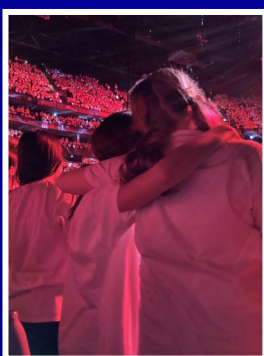


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Message from Miss Talbot

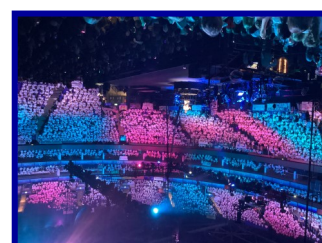
Young Voices

Godinton's Young Voices started almost 10 years ago and has been a firm highlight of our calendar ever since. I really can't put into words how electrifying a choir made up of over 5,000 children sounds, when they are singing their hearts out in the O2 Arena. It is totally magical.

This year, we took a choir of 80 super singers from Years 3 to 6 up to the event. The children have spent the past 6 months rehearsing a medley of songs, including a trio of pop songs, a dance themed montage as well as songs specially commissioned for the performance and a Bob Marley finale. A three hour rehearsal alongside all the other schools involved, put our children in fine voice ready for an outstanding performance to a packed audience. It's at moments like that when I feel most proud to be Headteacher at Godinton.

As always our children looked out for each other and behaved impeccably—they were an absolute credit to us all. So roll on January 2026 when we hope to give another amazing experience to our talented singers.

Huge thanks goes to all the staff and helpers involved in giving the children such a fantastic experience.



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Other Musical Opportunities...

As well as singing up at the O2, our Young Voices choir will be performing to the school this week and will then be entertaining our neighbours from Loudon Court in a special private concert later this term.



Then on the last day of this term, we are taking 30 children from across years 4 to 6 up to Highworth Grammar School for a special performance led by the Kidzena Orchestra. Kidzena's mission is to shatter the misconception that orchestral music is stuffy and inspire every child from every walk of life to listen to and maybe be involved in making music for the whole of their life. Essentially, inspiring tomorrow's musicians or at the very least, tomorrow's audiences.

If your child has an interest in Music then we hope that they will look forward to a special Music Day in school, being held in June and will want to be part of our Music Showcase evening at the end of the academic year.

Please look at the school website for more information about the music curriculum at Godinton and to view our music development plan which highlights the musical future at Godinton.

Class News...

How has the new year started for everyone?

Year 2 – What's that Smell?



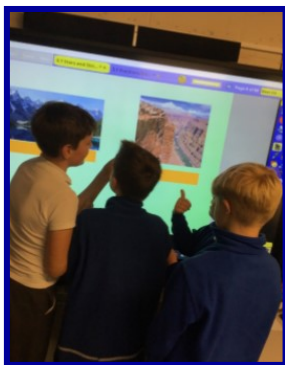
Ladybirds and Butterflies became 'Scent Detectives' for the day, exploring clues for their new topic – What's that Smell? The children identified cheese, bread, fire, perfume and something very, very smelly! They matched the smells to pictures and found out the correct answers. These led them to clues linked to The Great Fire of London – their new 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 5

Learn about the U.S.A

Year 5's Sensational Start to our topic, 'Stars and Stripes' meant a hop across the pond to America. Teams went head-to-head to battle for raffle tickets, 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?



Our quiz starts our journey to North America as we discover the fascinating history of the USA including many significant people that contributed to its success, and its incredible landmarks that make America a truly special place.

Year 4— Dig Deep!

Year 4 kicked off their History adventure by becoming archaeologists to solve the mystery of Godinton Hoo! Examining fascinating artefacts unearthed by Mr. Rowson, the children used their detective skills to conclude the items belonged to a poor Anglo-Saxon male.

The excitement didn't stop there—after leaving the site, they fired up their imaginations, asking questions to dig even deeper into Anglo-Saxon life. What will they uncover next?

Year 3

Start their new topic with a bang!

Year three have enjoyed an explosive start to the term with an introduction to our new topic 'Our Wild World'. The children were challenged to see if they could fit a solid, a liquid and a gas into a plastic bottle. They then observed the reaction as the solid (mentos) reacted with the liquid (coca cola) and created a huge explosion. There were many excited faces as the liquid fizzed up and gushed out of the container.

The children have also explored the process of evaporation and conducted fair test experiments to explore how heat can affect the process. This has linked to their learning about the water cycle as well as extreme types of weather such as monsoons and droughts.

In DT, Year 3 have been learning all about Windmills and how they use wind to create their own power to produce electricity or grind grain. Exploring a variety of construction toys, the children have successfully created their own structures focusing on constructing strong and sturdy bases which will support the sails of a windmill in extreme wind! They are excited to use this knowledge to design and create their own working windmills as the term progresses.

Watch this space—for more exciting discoveries within their topic.

Year 6— The Caribbean awaits

Are you tired of waking up to cold, dark mornings? Fed up of scraping the ice off your car windscreen at the start of each day? Does your mind drift to sunnier climes? Fortunately, Year 6's topic for terms 3 and 4, 'Paradise Found', centres on the Caribbean islands, and provides a bit of tropical sunshine and warmth to these dark and chilly, wintry days.

At the beginning of term, a Caribbean-inspired treasure hunt provided the students with a fun introduction to the topic. The classes' newly-acquired orienteering skills from PE were put to the test, as they searched for clues around the school building. These clues gave the children a hint of what they could look forward to finding out about in the coming weeks. So far, Eagles and Falcons 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 their own carnival masks, to be made and then worn at a special event later in term 4. This term's topic also offers many opportunities for the children to practise their extended writing skills, through suspenseful adventure stories, persuasive webpages and letter writing and finally an informative biography.

A very exciting tropical topic on the Caribbean awaits Year 6 in terms 3 and 4, which is sure to 'carry-on-being' enthralling throughout the weeks!

Year R—Get Chilly!



Whilst Year 6 have been exploring warm, sunny locations, Reception have had a chilly start to their new topic "It's Cold Outside." Brrrrrrrr! Everything keeps freezing! The children have explored magical spheres of ice, of all different colours with different things hiding inside. They have also looked at the different shapes in the ice, how the ice felt and observed how it changed as it melted.



Whilst we wait for the weather to warm up, it looks like Reception are enjoying everything the chilly weather has to offer.

Homework Trails

Homework trails for this term have been set and put in the front of your child's homework book. They are also available on the school website. All parents should be encouraging children to engage with homework tasks especially higher up the school in order to get ready for secondary school.

Year 1— Take a Voyage of Discovery



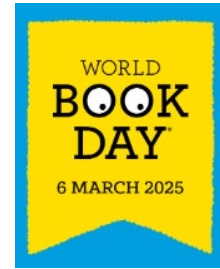
This term, Year 1 are finding out about Ocean explorers. The children have begun this exciting learning adventure by going on a voyage with Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic ocean. The children learnt a song about the seven continents and can now identify the UK in Europe, on a world map. They used globes, google maps and atlases to label and identify the land and 5 significant oceans. The children learnt about historic explorers and are excited to continue their learning about pirates and create their own pirate picnic for Pirate Day at the end of the topic.



Mathletics

Don't forget to encourage your child to keep up with their weekly tasks on the Mathletics portal. This is a good way for your child to practice the skills they have learnt in class. If your children has any difficulties logging on, please contact your child's teacher.

World Book Day Thursday 6th March



This year we are inviting children and staff to dress up as a favourite book character to celebrate World Book Day. We know that dressing up can present challenges for some, which is why we now only do this, every other year. To help parents out with finding suitable costumes, we would like to hold a World Book Day costume swap and share.

If there are any costumes or accessories which you have at home that you no longer use, or your children have outgrown, we would be very grateful if you could donate these to the school, via the office or send these in with your child by Monday 10th February.

We will then put all of these donations in the foyer, outside the office, on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February between 3 and 4pm for parents to come along and take something that might be useful for their child.

We are hoping that this eases the pressure that dressing up for World Book day can cause for parents.

Our plans for the day also include book related activities in class and a year group book swap event. We will also be holding our Extreme Reading competition so get your thinking caps on and come up with a great idea for an unusual location in which to read a book. More details about our plans will be coming out soon.



Mini Management Team get down to business

Our Mini Management Team have met twice this year already. They have reviewed the refurbished Upper School toilets and were really impressed with the changes. A letter of thanks was written by members of the MMT and delivered to Miss Talbot.

Next on the agenda was drafting Godinton's first ever Play Charter. Having looked at Article 31 from the UN convention of Children's rights to play, the MMT have now drafted the wording for our play charter. Mr Foss, Harlow's Dad, is currently applying his creative design talents so we can take the final design printed and outdoor signs made. The MMT are looking forward to seeing the finished design and sharing the Play Charter with the rest of the school.

Our newly constructed Play Charter will help to continue to shape positive playtimes at Godinton as we enjoy our journey into Opal Play.



Year 2 Scootability

Having a school travel plan in place has opened the doors for some sustainable travel opportunities at Godinton and this term, we have been lucky to secure some free Scootability Training for our children.



Last Friday, all Year 2 children took part in a 90 minute scootering session. Once dressed for action, the children's workshop taught them how to ride and cross roads safely with a scooter. Mark, the instructor, who was a whizz on a scooter, demonstrated some scooter tricks and the children could then practise a trick or two themselves, including a 'ballerina and karate kick'. We hope to see more scootering to school.

As part of Opal Play, we are preparing to set up our own scooter track for the children to practise their skills further.



Year 6 Team Building



The old adage says, 'there no I in team' and a group of Year 6s proved this to be true when they attended a team building day in Herne Bay before the Christmas holiday. The day itself was designed to support the children in their preparation for transition to secondary school in September. It gave them the opportunity to work with a selection of secondary school-aged students from a number of other Kent-based schools through many different team building activities. And this was no easy task! Members of the groups, with a range of ages, were expected to pull together despite never having met to complete some very challenging tasks. Although there was no time limit for each task, the rules were harsh, and if competitors broke the rules in any way, they were required to start again. There was a range of activities on offer, from ski-walking to bouncing balls on parachutes – enough to make the creators of the Crystal Maze envious! Despite the cold and windy weather conditions, the Year 6s did a fantastic job at getting into the sportsmanship spirit. They worked together to attempt the activities, showing great perseverance to get them done, as well as resilience, when things did not quite go according to plan. They demonstrated skills such as compromise and collaboration. Critical thinking allowed them to consider how they would tackle a task and communication helped them to explain their logic to their team mates. The children represented the school brilliantly and a great day out was had by all.

Roof Update

Over the past year, we have been in discussions with the Department for Education in order to access funding for the roof over the school hall to be replaced. The roof is constructed from RAAC (reinforced aerated autoclaved concrete), the building material which has been high profile in the media in recent months due to limits in its effectiveness. Back in 2021, we had the same substance removed from the roof covering our Year R and Year 1 classrooms and whilst work to replace the roof was completed, these two year groups operated out of temporary classrooms on the school field.

Funding for the final stage of roof replacement at Godinton has now been approved and work to replace the roof covering the hall and part of the kitchen will begin over half term. A temporary modular hall space will be erected on the school field and will be used for lunch, assemblies, breakfast club, events, clubs and PE whilst the roof work is carried out. We will also have a temporary kitchen facility in place. It is anticipated that work will be completed by the end of the summer.

Whilst the work is likely to cause some disruptions, I do not envisage it being significantly disruptive to the day to day operation of the school. I will keep everyone updated on how work is progressing but don't be surprised if you start to see activity on site after the break.

D.I.S.C.O

Our first school disco of the year takes place on Friday 7th February (4.30 to 5.30 for Lower and Middle School and 6.00 to 7.30 for Upper School). Please see the ParentMail sent out regarding information about the event, including how to purchase tickets.

Other News and Reminders...

- Shortly we will be changing the way in which we operate our communications and the way in which payments are made for things such as school lunches, Breakfast Club and Night Owls. Instead of using ParentMail and Squid, we will be transferring to a system called Arbor, which will enable parents to make payments and receive communication all in one place. We will be sending out further information in the coming weeks and will give you good notice to get prepared ahead of the changeover.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report– Sports Hall Athletics

If your New Year's resolution is to become more active, then I'm afraid that the students at Godinton have already beaten you to it by taking part in no less than three Sports Hall Athletics tournaments, all in the space of one week. Children across years 1 to 6 from schools throughout the East Kent area were invited to take part in the sporting festival which took place over three days. During the tournament, a carousel of activities were set up for each group which showcased their talents in field events such as throwing and jumping, and track events like the relay. Each child's attempt was measured and logged before an overall winner of each tournament was announced.



Although Godinton's year groups did not place in their respective competitions, the children put 100% effort into all their events, and if there had been a prize awarded to the most determined team, then Godinton would have won every tournament. Judging from the children's smiles after they had taken part in the games, they had a brilliant time.

A big thank you to all parents who transported their children to the events and stayed on to support the team, and to all staff for supervising the teams whilst the tournaments were taking place. However, the biggest thank you must go to the dream team of Mrs Crowfoot and Mrs Kelleher in the office, who work tirelessly to ensure that the children have access to such excellent sporting opportunities.