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### Message from Miss Talbot

### Getting Out and About

I've had the pleasure of accompanying two school trips over the past week (Maidstone Museum with Year 3 and The Rare Breeds Centre with Year R)—a rarity for me to get out of the office for two full days! And I'm so glad that I did—as it really reminded me as to why we offer a programme of such lovely off site visits at Godinton. Not only is it about the learning, the curriculum enhancement that educational visits provide but it's also about the more subtle benefits— the collective enjoyment of sharing the experience with friends, of being independent, of going on a coach for the first time, of having to carry your bag and lunch or of venturing somewhere you've never been to before. It's about coming home and telling mums and dads about the fun that you've had—and talking about all the amazing things that you've seen and done. We are so grateful to the support from our families in helping to cover the cost of the trips. We can only ever ask for voluntary contributions for school visits, with top up being provided by our school budget. Without contributions from parents, these trips wouldn't be viable and we wouldn't be able to offer all that we do. So thank you—seeing the enjoyment these visits bring to our children is magical!



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## Down on the Farm

It really was the perfect day on Monday as our Reception children set off on their very first school trip, to The Rare Breeds Centre in Hamstreet. At this time of year, it's all about the new born animals so that's where we headed first. In the lambing barn, the children saw lambs that were days old, in the pig shed we saw sleeping piglets and in the goat run we saw lots of very lively baby goats. But it wasn't just the cute babies that had the children gripped—the chickens with the very feathery legs, the noisy geese and the giant bulls, complete with nose rings were just as exciting. Then in the big barn, the children had the chance to stroke the very fluffy rabbits and guinea pigs—which were a huge hit with everyone. The children enjoyed a picnic lunch in the barn and a lovely play in the play park before cheering on their favourite pigs in the Pig Race. The perfect end to a perfect day.

The children were amazing throughout the day—they took turns, helped each other out and were brilliantly independent. We were very proud of them all. Some of the children were falling asleep even before they got on the coach—that giddy combination of fresh air and excitement which is always the sign of a good day out. Year R are off to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury after Half Term—I'm hoping that I'll be able to sneak out on that trip too!



## A Roman Discovery

Year 3's visit to Maidstone Museum was just as amazing and gave the children lots of opportunity to start making discoveries about life in Roman Britain. The visit comes at the start of the children's new topic and provided them with an exciting Launchpad to explore this area of our history curriculum.



In the morning, the children took part in two workshops. In the first, the children were able to handle trays of different objects and had to try and work out what they were, what they tell us about Roman life and whether the objects were genuine artefacts or clever replicas. Some of the children also had the opportunity to model Roman armour (just ask Victoria how heavy chain mail is—I think her arms must have ached after holding this!) In the second workshop, the children had the opportunity to make a Roman oil lamp and learnt how these would have been used to provide light.

After lunch, the children had the chance to explore the whole museum—learning not only more about the Romans, but about other periods of history too. Again the children were brilliant and had a wonderful day. If you haven't visited Maidstone Museum before, it is certainly worth a visit—there is plenty to see.



## Bingo!

All sorts of objects have been appearing in school since Mrs Carr launched our Opal Bingo challenge at the end of last term. Drainpipes, sparkly outfits and pom-poms are just some of the items to be ticked off the class bingo lists. Thank you so much to everyone for all your help with our Opal Play initiative. It has made a significant difference to lunch times—with so many different activities now available to the children. Each class will have a special treat once their bingo card is complete so please keep things coming in!

The latest zone to launch at lunchtimes is our new scooter track. We have a number of different sized scooters which the children are able to use on our playground course—so there is something for all age groups.



We are very grateful to our PTFA for their recent contribution to our outside activities—we have some large water play items which will shortly be set up on the small playground and some additional tables with benches to go on the field.

## Beautiful Bonnets

It seems like a long time since we had our Easter celebrations at Godinton, which brought the term to a lovely close.

Rev Cathy Aldis from St Mary's Church in Great Chart led our Easter assembly. It is always lovely to welcome Rev Cathy to Godinton and to have the link with our local church.



Our Easter bonnet parade has become a new Godinton tradition with an array of imaginative and creative hats coming into school. From Minecraft Easter bonnets to those that looked like crème eggs—we had many, many superb creations. Thank you for all the hard work that went into making these—they were amazing. The children paraded their bonnets to cheers and applause from the on-looking school.

In the afternoon we had our first Spring treasure hunt, organised by Mrs Gandon. This saw the children working in mixed age pairs to find hidden spring pictures around the school grounds. Everyone was rewarded with ice-pops and gold stickers for their efforts.

Have a look at more photos on Instagram [godinton\\_primary\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/godinton_primary_school)

## Kingswood Adventure

Our children's amazing behaviour also shone during the Year 5 residential to the Kingswood Activity Centre.



The children enjoyed a two night stay at the centre, at the end of last term and thoroughly enjoyed themselves from start to finish.

The activities selected for our children gave them plenty of opportunity to demonstrate their resilience, perseverance and bravery as they worked their way through a series of challenges. The children were brilliant at supporting each other and recognising each other's efforts. Sleeping in small dormitories of 4-6 children, they also enjoyed good food during their stay. With the weather been beautiful too, we couldn't have asked for more.

My thanks must go to all our staff who gave up their time to accompany the children, often getting very little sleep themselves.



## Handwriting

If you came into school for Book Viewing last term, you may have seen our Handwriting Heroes display board. Each week, from each class, we display a piece of amazing handwriting or celebrate someone who has made great strides with their handwriting.

We are currently having a big push on handwriting and letter formation across the school. Being able to write with clear, legible handwriting is essential but in a world where technology is being used more and more, we are finding that often children spend more time using technology out of school than writing or other fine motor skills such as colouring.

We have recently updated our Writing Policy which includes information about how children should form their letters and numbers and the progressive approach taken in school to teach handwriting. This can be found in the Writing section of the Curriculum drop down menu on the school website or by clicking on the link below.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/media/8313/writing-policy-2025.pdf>

We hope to see some of our Reception parents at one of our 'Pen Disco' workshops on the mornings of Wednesday 7th May or Friday 9th May. Pen Disco activities help to develop children's fine motor skills and encourage appropriate pencil grip. Details have been sent out to parents.



## Other News and Reminders...

- Please can I remind everyone, that scooters and bikes must be pushed as soon as you come onto the school site—this applies to pre-school brothers and sisters too. It gets very busy in the mornings and we want to avoid any accidents. Thank you.
- Don't forget that for May, June and July your child will need to walk, cycle, scoot or park and stride to school **twice a week** in order to get their WOW badge. I hope that families will take advantage of the lovely weather and leave the car at home and enjoy a walk to school in the sunshine.
- Our Parent Handbook has been updated and can be found in the drop down menu in the Parent section of the school website. This contains useful information about all aspects of school life.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

We are pleased to have Venture Camps back in school for term 5. They will be working with the children in Year 2 to develop and extend their invasion game skills: to throw and catch with control; to mark a player with a ball and choose which player to mark; to mark the space between attackers; to improve a variety of sending skills; to work as a team to plan a simple attack. The children have already had two sessions this term, which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

We have been fortunate to have had two free coaching sessions offered to our school by Chelsea FC. Twenty of our children across Years 3–6 were chosen by our football club coaches and teachers to participate in these sessions. During the sessions the children completed a number of skills based activities and mini-games with a Chelsea FC Coach. All the participants that Mrs Crowfoot spoke to provided her with very positive feedback about how much they had enjoyed the sessions, so much so that some may be considering changing their favourite football club!