



GAZETTE

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Message from Miss Talbot

A Celebration Of Colour

January this year has been a particularly grey and gloomy month, so it was lovely to inject some much needed colour into the school on our Art Day last week. Taking the theme of colour, and everything from monochrome to rainbows, the children approached the day with creativity and heaps of enthusiasm.

Throughout the day, each child created their own coloured circle, working carefully in a single colour and exploring how many different shades, tones, and patterns could be made within that one hue. From swirling blues to fiery reds and glowing yellows, every circle became a unique mini-masterpiece. The children experimented with lines, dots, spirals, and repeating patterns in a wide range of media including pastels and paints discovering how expressive a single colour can be when used imaginatively. In addition to their circle artwork, the children explored colour in the wider world of art. Year 6 studied the bold, geometric compositions of Piet Mondrian whilst Year 2 took on the challenge of monochrome doodles, producing striking black-and-white designs in the style of Mr Doodle.

One of the highlights still to come will be the unveiling of our corridor installation, created by joining every child's circle into one large collaborative artwork. Once assembled, the piece will form a colourful pathway through the hall corridor—a fantastic celebration of what we can achieve when we create together.



An Unforgettable Night at the O2 Arena



Earlier this month, 55 of our talented singers from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena in London—an extraordinary experience which I am sure they will remember for years to come.

Joining more than 8,000 children from across the South East, our children became part of one of the largest school choirs in the world. The atmosphere inside the arena was electric, with a packed audience cheering on thousands of young performers who had worked so hard to prepare for this moment.

The Young Voices choir performed a wonderful selection of songs, including a lively pop medley, a rousing sea shanty medley, favourites from the musical *Wicked*, and of course the iconic Young Voices anthem, “The Power in Me.” This unforgettable performance was the result of months of dedication. The children began rehearsing last July, showing real commitment as they learned lyrics, mastered harmonies, and built confidence together.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Stein and Mrs Fagg for their endless efforts with rehearsals, the staff and parents who supported the trip, the families who came to cheer from the audience, and—most importantly—our wonderful children, who sang their hearts out and represented our school brilliantly.

Young Voices is more than a concert; it's an experience that inspires teamwork, resilience and a lifelong love of music. We're thrilled our children had the opportunity to be part of something so special.

Clear as 'MUD' – Managing Uncertainty Daily.

It is always a pleasure to be able to work with Godinton parents in different capacities, and especially through their involvement in the workshops we have had on offer this year. This term, Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney have been delivering MUD (Managing Uncertainty Daily) workshops to a group of 18 parents taking part in this 6 week programme. This piloted course had a delayed start due to burst pipes, but I'm sure the parents who are involved would say that it's been really useful in helping them to understand some of the challenges beneath anxious behaviours seen in their children, whether it's attachment and separation or school based anxiety, and how when it's linked to ASD traits or neuro diversity this can create more difficulties within their child at school and at home.

Together through lived experiences and shared expertise, the group is learning more about parenting styles, what contributes to anxious behaviour, and strategies to support their children—recognising that there is a fine line between seeking to rescue them or avoiding situations and giving them the skills for success. By the end of the 6-week course we hope parents will have lots of tools and tips to manage change and daily difficulties in a more confident manner.

Hopefully we will host another 'MUD' course later in the year for those who missed out on this one.

A Huge Opal Thank You



Opal Play has been a huge success since we started the scheme back in September 2024. We are making better use of our grounds by opening the field all year round for everyone to enjoy, we are seeing the children develop new skills and use their imagination through activities such as Den Building, Construction, Art and Basketball and we are seeing new friendships developing as children across all year groups are mixing and being given better opportunities and choices of what to do during their lunchtimes. It is a joy for us all to see such happy children, especially in all this miserable winter weather we are having.



As you know, we rely heavily on donations to help us keep things fresh and exciting for the children and we are so grateful for any donation, big or small. Some of the larger donations we've had recently are from some Kent companies and we'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank them. We have had approximately 150 excellent quality tyres donated from Toby and Erin's Dad at D&D Autos which will

be used in a project we have planned to be up and running in the summer months. We've also had some amazing cable drums donated from Marcie's Dad from Port of Dover, some cable drums from Albie's family who work for UK Power Networks and a personal donation from Ezra's Dad. Many thanks for all your donations, it really does mean the world to us and the children. If you ever have anything you are thinking of throwing out that you think could be useful in Opal, please email Mrs Carr on opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk and she will get back to you.



Lunchtime Staff Update

This month, we have said goodbye to two members of our lunchtime team. Mrs Fulford, has stepped down from her regular role in our outdoor play team but we will still see her from time to time providing relief cover at lunchtime. We welcome Miss Rose to the team and look forward to working with her.

We have also said goodbye to Miss Heselden who has been part of our indoor lunchtime team for the past 25 years. As Miss Heselden becomes a lady of leisure, Mrs Latif, will be putting on her apron and joining our indoor team.

Celebrating the UK National Year of Reading 2026



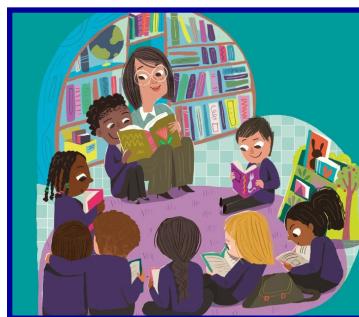
This year marks the UK National Year of Reading 2026, and we are excited to join schools across the country in celebrating the joy, magic and lifelong value of reading. Throughout the year, we will be engaging with a range of activities designed to inspire our children, strengthen reading habits and help every child to become a life long reader.

One of our new initiatives will be our termly 'Book Buzz' sessions, where children can share books they enjoy with their classmates. These informal class reading events aim to spark conversation, build confidence and help pupils recommend stories to one another. Whether it's a gripping adventure, a funny picture book or a fascinating non-fiction title, 'Book Buzz' will encourage children to celebrate books and hopefully discover new, exciting texts.

In March, we will once again celebrate World Book Day with a host of activities across the school. Whilst we won't be dressing up this year, we will be engaging the children with activities to promote books and reading including online author opportunities and book based class lessons. We will also be enjoying more paired reading sessions, where older and younger children will come together to read, talk about stories and support one another. These shared experiences not only build reading fluency and confidence but also strengthen friendships and foster a supportive school reading community.

Later in the year, we hope to launch a book swap library which will give children the chance to bring in books they have enjoyed and exchange them for something new. Book swaps are a fantastic way to refresh home bookshelves at no cost while promoting the idea that stories are meant to be shared. Please hold on to any unwanted, good quality books you may have and look out for further details on how these can be donated to the school.

As part of our celebrations, we also plan to invite parents and carers into school for a special summer reading event. This will be an opportunity for families to take part in reading activities, discover new authors together and learn more about how we can all support reading for pleasure at home.



A key aim of the National Year of Reading is to help children read more regularly beyond school. We encourage all our children to spend a little time each day reading at home—whether independently, with a sibling, or alongside a grown-up. Reading widely and often builds vocabulary, imagination, confidence and a lifelong love of learning.

To help families find inspiring books, the BookTrust website offers excellent recommended reading lists for all ages. Further information can be found at: www.booktrust.org.uk

We look forward to a fantastic year filled with stories, imagination and the joy of reading. Together, let's make 2026 a year where every child discovers the power of books.

Celebrating Achievements With Proud Pegs



The Proud Pegs in each classroom are a fantastic way to share children's achievements both in and out of school. Each child is invited, at any time, to bring in a photo or picture of something special they have done at home. It might be a first-time achievement, an award, a hobby they've worked hard on, or simply something they feel proud of. Children can peg up their picture on their class Proud Peg to share their achievements with their classmates.

Proud Pegs aren't only for home achievements—children can also choose to display something amazing they've done at school, such as a brilliant piece of writing, a super piece of artwork, or a moment when they showed real effort, kindness or resilience.

Our aim is to create a warm, encouraging space where every child can feel valued, confident and proud of the things that make them unique.

INSET Day Reminder

Just a reminder that Friday 13th February is an INSET day and school will be closed to children on this day.

We return to school after the February Half Term on Monday 23rd February.

Burst Pipe Update

I had hoped that we would be further on with the arrangements to get all classrooms functional again after the pipe leaks we returned to at the start of term, but unfortunately our recovery plan is moving slowly. This is mainly due to the fact that the three most affected classrooms still require drying out. Dehumidifiers and additional drying measures have been actioned but we can't start the process of returning these classrooms to use until humidity levels return to normal limits.

This means that for the rest of this term and probably for part of next term, we will need to continue to use temporary classroom spaces: the after school mobile, the computing room and the school hall. Upper school classes are taking turns in using the hall so that all classes have the opportunity to have some ordinary classroom provision and this is working as well as it can, with children and staff demonstrating great patience and resilience. This arrangement has however compromised the use of the hall for PE lessons. We are trying to make use of our outside space for PE sessions as best we can but have been up against so much wet weather, this is proving challenging. With a class continuing to be based in the computing room we have been unable to fully deliver our computing curriculum.

These arrangements are far from ideal and are immensely frustrating. We are doing all we can to move the process along as swiftly as we can and I will continue to keep you updated as and when I know a little more.

Other News and Reminders...

- If anyone has any items of school uniform that their child has outgrown, these can be donated to our pre-loved uniform cupboard in the entrance foyer. This cupboard contains a variety of uniform items which are free for parents to help themselves to.
- To help some of our families we will also be having a toiletry item drive the week after half term. We know that we have families within our community who would greatly benefit from assistance in the form of toiletry items such as bubble bath, toothpaste, soap or deodorant or washing items such as laundry pods. If you are able to help with our '**Share the Care**' campaign, any donations can be placed into the box in the entrance foyer for a two week period from Monday 23rd February. If you need anything, please help yourself to donations from the box
- Please remember that we are a nut free school as we have children in school with severe nut allergies. This means that raw nuts and nut based products are not allowed, including, cereal bars containing nuts such as almonds, peanut butter and Nutella spread. Thank you for not including these items in your child's packed lunch.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Sporting Update

With our hall out of action for some PE lessons we have had to postpone the RISE gymnastic sessions we had planned for years 2 and 5 which were due to be delivered by the Venture Camps team. We are hoping to reschedule these for Term 4.

We have some other sporting activities planned for the summer, including a golf day in Term 5. This event will give children in all year groups the opportunity to try out a series of golfing activities. We can't wait for better weather and the chance to get active outside.