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Message from Miss Talbot

Survival of the Fittest

Just after half term, Year 6 enjoyed their end of year, ‘Activity Week’. Some of the children took part in a range of activities within the local area, including a trip to Wagamamas for a cookery workshop and a day of survival skills led by the team from BlackWolf survival and Bushcraft. The children now know how to make noodles and what to do if they ever find themselves abandoned in a forest! Important life skills indeed! The rest of the children enjoyed a few days away at the Bawl Water residential centre. A highlight of the visit was the stand up paddle boarding, but the children also enjoyed a range of other water and land based activities. With their own private dining room at the centre, the children all had a wonderful time. My thanks go to all our staff who helped make these experiences such amazing ones for our children.



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Visits out and about Year 5– Tales from the Riverbank

It has been a very busy term, with barely a week having gone by where we haven't had a class out on an educational visit.

Year 5 found themselves knee deep in water during their recent river study trip. Led by the environmental centre team at Horton Kirby, the children investigated factors which cause rivers to change shape and investigated the speed of flow at various points along the River Darent. The heavy rainfall in the spring and early summer meant that the water level was spot on for collecting data which the children brought back to school to analyse.

As so often is the case when our children take part in visits we received lovely feedback from the instructors: *'We were so impressed by your children—all so polite, respectful and enthusiastic! Well done to the whole school community!'*

We are immensely proud of all the children and how well they represented the school during their visit.



Year 2– Turrets and Tall tales



Year 2 have had lots of adventures this year and their most recent one saw them exploring Leeds Castle. By participating in a range of activities, the children experienced what life would have been like for those living in the castle when it was first built in 1119. They explored how the inhabitants of the castle defended themselves from potential invaders, what they would have eaten and the function of different rooms within the castle. Rain didn't dampen their spirits and the children all had an amazing day.

Year 3 and 4 at Kent Life Workshops

Year 4 explored what life was like during the Second World War when they visited Kent Life at the end of last term for a day of themed workshops. The children have produced some amazing work in connection with this topic and the visit to Kent Life helped to consolidate their learning.

Year 3 also visited Kent Life this week to learn more about life in Roman Britain—they even had the opportunity to meet Boudicca and to find out more about her uprising against the conquering force of the Roman army.

Kent Challenger Games

A group of children from Year 4 and 5 took part in this year's Kent Challenger Games earlier this month. This is an inclusive community event involving local schools to promote sporting activity and to bring the local schools community together. Held at the Julie Rose stadium, the event gives children the experience of a range of athletic and team building activities.



Each team taking part, was asked to design a motivational banner to promote inclusion in sports. Designed by our children, the Godinton banner gained us third place in the competition and saw the school receive a £100 voucher for the designer outlet. Every child who took part received a certificate and a medal.

Those children taking part demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, motivation and team spirit. My thanks go to Mrs Prior and Mrs Jury for accompanying the event.



Timings of the School Day – September 2023

Thank you to those of you who returned feedback on the proposed timings of the school day for September 2023.

Having taken all the feedback and suggestions into consideration and in light of the very few responses opposing the proposal, we have made the decision to implement the following timings as of 1st September 2023.

Close of morning register at 8.50 (all children to be in school by then)

End of school day at 3.20

Gates will open from 8.35, slightly earlier than they do now and children will be able to come into school from this time.

Reception children will start at 8.50 but will continue with a 3.10 finish as they are exempt from these expectations.

Under these new timings, Breakfast Club and After School Club would still operate as normal. After school clubs and activities would continue to be offered as they do now. We are able to make arrangements so that our Road Crossing patrol is able to offer assistance in line with the revised times.

Thank you to those families who took part in the first practise morning. We only had 22 children who arrived after 8.50. We have a further practise day before the end of term and although not compulsory, we would ask that parents get their children to school by 8.50 so that you can see how well this works for you. The next practise date is **Wednesday 12th July**.

On this day, gates will open at 8.35 and pick up will remain at 3.15.

Building Update

We are still awaiting the results of the structural survey undertaken on areas of the school where the roof is constructed from RAAC (reinforced aerated autoclaved concrete). As previously explained, this is a type of concrete, commonly used in buildings constructed in the 1970s and 80s which is now known to reach the end of its life after around 40–50 years. We have been very proactive in addressing the RAAC we have in the school but following a change in the regulations regarding RAAC in public buildings, further surveys have been required. Please be assured that regular surveys that we have commissioned independently and a recent assessment commissioned by the DfE have deemed the school to be safe.

The results of the survey will determine whether we are able to reopen these areas of the school, whether additional remedial work is required or whether the areas need to remain closed pending further investigation. I will update you as soon as there is something to tell.

The condition of school buildings across the country and the Government's approach to addressing this has been the subject of a recent report commissioned by the National Audit Office. The timing of this report which explores wider school issues and not just RAAC, has attracted a lot of media interest. There has been inaccurate reporting about our school in the local media, with claims last week that the school had been shut. Please note that all communications about the school building will come from me and that reports in the media are often speculation.

Whilst investigations are ongoing, the children are enjoying dining in the very large marquee out on the school field (which they also think would be very good for a roller disco!!). On days when thunderstorms have been forecast, lunch will take place in the classrooms. We have also used the marquee for assemblies and PE lessons.

Thank you to everyone for all your cooperation as we address these current circumstances.

World Book Day Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all the children who took part in this year's World Book Day Reading Challenge. Just over 70 children took part and have read themselves through a combined total of almost 2,000 books which is amazing.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to those who took part before the end of term.



For more reading fun, why not take part in Kent Libraries Summer Reading Challenge which starts on Saturday 8 July and will continue to run throughout the summer, finishing on Saturday 9 September. Click on the link below for more information.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd_jU2AlUkM

PTFA News

It has also been a busy time for our PTFA. In anticipation of Father's day we held our first 'Father's Day Present Shop', which proved to be a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone who made a donation or helped out with the event.

It was lovely to see so many of our children, ex-pupils and their families at our Summer Fair this year; enjoying the sunshine and all the activities on offer. Our summer fair is all about bringing our community together and I'm grateful to everyone who came down to join in the fun, especially in difficult financial times. A highlight of the fair is always seeing those who have moved from Godinton, come back to say hello.

We are immensely lucky to have such a hard-working PTFA who put in a huge amount of effort to make this and other events a success. I would like to pass my sincere gratitude onto— Lynsay Keech, Laura Gilroy, Jo Gandon, Keri Humphrey, Nicola Smith and to all our other parent and staff helpers for everything they did both on the day and in preparation for the fair.

The PTFA had another dozen ideas for activities for the fair but were unable to make the number of helpers stretch to cover these. If we have enough volunteers, we would be able to operate shifts on stalls so that those helping also get the chance to enjoy the fair with their families as well as extending the number of activities on offer. If you can spare any time to help out at any PTFA event, we would be very grateful. We are looking at different ways in which we can encourage people to sign up for helping out at events.

Funds raised from the summer fair will go towards developing an outdoor 'chill out zone' on the playground which is currently being designed by our Mini Management Team. This area will centre around a number of wooden tepees which can be used to provide a calm space amidst the busy playground atmosphere. If anyone thinks that they may be able to help with this – working for a company that supplies astro-turf or rubberised floor surfacing or a company that could help us out with tepees, please let me know.

Time for French

This term, Year 6 have been developing their French language skills in a series of lessons led by Maryline Maurez, from 'Time for French'. The children have been building up their French vocabulary and conversational skills ahead of their transition to secondary school.

Maryline also runs the Time for French Club once a week, after school at Godinton. The club will continue to run next academic year on a Tuesday for children in Years R to 6. Further details can be found by visiting the Time for French website:

www.timeforfrench.co.uk

This term 13 children have taken part in the Time for French Club. Bravo! to the following children for their amazing efforts during their club sessions: Cyrus K, Karl K, Emily W, Benjamin W, Oliver R, Jack B, Rory S, Ellia A, Alexandra K, Neo P, Scarlet H, Felix G, Max P.

Can anyone help with large project fundraising?

In times of greater financial hardship, you may work for a business that is looking to help out a school with projects that are far greater than funds will allow us to develop. We have a number of large projects in mind which will be of enormous benefit to our children but with increasing staffing costs and building maintenance work – these valuable extras are often beyond our reach. Can you help in anyway with the following:

We are looking for sponsorship from a business or businesses who may be able to help us out with donations of up to £15,000 in order to enable us to build a much needed canopy on our Reception playground. Learning for our youngest children takes place both inside and outside but for much of the year, when the weather is wet and windy, it proves more challenging to set activities up for the children in the outside environment that won't succumb to the elements. This would include having more reading and writing activities outside, and more sheltered play based activities. The costs of purpose built canopies for schools, which meet the required safety standards, are high. We have committed some of our allocated budget towards this but still require financial assistance to do this.

Do you work for a company that could help us out with a the donation of a large shed which can be used to help our Forest School provision, both as an area for storage and somewhere the children can change out of their wellies before heading back into the main building? If you are able to help with the man-power to help put this up, even better. Our Forest School provision has been a highlight of the last academic year and has been seen to have very positive benefits on our children's mental health.

Finally, we are looking for a business that might be able to help us out with the construction of some raised beds which can be used for growing plants, fruit and vegetables.

The power of the local community can be immense when we come together. If anyone can help in any capacity or knows of anyone or any businesses that might be able to help us out, please let me know.

Open Afternoon

We would be delighted to welcome you into school on Monday 10th July for our Open Afternoon which will be held between 3.30 and 5.00 pm.

This is an end of year opportunity for parents to come and have a look at their children's work in the classroom (or outside if the sun carries on shining). The children always enjoy showing their books to their parents and telling them about their classrooms. Parents are also able to visit their child's next teacher and the classroom they will be having next year. The children will have spent the afternoon with their new teacher on this day, so they will already be a familiar face. Class teachers will be based in their current classrooms. If you need help in finding them, please just ask. Please enter and exit the main school building via the external doors that will be open. There will be no access to classrooms via the front office due to the corridor closures in place.

Start of Academic Year 2023–24

Just a reminder that the new academic year starts on Friday 1st September.

The term dates for 2023–24 are available on the school website.

Term dates for 2024–25 will be set at the start of next academic year.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please ensure that your child applies suncream before they come to school. Although the weather has been a little cooler in recent days, higher temperatures are predicted again before the end of term. It's a good idea to also ensure that your child has a sunhat or cap in school. Please can water bottles be named so that they can be returned to your child in the event that they get left somewhere. Your child should have their water bottle in school every day.
- If your child is in Years R to 5, they will be bringing home their final report of the year on Tuesday 11th July. If your child is in Year 6, their reports will come out to you on Friday 14th July.



Sports Report



We hope that you enjoyed this year's sports day. We were very proud of the effort that all the children put into their events and the way in which each team looked after each other during both the morning and afternoon events. The Sports Day winners have yet to be announced as scores will be converted to House Points and added to the end of year House totals.

Congratulations to members of our football team who took part in a football tournament hosted by Charlton Athletic F.C. The tournament involved schools from across London and the South East. The team represented our school extremely well and showed off their talents admirably, facing some stiff opposition of a high standard. We were extremely proud of how well our team performed; They lost two matches, won two and drew one.



Our grateful thanks go our Godinton F.C coach, Steve Taylor who has worked extremely hard with the team and to Mrs Gandon for driving the team minibus.

Our High Five team have gone from strength to strength this year and have especially shown huge dedication and resilience throughout the second half of the league. We ended our season on Friday 30th June with a 5-3 win, which meant that we were 4th in our pool overall. Mrs Crowfoot and Mrs Ellis were extremely proud of everyone in the team and have been grateful for the parents' support each week. Well done everyone.