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Message from Miss Talbot

Here comes summer!

It seems hard to believe that we have reached the end of the academic year – the time seems to fly by so quickly. Over the course of the year we have enjoyed getting to know all our new Reception children and their families. I hope those of you who are new to life at Godinton, have enjoyed your child’s first year with us. We are certainly very proud of the progress they have made and how they are more than ready to take their next steps into Year 1.

For Year 6, Friday marks the end of their time with us. It doesn’t seem like 7 years since they started at Godinton. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and blossom and on behalf of the whole team at Godinton, we wish all our Year 6 children the very best for the exciting futures that lie ahead of them.



Godinton Primary School
 Lockholt Close,
 Ashford,
 Kent.
 TN23 3JR
 Tel: 01233 621616
www.godinton.kent.sch.uk
office@godinton.kent.sch.uk
headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk



Year 4 VE Day Party

Year 4 rounded off their World War Two Learning Adventure last week with a spectacular VE Day party. The children loved having their parents and grandparents join in with their celebrations which included a host of songs from the 1930s and 1940s, played by Mrs Kelleher and her ukulele band.

I hope that all of you who came to watch had a wonderful time.

Year 6 Caribbean Day

In their Learning Adventure this year, Year 6 have learnt about the Caribbean. They have explored trade and exports from Caribbean countries and have followed the journey of those who came to the UK from the Caribbean on Windrush.

This week, as part of their end of year celebrations, the children took part in a steel pan workshop as part of a Caribbean Day. The children had the opportunity to play steel drums and learnt about the history of steel pans within Caribbean culture. Trying different foods from the Caribbean rounded off an amazing day!



House Points

Congratulations to all of our children who gained their gold house point badges this year and enjoyed their reward trip to Ashford Bowling on Monday. Over 80 children gained this badge which is very impressive. We are very proud of all our children and the efforts that they have put into gaining their house point badges this year.

This year it was Rochester that were our Sports Day winners. The points from all our Sports Day events, are added to our overall house point totals for the year and mean that this year's winning house is Rochester!

All house points re-set at the start of the academic year. We look forward to seeing how the children get on next year.

Getting Ready for Next Year

Please remember that children do not need large school bags. Our cloakrooms are small and storage is difficult. Large bags with wheels won't be allowed in September. Children in Years R and 1 only need to have a school book bag.

Further details will be shared with you in the Year Group Welcome letters which will go out at the start of September.

Water bottles should not exceed 500 ml. Only water is permitted in school for drinking in class. All children should have a water bottle in school every day. Please ensure that these are clearly named. Empty 'Prime' or energy drink bottles are not permitted as school water bottles.

Don't Forget about our New Timings

Just a reminder that when we come back in September we will begin our new timings for the beginning and end of the school day.

Gates will open at 8.35 in the morning and our school day will begin at 8.50. All children must be in school by this time.

The school day will end at 3.20. Reception children will continue to be seen out of class from 3.10.

Mrs Humphrey has adjusted her lollipop duty times to ensure these new timings are covered.

Lateness is monitored by the school so please do all you can to ensure that your children arrives at school on time.

From September, attendance certificates will be awarded to children with 100% attendance every two terms (so in terms 1 and 2, in terms 3 and 4 and in terms 5 and 6). This means that all children have 3 chances to gain at least one attendance certificate during the year. So even if they have been poorly and too unwell to attend school, they may gain a certificate at a subsequent point in the year.

We are in the process of updating our attendance pages on the school website to reflect the changes to our daily timings which are outlined in our reviewed Attendance Policy. The updates will be active from the start of next academic year and can be found at:

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/attendance/>

Please ensure that where possible, medical appointments are made out of school hours.

If anyone needs help or support in managing their child's attendance, please contact the school.

School Dinners

We are very grateful to Jo, our kitchen team and our Midday Meals Supervisors for all their efforts to keep up a fantastic school meal service whilst lunches have been in the marquee. We are hoping to be back in the school by the start of the school year but this will be dependant of the results of ongoing surveys.

Please remember that all children are entitled to a free school dinner when they are in Years R, 1 and 2. From Year 3 onwards, the entitlement to a free school dinner is only for those families entitled to pupil premium as they are or have been in receipt of certain benefits. All school dinners are paid for through sQuid.

Please ensure that any outstanding sQuid balances are cleared by the end of the academic year in order for your child to continue with school dinners next academic year.

If anyone believes that they may be entitled to pupil premium funding for their child, as circumstances have changed, and you are now in receipt of certain benefits, please contact the school office who would be happy to help.

Extra Mile Homework Reward

Almost 200 children went the 'Extra Mile' on their homework, on at least three occasions this year, which is brilliant. Usually our treat is a special film afternoon but this year, with the hall out of use, we gave all the children who went the extra mile, extra playtime and some sweet treats.

Well done everyone!

New Uniform Supplier

From 15th September, we will have a new school uniform supplier. We are very grateful to the service supplied by Clair Heal and her team at Emporia. Clair's business is heading in a different direction in the autumn and will no longer be supplying uniform either from their shop in town or on the website. We would like to wish Clair well with her new ventures.

From this date we will be partnering with County Print and Embroidery who will be the sole supplier of Godinton logo uniform. Parents will be able to purchase school uniform items, showing the Godinton logo online at

www.countyprintandembroidery.co.uk

or from their shop which is located in Chapel Mews, North Street (just off the High Street).

Please view the school website for details of our school uniform policy and acceptable items of uniform including footwear (plain black only). Please ensure that all items of clothing worn to school are named.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>

Throughout the year, our PTFA, organise sales of second hand uniform. Details of second hand sales for next academic year will be advertised throughout the year. If anyone has any items of school uniform that no longer fit, the school would welcome donations that can either be put into sales or used in case of emergencies in the classroom.

Staff News

We have a number of new additions to our team of teaching assistants in September. We welcome, Miss Pumphrey, Mrs Oliver Miss Eaton, Mrs Hamid, Mrs Wood and Miss Richardson to the school. A full list of the teaching assistants placed in each year group will be circulated in September.

In addition to the teaching staff who will be leaving us this year, we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Town at the end of the week. Mrs Town has been a TA at Godinton for 10 years and is moving to a part time role at Great Chart Primary School. We wish Mrs Town the very best of luck for the future and thank her for everything that she has done for our school.

First Day Back—'Wise-Up' Team Building

Our first day back in September, Friday 1st will be a special team building day for the children; a chance to reunite the class after the summer holiday and to get to know their new teacher and teaching assistants. We have the 'Wise Up' challenge team coming in to lead a series of exciting activities for the children which we hope they will enjoy.

As this will be a practical and hopefully outdoor activity, children should come to school in their PE kits and trainers.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school site, even if they are being carried and that vaping or smoking of any kind is not permitted. This helps to keep our school site safe for everyone.
- If anyone changes address or phone number over the summer holiday, please ensure that you contact the school office so contact details on our system can be updated. All children should have at least two emergency contacts listed.
- On behalf of all the staff at Godinton Primary School, thank you so much for all your kind gifts. I know how much your messages of thanks mean to the staff. We all wish you and your family a very happy summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.
- School re-opens on Friday 1st September. PE kits and trainers to be worn due to 'Wise Up' team building day.



Sports Report

Athletics Tournament

On Saturday 8th July, 20 children, selected from years 3–6, participated in the Ashford District Sports Event which was held at Ashford Prep School. The day started with an opening ceremony so all participants could be welcomed by the spectators. The rest of the morning was dominated by track and field events including the long distance, sprint races, sprint relays, standing long jump and the throwing event. Lucy (Yr 6) came third in the standing long jump and the Yr 5 and 6 Boys relay squad also finished third.

Throughout the morning, all children demonstrated great sportsmanship; determination to succeed, encouraging others, celebrating achievements and praising individual efforts. We are all very proud of the children who took part in the event and congratulate them on their achievements.

Our thanks go to Mrs Crowfoot and Mrs Ellis for helping to organise the event and to Mrs Griffin and Mr Taylor for supporting the team during the event.