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Message from Miss Talbot

Raising the Roof

Those of you who have been on site since half term will have seen that work is well under way in replacing the roof covering the school hall, part of the kitchen and some of the surrounding rooms and corridors. Temporary accommodation will be put in place for the duration of the work which is anticipated to be finished by the end of July. This will include a temporary hall, kitchen and office spaces for our pastoral team. The temporary accommodation takes a number of weeks to set up so we should be in a position to move across to this shortly before Easter. We hope that most aspects of school life will continue to function with minimal disruption for the duration of the project.

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with the drop off at Breakfast Club and the pick up from Night Owls. We will continue to review how all aspects of operation are working, including use of the school car park and will let you know if any further changes need to be made.

Once the temporary hall space is operational we will then be able to determine how we will make school functions work such as Parents' Evening and PTFA events.



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WOW Walk to School Badge Competition

Well done to the 80 children who took part in the WOW Walk to School badge competition. The entries were fantastic and highlighted lots of artistic talent across the school.

I had the difficult task of choosing the 3 designs that we would submit to represent Godinton. It was a hard decision but in the end, designs from Noah O, Lucy H and Aaradhya G were selected. We'll keep everything crossed for success in the National competition. Certificates will be sent out to all children who took part.



If your child is arty, don't forget to get into school at 8.35 on Friday mornings so they can join in with our sketching activities in class. Our art leads, Miss Almond and Mrs Fagg set different challenges which the children are able to join in with as part of their early morning work.



Arbor

Thank you to all those of you who have already signed up to your Arbor accounts. This is the new one stop shop for a number of aspects of school management including keeping us updated on contact details, providing consent for school activities, booking parent evening appointments and making payments for wraparound care and school dinners.

As of **Monday 3rd March** all school communication will be sent out via Arbor and we will no longer use ParentMail for emails. Likewise payments for dinners, Breakfast Club and After School Club will start to be made through Arbor.

We have sent out information to parents about these changes. Please ensure that you take action now to activate your Arbor account so that you are ready for the changeover on Monday.

If you need any help in setting up your account please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

World Book Day



Don't forget that next week, Thursday 6th March, is World Book Day and we are inviting everyone to dress up as favourite book characters.

Find us on Instagram

Come and find us on our new Instagram account.

Godinton_Primary_School



We will be using the platform to provide information about school and to promote school events so please spread the word to friends and family. If you are happy for us to use photos of your child on Instagram you can update your consents on Arbor.

Mini Cadets

This year we have been able to offer a place in the Kent Police Mini Cadets programme to 13 children from Years 4 to 6. The programme is delivered by Youth Engagement Officers and is designed to teach young people about areas such as good citizenship and online safety. The children also take part in drills and produce a Social Action Project within their school or community. Also covered in the 10 week programme is learning how to contact the emergency services and how to administer basic first aid.



Kidenza Orchestra



A number of children from across years 4, 5, and 6 had a wonderful time learning about the different instruments in an orchestra and listening to them play at the Kidenza Orchestra performance at Highworth School last week. Among the pieces the children listened to were Gustav Holst Jupiter from the Planet Suit, Edvard Grieg In The Hall Of The Mountain King (from Peer Gynt) and finally the Star Wars theme tune which was one of the children's favourites.

The children represented the school extremely well but just as important were their smiley faces showing that a good time was had by all.

Running Late

Don't forget that it is important for children to arrive at school on time. Arriving late means that the school day has already started and learning has begun in class. Please ensure that your child arrives by 8.50 a.m.

Speech and Language— Balanced System

There have been some recent changes with regards to the way in which the Speech and Language therapy service works with schools. EKHUFT NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service are working with schools to establish the **Balanced System®** approach to meet the speech, language and communication needs of all children. This will provide an easy way for schools and parents to access speech, language and communication support. All schools have an allocated Link Speech and Language Therapist. Your child does not need to be on a waiting list to access the Link Speech and Language Therapist as access will be via school in partnership with parents. Our SENCo, Mrs Stein, will be able to discuss a child's progress with the Link Therapist and identify further support required. This could include the implementation of classroom approaches for all children, targeted provisions such as small group interventions for those who will benefit from more focused support, and/ or more individualised support.

The **Balanced System®** framework is being adopted in Kent and Medway after it has been implemented by other areas and within some individual schools in Kent and we are confident that it will transform the service for children, families and staff: 'The **Balanced System®** has helped our school to reflect on what we had in place and were doing to support Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). Please follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.thebalancedsystem.org/what-is-it/>

Our new link therapist, Eve Cryer will be coming into the SEND coffee morning on 19th May. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

Updated Policies

The following school policies have recently been updated and are available on the school website:

Curriculum Policy

GDPR Policy

Race Equality Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Inclusion Policy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Reading and Phonics Policy

PTFA Update

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the PTFA discos last term. These were a huge success and much enjoyed by all.

This term we have two PTFA events to look forward to—our Mothers' Day present shop and our Easter Bingo afternoon on Saturday 29th March.

Staff News

Next month we say goodbye to three members of our support team. Miss Richardson, one of our Year 4 TAs is starting a new job closer to her home in Folkestone, Miss Evelyn who is a playworker at Night Owls is starting an exciting new job with a local business and Mrs Bushell, one of our outdoor lunchtime play team is leaving to start working as a TA in Greatstone. We thank them all for the fantastic support they have given to our children and wish them well in their new roles.

We are currently advertising on Kent Teach for someone new to join our lunchtime Opal Play Team.

We also welcomed Mrs Burchett back to school this week after her return from maternity leave.

Other News and Reminders...

- Increasingly we have a number of exciting activities and resources set up on the Reception playground, and as we expand Opal Play, on the two playgrounds as well. We recognise that this can cause a lot of excited temptation from younger brothers and sisters whilst waiting to collect at the end of the day. Please can I ask that parents avoid their children playing with toys and resources that have been set out, particularly under the Reception canopy or if the temptation proves too great, that these are tidied up and put back as they were found. Many thanks.
- Don't forget your child has until Monday 10th March to submit an entry for our Children's Mental Health Week – Know Yourself, Grow Yourself challenge. Design and create a plant, tree or flower which shows different emotions and how they make you feel.
- Dates for your diary:
 - ⇒ Reports come out to parents on Tuesday 18th March
 - ⇒ Book Viewing takes place on Thursday 20th March 3.30 to 7.00 p.m.
 - ⇒ Parent consultations take place on Thursday 27th March from 3.30 to 7.30 p.m. and Tuesday 1st March 3.30 to 5.30p.m. Bookings will be made through Arbor—details on how to do this will be sent through shortly.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report— High Five League

The High 5 League starts this term; 10 of our children from across Year 5 and 6 have been chosen to represent Godinton in matches against 10 other local primary schools over the next 3 terms. The children have been practising very hard since September and are very excited to participate – Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot know that they will do us proud. Our first matches are on 21st March – wish us luck!

To keep our practice up, we will also be having two friendly matches on 7th March against Furley Park. Good luck everyone.