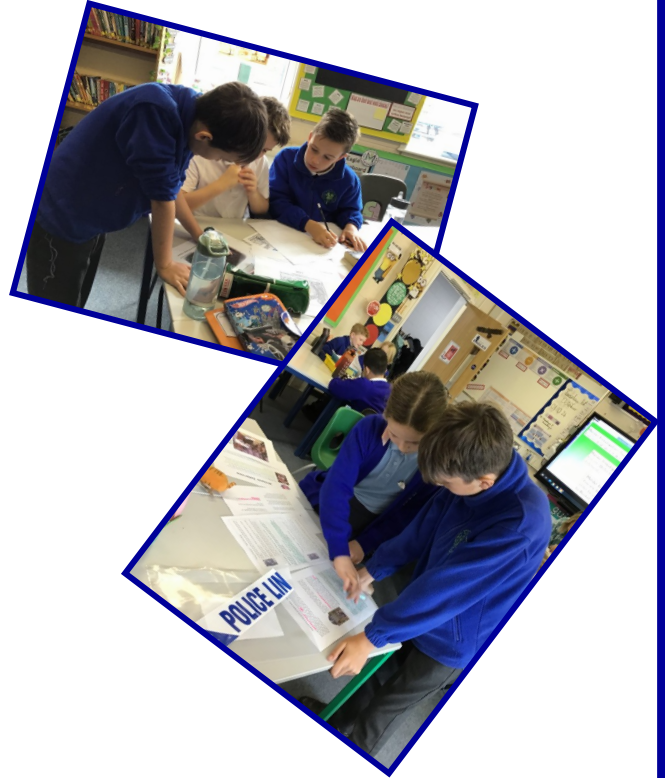
With the Ancient Greeks being famous for creating amazing pottery, the children have been learning to develop their own sculpture skills and have worked hard to design and create monster themed pinch pots from clay. Following on from this, the children extended their craftsmanship skills, exploring how to make coil pots from salt dough and playdoh, experimenting with different styles. Once they had mastered this, they used their new found techniques to create their own coil pot pen stands. What a creative bunch!

Year 6— Journey Back in Time

What do a banquet of pease pottage and bread, a crime scene investigation into a grisly murder and the city of Canterbury all have in common? They have all been encountered by Year 6 as they embark on their topic of 'Journeys'. In fact, when reflecting on the pathways that this topic has taken the children on over the past six weeks, it could be said that they have covered a lot of ground. It all began back in September when the children were invited to a medieval feast and explored the hierarchy of society at that time. They discovered that life was hard, especially if you were a peasant during the Middle Ages. The topic introduced the children to life in a Medieval market town and some of the tradespeople that they would have found there. There has been some light relief in the form of Medieval festivals, showing how people would have spent any rare free time that they had. Both classes have also learnt about the importance of religion and how the church influenced the way people lived their lives (and spent their money).

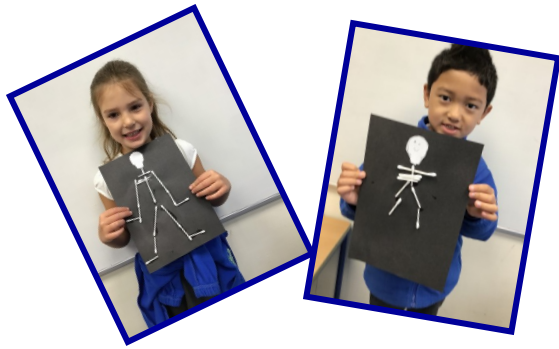


The topic on the Dark Ages took an even darker turn when the children were called in to investigate the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. Based upon all the evidence provided, the children drew their own conclusions about the perpetrators and their motive for the crime in order to crack the case.



Staying with Canterbury, the classes have explored the history and geography of the city, finding out how it developed over hundreds of years to become a thriving market town during the Middle Ages, as well as an important destination for pilgrims, following the death of Thomas Becket. A modern-day translation of Geoffrey Chaucer's book about a group of pilgrims, 'The Canterbury Tales' is currently being enjoyed by the classes. All this interesting research into Canterbury is paving the way for the children's excursion to the city after the holiday when they will look further into the historical, geographical and economical features of the city as part of their fieldwork studies.

Year 1 – Getting to know me!



This term in Year 1 the children have got off to a flying start. In Learning Adventure, the children have been labelling and having a go at writing simple sentences to describe themselves in their very own autobiographies. They have discovered how they can use 'and' in their writing to link more than one idea together. The children have loved finding more out about themselves in Science, where they have explored what human skeletons look like and what the names of their bones are. The children worked in small groups to draw around their friends on large paper and then worked as team to label the different bones in their bodies. They soon discovered that without bones in the body, we would be like jelly!

Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Vincent Van Gough and David Hockney are just some the artists who have inspired the children in their Creative Adventure artwork where they have learnt how to draw self-portraits. The children spent time looking at the different features on their faces using mirrors to explore the colours of their eyes and their different face shapes. After that, the children practiced the different ways in which they could draw these features and eventually bought all of their creative learning together by producing fantastic self-portraits. They look amazing – well done Year 1!

A surreal time in Year 4



This term in Art, Year 4 has been buzzing with creativity as our young artists dived into the world of Surrealism! Inspired by the works of Joan Miró, the students created unique rainforest paintings

that blended imagination with vibrant colours. Using various household items, the children created textured backgrounds and carefully chose their colour palettes to reflect the rainforest whilst still incorporating dream-like elements. Once their backgrounds were complete, the children brought their visions to life by designing their own surreal animals. These whimsical creatures were then printed onto their beautifully textured backgrounds, resulting in striking and imaginative final pieces!

Year 5 Explore Victorian designs

In Year 5 this term, the children have made a great start especially in their Creative Adventure learning. They have been



focusing on William Morris, a famous Victorian British artist and designer from the 19th century. The children have explored how he created detailed patterns inspired by nature, such as flowers, fruits, leaves and birds, which he frequently used in his wallpapers and prints. Being inspired by his unique style, Year 5 created their own nature designs. They even experimented with techniques like lino printing, as you can see in this picture, to make their final pieces, inspired by patterns in Morris' work

Opal Play Update

It has been lovely seeing the children get creative in our art hut in the past few weeks—they have really been using their imaginations to make and draw some amazing things!



Please look out for Mrs Carr's Opal newsletter coming out this week with a reminder of the need for everyone to have wellies in school once we come back after half term. The field will be open for the children to use at lunchtime but in order to do so they will need wellies. A waterproof coat is also essential.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone for all their efforts in ensuring that our children's attendance is good and that they arrive at school on time. Currently attendance across the school stands at an average of 96.5% which is excellent but we do have 40 children whose attendance has fallen below 90% and into the 'persistent absence' category. We will be contacting those parents to see whether further support is needed to help with the children's attendance. If anyone has any concerns about their children's attendance please get in touch—we are here to help.

Non-Uniform Days

We know that some children find non-uniform days tricky whilst for others having the opportunity to dress up or wear their own clothes on special days is fun and exciting. We want to try and get the balance right and so over the course of the year, will try and book in a sensible amount of dressing up / non uniform days.

We will be having two non-uniform days next term. On Friday 8th November, the children may wear their own clothes to school in return for bringing in something for the Christmas Fair. The second non-uniform day will be on Friday 15th November in order to raise money for the charity Children in Need. The theme of this year's Children in Need, is 'Make Life Lighter for Children'. To celebrate this we invite our children to come to school dressed 'light and bright' – anything bright, shiny, colourful spotty or glittery. The brighter the better! Or they could come to school dressed as the Children in Need mascot, Pudsey Bear.

Further details about how you can help us to support Children in Need will be coming out this week.

Bike Sheds

Please can I ask that parents supervise young children when collecting bikes and scooters from the shed. Children have been seen climbing on bikes stored in the shed and yesterday a member of staff's bike was damaged. I am hoping to look at extending our cycle storage in the future but in the meantime, please can we all take as much care as we can.

Congratulations to our House Captains

We are very proud of our House system at Godinton and how hard the children work to achieve house points. This week, the children voted in their House Captains, children from Year 6 who will lead their house teams in events such as sports day. Congratulations go to:

DOVER

House Captains: Oliver K and Ava M

Vice Captains: Harry F-O and Olivia P

LEEDS

House Captains: Sam G and Ella McK

Vice Captains: Ashton T and Caitlin W

ROCHESTER

House Captains: Elijah G and Evie W

Vice Captains: Leo H and Emily P

WALMER

House Captains: Kian A and Jocelyn B

Vice Captains: Ralph M & Isla N

I know these children will do an amazing job in representing their house teams.

Mini Manager Elections

Our Mini Manager elections took place this week and the results will be announced in assembly on Friday. Well done to everyone who took part and was brave enough to deliver a speech to their class.

Mrs Partridge is looking forward to working with our Mini Managers on different projects this year.

Reception Cohort 2025

Parents whose children are due to start school in September 2025, will already be starting to think about the process of applying for a school place. On **Wednesday 6th November between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m.** we have our Open Evening for prospective parents who are able to come into school, meet with staff in the hall, view our Reception classrooms and find out more about the school. Children are welcome to come with parents to have a look around and activities will be set up in the Reception classrooms for them to join in with.

We then offer tours of the school led by Miss Talbot, Mrs Stein and Mrs Partridge. These will take place on the following dates. These tours are suitable for parents rather than children—if you are already familiar with Godinton, please don't feel that you have to book on a tour.

Thursday 7th November 2024 at 9.15 a.m

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 9.15 a.m.

Thursday 14th November 2024 at 9.15 a.m.

Monday 18th November 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 9.15 a.m.

Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 9.15 a.m.

Monday 25th November 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 28th November 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

Friday 29th November 2024 at 9.15 a.m.

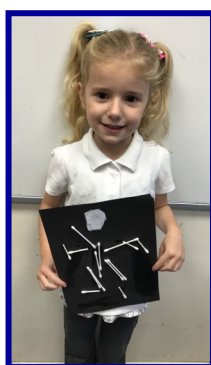
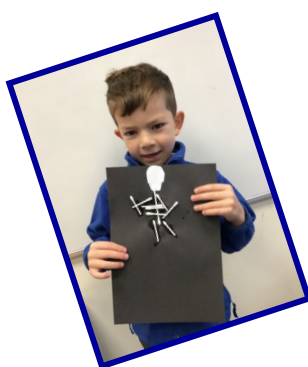
If you know parents whose children are due to start school next year, please direct them to the school website where more information can be found.

If you have any queries about applying for a primary school place, or to book onto a tour, please contact the school office.

Other News and Reminders...

- We break up for half term on Friday and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 4th November. I hope that the children enjoy the two week break.
- We are still awaiting information on the timescales regarding the replacement of the roof over the school hall and as such do not yet know when this might be put out of action. With this being the case, we will need to rethink our Lower School and Middle School Christmas productions this year. It would be unfair for the children to rehearse for amazing performances if, for whatever reason, we can't then make these work in a temporary hall space. So we may need to think out of the box this year and take a different approach. I'm sure that we will still be able to create something special and magical—it may just be a little scaled back which I'm sure you'll understand. We will keep you posted.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report—Multi-skills and High 5

Enthusiasm and stamina were running high on Tuesday morning when a selection of children across Years 1 and 2 were invited to take part in a Multiskills Festival at the Stour Centre. Children from a number of schools across East Kent participated in this half-day event which tested their skills of speed and agility. There were many activities on offer including obstacle courses, golfing, hockey and speed bounce. Each group was given approximately five minutes at each sports station, and points were awarded for individual performances as well as working together as a team. The team members represented the school superbly throughout the morning, showing excellent sportsmanship and brilliant teamwork. A great time was had by all.



At the start of the week, Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot took 15 of our Year 5 and 6 children over to Willesborough Junior School for a friendly High 5 match. The children were all very excited, especially as some of them had only been playing the sport for a few weeks. The aim of the match was to develop the children's understanding of the competitive side of the game, as well as improve their individual and team skills. Whilst we did not win, the children all tried really hard, were polite and respectful, and represented Godinton well. The adults were very proud of their sportsmanship and hope to be able to organise more events like this in the future.