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Message from Miss Talbot

World Music Day

The sound of music could be heard across the school last Monday as we held a special day of activities to celebrate music styles from around the world. Each year group focused on the traditional music of a different area of the globe and explored how this music is played and on which instruments. The children listened to various pieces of music from their allocated country and some classes even had a go at making their own instruments.

The highlight of the day were the musical workshops which Mrs Kelleher, our Music Lead, had arranged for the children and which were kindly funded by our PTFA. Year R to 2 enjoyed an amazing drumming workshop in which they had the opportunity to try out the sounds made by different drums and Years 3 to 6 enjoyed an instrument workshop, trying out a wide range of instruments and finding out how each made it's unique sound.

This was a brilliant opportunity to enhance our music curriculum and to give our children the opportunity to experience the joy of music from different cultures.



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Down by the River

We have very much enjoyed taking our children out and about over the past few months and giving them opportunities to enhance their Learning Adventure topics through practical hands on experience.



At the start of the term, it was the turn of Year 5 to venture off site as they headed to Brockhill Country Park in Hythe for a day of geography fieldwork activities. With a central lake and the Brockhill Stream (a small, groundwater-fed stream that flows through the valley area of the park and eventually makes its way towards the Royal Military) the park offers an excellent base to learn about rivers, the wildlife found in this environment and water flow.

The children enjoyed pond dipping where they discovered which creatures live in the river and learnt about how river biodiversity links to river health and why this is important. They challenged each other to build the best raft and raced them along the river keeping a close eye on which part of the river flowed the fastest. The children then used their scientific observation skills to measure the flow of the river by timing how fast dog biscuits flowed down the river at different points. All of the children had a wonderful day of learning outside of the classroom getting their hands dirty and their feet very wet!

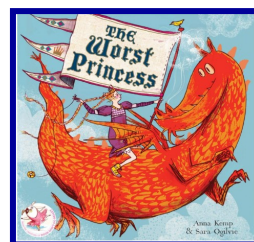


A Castle Adventure



Year 2 loved their trip to Leeds Castle earlier in the month which gave them a first hand glimpse as to what castle life was like. The children have been learning about the design of different styles of castle and how this helped to defend the inhabitants from enemy attack. During their visit, the children toured the castle and grounds, met 'Logan' a black barn owl, some swans and lots and lots of ducks and geese and had great fun acting in the 'Cybil the Cygnet' workshop, where some children displayed a real flair for performing! It was a really lovely trip which everyone enjoyed.

The Worst Princess



Year R also had a recent venture out with a castle link—this time to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury to watch a live stage performance of the book 'The Worst Princess' by Anna Kemp. The story tells the tale of feisty Princess Sue who awaits rescuing from a tower by a handsome prince. However when her rescuer arrives, he's not quite what she had in mind. The children enjoyed watching how the princess escaped the clutches of the prince in this funny, feminist twist on the traditional princess tale. Forget about pretty dresses, fairytale weddings and grand balls, Princess Sue is all about adventure, mischief and making unusual friends.

A Whirlwind Week of Adventure, Creativity and Crusty Pizza!

The week before last saw our Year 6 children dive into a jam-packed Activity Week filled with fun, flour, and a fair bit of fresh air. From Monday to Friday, no two days were the same—and judging by the smiles (and occasional splatters of paint, rocky road and mud), a fantastic time was had by all.

The week kicked off on Monday with an arts and crafts extravaganza, as both classes got stuck into a day brimming with creativity. On Tuesday, the excitement ramped up with a grand day out to Chessington—rides, laughter and unexpected thrills thrown in for good measure (with Tiger Falls stalled, two riders stopped at the very top of the plunge, enjoying a panoramic view they never ordered!)



Wednesday saw the year group split, with some children heading off on their residential adventure, while others stayed local but certainly not low-key. Those who remained enjoyed a mouth-watering morning at Pizza Express, where they delved into the history of this much-loved

dish, learned the art of pizza-making and devoured their delicious creations in a nearby park. Whilst those who headed off to Bowl Water began three days of adventure which included raft building, paddle boarding and axe throwing.



Thursday served up a delicious mix of culinary challenges and sportsmanship. While some children represented the school brilliantly at the Challenger Games, others stayed behind and embraced their inner chefs, whipping up rocky road, smoothies and cheese and onion pinwheels.

Finally, Friday brought a wild twist—Black Wolf Survival joined the children for a hands-on day of den building, fire lighting and arrow crafting with natural materials. It was survival skills meets Bear Grylls (without the need to eat any bugs – phew!). Our Bowl Water adventurers also returned home exhausted after so many amazing activities, especially out on the water.

All in all, it was a week to remember—messy, marvellous and packed with moments the children won't soon forget.



Kent Challenger Games



Last Thursday afternoon, ten determined children from Years 5 and 6 proudly represented our school at the Kent Challenger Games, held

at the Julie Rose Stadium. The event began in spectacular fashion with an opening ceremony banner parade, where schools from across Kent proudly displayed their banners, setting the tone for a day filled with teamwork, resilience and determination.

With the sun beaming down and the competition heating up, our young athletes embarked on a high-energy adventure designed to challenge them in problem-solving, endurance and collaboration. The event featured a series of exciting stations spread across the athletics field, each carefully crafted to test their skills in team-building, strategic thinking and perseverance.

Despite the intensity of the challenges, our children never faltered, demonstrating outstanding commitment and a true "I can" attitude—the very motto of the Games. Their hard work paid off in spectacular fashion! Not only did they excel in teamwork and perseverance, but they also secured third place in the banner competition, earning an impressive £100 in McArthur Glen vouchers. Their creativity and school spirit shone through in their design, making a lasting impact. But the achievements didn't stop there—these dedicated competitors went on to claim third place overall in the entire competition, a testament to their unwavering dedication and exceptional teamwork. The scorching sunshine may have added to the challenge, but it certainly didn't hold them back. With enthusiasm and determination, they tackled every obstacle with grit and confidence. Their efforts and achievements left us beaming with pride, proving that when teamwork, resilience and positivity come together, anything is possible.

A huge congratulations to our incredible team—you embodied the true spirit of the Kent Challenger Games, and we couldn't be prouder!

Our Brilliant Buddies

It has been lovely having some of our buddies on the school gate in the morning to help welcome our children into school. They have been brilliant and have forged some lovely relationships with our younger children which really has been delightful to see. As our current Year 6s come to the end of their time as buddies, I would like to thank Ray, Jocelyn, Honor and Caitlin for all their early morning help.



Year 6 are currently completing a handover to our new buddies from Year 5 who are learning the ropes so that they can continue the amazing job started by Year 6.



Thank you to Miss King, Mrs McGibney and Mrs Carr for the training and support provided to our wonderful team of playground buddies.

PTFA Update

We couldn't have asked for better weather for our PTFA Summer Fair last weekend (although Mr and Mrs Stein who magnificently manned the BBQ may have welcomed a much cooler day!)

Thank you so much to everyone who helped by providing donations, buying or selling raffle tickets, helping to set up or pack away or turned up with family and friends to support the event.

A huge thank you to our PTFA for all their organisation. We are so lucky to have a PTFA when so many schools have struggled to keep a committee in place. They are an amazing team.

We are on the look out for a new treasurer and secretary to come onto the committee as Mrs Gandon would like to hand over the baton with regards to these roles. If anyone is interested please come and have a chat with me on the gate or get in touch with me via email or Mrs Prior our Chair ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

We would love to welcome some new recruits to the team.

We will be holding our AGM in September. Further details will be provided shortly.

Year R Heroes Day

Thank you to all the dads, grandads, uncles and other special heroes who joined us for our Reception Classes' Heroes Day ahead of father's day.

The children loved singing to you all and sharing with you what they love about you all.

Mixing things up at Lunchtime



Our Opal Playtimes are going from strength to strength with an ever increasing array of activities for the children to enjoy. A particular hit with children, across all year groups, has been the dressing up costumes. It is now not uncommon to find footballers in tutus playing on the pitch or princesses in the teepees. If anyone has any unwanted dressing up costumes we would very happily find a good home for them—we can't get enough!

To ensure that our older children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to play with our youngest children, should they wish we have been trialling giving Upper School an early lunch once a fortnight so they are able to play with children from all year groups. This has proved a huge success and the younger children have loved having older siblings and friends to play with. This is something that we plan to extend next academic year.

We are still running our Opal Bingo competition, so if you are able to help us out with any donations that can be ticked off your child's class Bingo card—that would be brilliant.

We are also still on the scrounge for a giant pipe (large enough for children to climb through) in order to help transform the rather flat level of our field. Please let Mrs Carr know if you know of anyone who may be able to help with this.

Sports Day

It was lovely to see so many of you join us for our 2025 Sports Day earlier in the month.

The morning saw the children competing in track events in year groups, gaining points which contributed to the overall results. Leeds House emerged as the winners from the morning session with 183 points, beating runners up Rochester by 23 points. Having had a picnic lunch on the field and a chance to recharge their batteries, the children then competed in 10 different team events, working with children from their house across all year groups. Activities included javelin, football and hockey dribble and a variety of throwing events. The overall winning house will be announced in assembly on Friday.

Roof Update

You may have noticed that the scaffolding over the school roof has almost all come down now, meaning that we are on the home straight with regards to work being completed. Our new roof is securely in place and the decorators are now in completing the redecoration of the hall. At my catch up meeting with our contractors and consultants last week, we discussed the move back into the main building and the dismantling of the temporary hall, which may well now take place just before the end of the academic year.

Thank you to everyone for all your cooperation whilst this essential work takes place.

All being well, we will be back to normal at the start of the next academic year.

Staff News



After stacking up over 50 years at Godinton between them, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Bailey and Mrs King at the end of the year. Mrs Bailey and Mrs King have both been outdoor lunchtime supervisors for many, many years and have now decided to retire and become ladies of leisure. Both Mrs Bailey and Mrs King will be very much missed from the team—we thank them for everything they have done for our school and wish them all the very best for the future. We will still see Mrs Bailey in the mornings next year as she will be continuing with her gate guardian role.

These departures mean that we are currently running an advert on Kent Teach to find two new members of staff to join our outdoor play team and to help us with our Opal adventure. Further details can be found on the Kent Teach website:

<https://www.kent-teach.com/School/Directory/CurrentJobs.aspx?SchoolId=1857>



Other News and Reminders...

- Just a reminder that school reports will be coming out to parents of children in Years R to 5 on Monday 7th July and to Year 6 on Friday 11th July (once SATs results have been returned to school). We are currently consulting with parents on school reports and parents consultations and how useful you find these. If you have a spare 5 minutes, please complete the questionnaire (link sent via Arbor) and share your feedback with us.
- Open Afternoon this year takes place after school on Tuesday 8th July, when you can also pop in and meet your child's new teacher. Further details will come out this week, including information about the teacher your child will be having next year.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

High Five League—Our High 5 league team started the competitive half of their fixtures on Friday 16th May; they are in an ability-based pool, competing for medals and trophies over 6 matches. We had our first two matches on that day, winning the first one outright 6–3 and receiving a technical win for the second match. Since then we have played another two matches and won them both, meaning that we are currently at the top of our pool. With only two matches left to play, the team know they still have to work hard to maintain our position, but are looking forward to the challenge.



ADPSSA High 5 Tournament – On Saturday 21st June (before the Summer Fair) 7 children from across Years 5 and 6 competed in the Ashford District Primary School Sports Association High 5 Tournament; they played 7 matches across the morning and then a final play-off match. Despite the heat, our children played really well and had a great time, coming 7th in the tournament overall. Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot would like to

express their thanks to the parents who came along to support the children and helped us by making sure the children were rested and shaded (and provided with ice-pops) in between matches.