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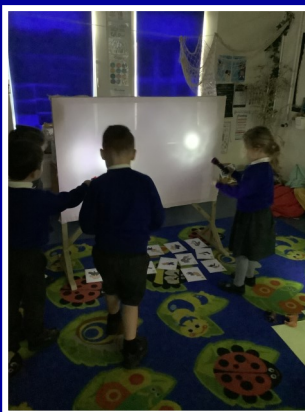


Message from Miss Talbot

Time for Science

Our children had an amazing day deepening their scientific skills during our Science Day last week. Rotating around different classrooms and working with different teachers, the children engaged with a range of experiments and activities connected by the theme of time. The children looked to the past, investigating ancient ways of marking time from creating water clocks and making sand timers to discovering what happened to the dinosaurs when they became extinct. They looked at how shadows are formed and had a go at putting on their own shadow puppet plays. The children also looked to the future to design a new, more eco-friendly farm as well as learning how to make biodegradable plastic. The day brought plenty of opportunity for the children to utilise their problem solving and scientific enquiry skills and to work collaboratively with others.

We had lots of entries for our Science Day poster competition. Mrs Burchett our lead Science teacher is in the process of judging our entries and winners will be announced shortly.



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Our Easter Parade



There seems to be no end to everyone's creative talents this year with some amazing Easter bonnets and hats coming into school for our Easter parade on the last day of term. I was up in London on training that day, so I missed seeing in person your fabulous creations. I'm told that the photos don't really do justice to the imaginative headwear that the children paraded in front of each other. I think that we may have started a new Godinton tradition. Miss Almond and Mrs Fagg, our leading art teachers, had a tough time finding competition winners but our congratulations go to our worthy winners for their brilliant designs.

Thank you to everyone who took part. Maybe the photos below will give you inspiration for next year!



Year 5's Kingswood Adventure

We are very fortunate to have the amazing Kingswood activity centre on our doorstep and Year 5 took full advantage of everything on offer at the site when they visited for a two night residential at the end of last term. The children enjoyed a variety of activities ranging from a silent disco to a zip wire, climbing walls to blindfolded orienteering. Activities aside, the trip also gives children the opportunity to develop other hidden skills—perseverance in trying to achieve goals, resilience when facing challenges and motivation to try something they perhaps have never tried before. For many it was also the first time they had stayed away from home overnight or the first time they had put a duvet cover on a duvet – they all had so much to be proud of. A great time was had by all!



My sincere thanks go to all our staff who supported the children on this exciting adventure. They volunteer because they value the positive benefits of this type of opportunity for the children and for that I am extremely grateful.

Back on the Trail

Getting into good habits with homework is important. It not only helps consolidate learning undertaken in class but also strengthens the children's opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge they have learnt. Our Homework Trails are designed to fit in with the other commitments and interests that children have outside of school. By choosing which tasks to complete over the course of a term and when best to complete them, we hope to make homework tasks more accessible to everyone. Please encourage your children to engage with their homework and to set themselves the challenge of going the extra mile. Those children who collect 3 extra mile stickers over the year will be invited to our special film afternoon in Term 6.

This term, I have sent letters out to the parents of those few children who have shown a minimal commitment to homework tasks, asking for your support in helping to motivate the children to improve their engagement this term.

PTFA News

Put a reminder in your diary to come along to our PTFA Summer Fayre on **Saturday 22nd June**. This is always a highlight of the school calendar and this year will be no exception with a wealth of stalls and games for everyone to enjoy. As always the number of stalls we are able to offer, depends on the number of helpers we have. If you are able to help out in any capacity (including setting up and tidying away) please let us know. ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

100% Attendance

Regular attendance at school is crucial and makes a significant difference to a child's academic performance and social development. The attendance of children at Godinton is very good with figures above those of National and Kent.

Attendance certificates for 100% attendance in Terms 3 and 4 were issued to 103 children across the school (25%). We know that the children can't help being poorly on occasions, so the chance to gain an attendance certificate re-sets this term. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the academic year for 100% attendance across terms 5 and 6 and for 100% attendance across the whole academic year. If anyone needs help in supporting their child's attendance at school, please let us know. The school website also contains information about good attendance at school.

Staff News

We will be very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Smith from our school office as she takes up a new position outside of education from May 15th. Mrs Smith has worked at Godinton for 8 years providing valuable support to our school through her role as Admissions and Attendance Administrator. This role will be taken over by Mrs Clark. We are advertising on Kent Teach for someone to join our office team as our medical needs lead and administrative assistant. We all wish Mrs Smith the very best of luck in her new position.

Mrs Carr has joined our Night Owls team on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Carr is already known to the children as one of our Midday Meals Supervisors.

Parking Update

Recent meetings and communications with Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council are starting to prove more fruitful with an increase in measures to address inconsiderate parking and dangerous driving on the Godinton Park estate taking shape. Last week, traffic enforcement officers were present on the estate at drop off and pick up, issuing penalty notices to those committing traffic violations. They will return at regular intervals over the coming weeks to continue to act as a deterrent to those making dangerous choices about their parking and driving. Be warned—you could be fined if you commit an offence.

We are also hopeful that improved signage and road markings will be implemented on the estate in the coming weeks too.

Thank you to everyone who has emailed into me, photos of drivers who are parking without due care across junctions or who are double parking or blocking other cars in. I have shared these with the Council and they are strengthening our case for road safety and traffic measures to be implemented on the Godinton Park Estate.

Safeguarding Reminder

Safeguarding in school is everyone's responsibility. Miss Talbot is our Designated safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mrs Stein (Assistant Head) and Mrs McGibney (Family Liaison Officer) are the Deputy DSLs. If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child or family at our school, please speak to a member of the team.

Testing Timetable

The Key Stage Two SATs take place week commencing 13th May. Please can parents of children in Year 6, ensure that the children arrive in school promptly this week so that the test timetable can run as smoothly as possible. The children have been working really hard and we want to give them every opportunity to show what they can do.

This year, there are no compulsory KS1 (Year 2) SATs. These have been withdrawn by the Government. Schools are able to engage with optional testing assessment materials which help to guide teacher assessments. We will be using these with our Year 2 children in Term 6.

Children in Year 1 and some children in Year 2, will be completing the National phonics screening during the week commencing 10th June. Children in Year 4 will also be completing the national multiplication screening check in early June.

Going for Gold

This term, we have given out the first gold house point badges of the year to 6 children across the school. Our congratulations go to:

Noah M –Year 2 (Walmer)

Phoebe G –Year 2 (Walmer)

Lucy H –Year 3 (Leeds)

Ariel K –Year 3 (Rochester)

Olivia P –Year 5 (Dover)



Message from our Chair of Governors: Steve King

Are we really two thirds of the way through the year? The time has gone so quickly and has been eventful for the Governors.

The year started with the publication of our Trustees Report and Financial Statements which covers the period up to 31st August 2023. A copy can be found on the 'Governance' page of the school website. The report gives detail about governance in the school along with information about the schools objectives and achievements in 2022/23 and is well worth a read.

Next came the long awaited Ofsted inspection. These inspections are always a stressful time for everybody and rely on the efforts of the children, parents, governors and staff. The 2 days of the inspection were intense and covered all aspects of school life. The children took the presence of the inspector in their stride and their words and actions helped to demonstrate that we have a good school. My thanks go to all the parents who completed the parent questionnaire which played an important part in the process. We are very fortunate that the staff at Godinton are dedicated to providing the best learning opportunities for the children within a friendly and caring environment. You will have seen from the report that, thanks to the efforts of all involved in the process, the inspector confirmed that Godinton remains a 'Good' school. The comments made in the report capture all of the elements that make the school good and a school that we should all be very proud of.

More recently the Governors have attended another training day. We spent the morning reviewing our School Values, developing a vision statement and formulating a long term strategic plan. We concluded that our current school values, which have been in place since 2017, continue to be relevant but agreed to some minor amendments to the wording to reflect the inclusivity of the school and provide an emphasis on personal wellbeing. We went on to agree the wording for our vision statement which will be published soon, so keep an eye out for it on the school website. Discussion moved to considering our long term strategy which revealed 7 areas for consideration. The areas include communication, nurture support for all children and the final stages of curriculum development. We will now create a strategic plan covering the areas identified which will then be used to monitor progress moving forward.

We will shortly be putting profiles of all our Governors onto the school website so that you can read more about our Governing Body and the skills they bring to our team.

Our Governing Body is made up of 12 Governors:

Chair of Governors: Steve King

Vice Chair: Rob Wellard (Parent Governor)

Jill Talbot (Headteacher)

Kelly Holden-Smith (Parent Governor)

Sam Messenger (Parent Governor)

Karen Ward (Staff Governor)

Heather Vernon

Rachael Dray

Dora Grant

Amanda Stevenson

Kerrie Baines

Alex Prickett

Wendy Settle is the clerk to the Governing Body

Other News and Reminders...

- We have items of lost property spilling out of our two lost property boxes in the school foyer. Please help us to return items to your child by putting their name clearly on all items of clothing brought to school. As the weather gets warmer, the children are more inclined to take jumpers and cardigans off. If these are left out on the field, for example they stand the best chance of being returned if they are named.
- Congratulations to **Leeds House** who were the winning house, with the highest number of house points at the end of Term 4. The children were rewarded with an extended playtime last week. House point totals have re-set at the start of this term but Leeds are already pushing forward and are currently in the lead by 41 house points. Everything can change!
- Don't forget that we have a long bank holiday weekend coming up at the end of this week. School will be closed on Monday 6th May.
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Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

High 5 League: Our team have played four matches so far this term against Ashford Oaks, Finberry, Willesborough Rockets and Furley Park Strikeforce. The team has been going from strength to strength and won 3 out of the four matches, bringing us to 4 wins in total for the first half of the season. These results will now be used to place us into our competitive pools for the second half of the season. As we finished second in our pool, we will be competing for the Shield against all the other teams who came first or second – a tough group to be in but Mrs Ellis and Mrs Crowfoot know that our team can rise to the challenge. We look forward to seeing how they get on. Well done everyone!

Venture Camps: We are delighted that we have Venture Camps in school again this term, delivering lessons to some of our Upper School children. Year 5 had sessions in terms 2 and 3 on Hockey and Cricket, and this term Year 4 are enjoying additional tennis coaching. The children are enjoying working with the now familiar adults and responding to the range of alternate practise drills and activities that they are taught.