

Contents

Journeying back to 1940.....	2
Opal Update.....	2
Testing Time.....	3
Food Allergies.....	3
Starters and Leavers.....	3
Governor Update.....	4
Other News and Reminders.....	5
Sports Report.....	5



Message from Miss Talbot

A Greener Future at Godinton

All schools are now expected to have a Climate Action Plan in place by the end of 2025. A school climate action plan, is a comprehensive strategy outlining how a school will reduce its carbon footprint and become more sustainable and helps to engage children in learning about climate change and sustainability. It includes goals, actions, and methods for measuring progress towards a more sustainable future and is focused on four key areas: decarbonisation, adaptation and resilience, biodiversity and climate education / green careers.

We have been working with a Climate Action Advisor from the organisation 'Let's Go Zero' to count our current carbon footprint and to put together our action plan. We are in the final stages of identifying our action plan priorities and will be in a position to share this with parents shortly. Next term I will also be asking children to put themselves forward to join our Climate Action Crew. This group will help me to implement some of the actions on the plan across the school. Look out for the flier coming home which provides more information as to how your child can join in.



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



Journeying back to 1940

This term, Year 4 stepped back in time to 1940 on their visit to Kent Life, learning all about World War II. The children discovered what life was like during the war, took part in ARP warden drills, made their own 'rag rugs' and even became navigators for the RAF! They also got the opportunity to speak with an 82-year-old gentleman who experienced the war as a child and found out what it was like to live through this experience. The children asked lots of questions and discovered plenty of interesting facts about food rationing during the war and the 'hacks' taken to make reduced access to familiar foods more appealing—the children weren't sure that carrot juice was a good substitute for orange juice!



It was a fun, hands-on day that brought the Year 4's Blackout Britain topic to life. Thank you parents for getting the children set up in amazing costumes—they all really looked the part.



Opal Update



Thank you to everyone for the brilliant donations that have come in as part of our Opal Bingo challenge. Mrs Carr has been inundated with all sorts of objects that will help enhance play for the children. In recent weeks we have developed our water play area thanks to some fantastic purchases from our PTFA and have introduced dolls, scooters and a sand pit into our play opportunities. Opal has transformed lunch plays at Godinton—it is a pleasure to see the children engaged in a wide range of activities and really showing their creativity. Keep your bingo items coming in so that your child's class can gain their reward.

Wow—walking to school

Well done to everyone, for their participation in our WOW initiative. Each month, we have approx 250 children who are walking, scootering, cycling or parking and striding to school. For May, June and July in order to get their badge, children will need to make two sustainable journeys to school each week in order to gain their badges. May badges will be coming round shortly.

Testing Time

Well done to all our Year 6 children for all their efforts in the statutory Key Stage Two SATs tests last week. The children worked exceptionally hard and remained focused throughout the week. These national tests assess the children's attainment in reading, maths, spelling, grammar and punctuation in a series of 6 tests. The children's results will come through to school in July.

There are other statutory assessments taking place after Half Term. Year 1 and some children from Year 2, will be taking their phonics screening during the week beginning 9th June. Year 4 will be taking their Multiplication Times Tables Check the same week—this online check takes the children through a series of 25 times table questions which each have to be answered within a 6 second window. The children have been practising hard and we wish them well.

Food Allergies

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school and as such raw nuts and nut based products such as peanut butter or Nutella spread are not allowed in lunchboxes. We have recently updated our Food Allergy Policy and this will be uploaded onto the school website shortly. This provides information about all aspects of allergy management at Godinton. Please ensure that any allergies are recorded on your child's medical profile on Arbor.

Starters and Leavers

After May Half Term our Year 6 children will all have the opportunity to visit their new secondary schools for transition work. Moving to secondary school is a big step and the transition sessions give children the opportunity to start to meet key members of staff, familiarise themselves with much larger buildings and start to make new friends. We also do a number of activities in school to help prepare children for the transition, including welcoming colleagues from local secondary schools into school to meet with the children and answer any questions they might have.

Whilst our Year 6 children have moving on from Godinton in their sights—we are making transition arrangements for our September 2025 Reception starters. Our Year R teachers: Miss Ward, Mrs Ischt and Miss O'Beirne have already been out to pre-school settings to meet children and talk to their key workers. This year we were heavily over-subscribed and have filled all 60 places, with 21 families on the waiting list for a place. Key dates for your diaries, if you have a child starting in September are:

Monday 16th June—New Intake Parents' Meeting at 6.00 p.m.

Thursday 19th June or Monday 23rd June—Stay and Play sessions 3.30 to 4.15 p.m.

Friday 27th June and Tuesday 8th July—Story time sessions 1.45 to 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday 1st July or Thursday 3rd July—invitation to lunch

Message from Mr King— Chair of Governors



As we approach the end of Term 5, I have been reflecting on what the Governors have been involved in and thought it is time to provide you with an update.

We started the term in the middle of the election to appoint a Parent Governor. My letter to you earlier this month confirmed that James Finn was elected to the post. I am pleased to confirm that we have been able to appoint the other candidate in the election, Mark Bibey, to fill the vacancy we had for a Member Appointed Governor. Following the two appointments the board is now back to full strength.

During the term, apart from the routine tasks, Governors were involved in other tasks including the administration of the SATs tests that our Year 6 children took during the second week in May. This year there was a push for Governors to be involved. Our involvement helped us to gain valuable insight into the test administration process and helped reinforce the credibility of the entire testing procedure. The process went smoothly and the children appeared to be coping well with the tests despite the stress they inevitably cause. We look forward to seeing the results of their hard work.

We are beginning the annual budget setting exercise where we have to plan how we will spend the very limited budget to meet ever increasing needs. All the hard work is undertaken by the headteacher and school business manager but the finance Governors are involved in reviewing the budget proposals and contributing to the final draft. The final draft

will be presented at the July meeting of the Governing Body to allow all of the Governors to consider the proposals prior to approving them.

We have continued to monitor progress against our now well-established Strategic Priorities Action Plan. The plan has 7 priorities all of which will help us to achieve the school vision (*the school vision can be found on the school website*). In Term 5 we concentrated on Priority 5 of the plan which is seeking to develop the school's environmental credentials. Much has been achieved already, including increasing our recycling resources. We have completed a 'Count your Carbon' analysis in readiness for the production of a 'Climate Action Plan' which will highlight further initiatives as we move forward. Look out for more on this in future newsletters.

Pen Disco

Thank you to all the Reception parents who joined us for the 'Pen Disco' workshops last week. We hope that you enjoyed joining in with activities designed to support the development of children's fine motor skills—I know that the children enjoyed showing you the things that they have been working on. By developing fine motor skills and correct pencil grip, the children will develop strong skills to support them with letter formation.

Across the school, as I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been having a push on handwriting. You can view our Writing Policy (which includes an appendix showing correct letter formation) on the Writing Adventure page on the school website.



Other News and Reminders...

- Please can we ask that parents don't allow their children (including pre-school children) to play with the Opal playtime resources as they wait on the playground at the end of the day. We have a lot of water play resources at the lower end of the small playground which need to stay as they are each day. Thank you.
- Just a reminder that Sports Day this year takes place on the afternoon of Wednesday 18th June. Further details will be sent out after Half Term.
- Another date for your diary is Thursday 17th July. Cycle Circle, who delivery cycling training in school, are offering us a free Dr Bike, bike repair shop, after school as well as a parent and child cycling event. More details will follow shortly.
- Congratulations to Perryn, Ben, Ethan and Oliver, from Year 5, for coming joint 4th, out of 15 schools, in the Ashford School Maths Competition earlier this month. We were really proud of you!

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report– Padel Tennis at Square One

With the recent SATs done and dusted, the Year 6s demonstrated how well they embrace challenges with enthusiasm. Yesterday morning, six eager students from Falcons and Eagles classes took to the padel tennis court at a newly-opened nearby centre: 'Square One' to trial the sport.

For those unfamiliar with padel tennis, it is a sport that combines the best parts of tennis and squash, but with a difference – players use solid paddles instead of strung rackets, and the court is enclosed, allowing for rebounds off the walls. It is fast, energetic, and, as the students quickly discovered, lots of fun!

The children showed excellent skill and teamwork, and fully embraced the experience. It was a chance for the children to challenge themselves, support one another and enjoy a new sport in a fantastic local facility. And who knows? We might have uncovered the next generation of padel tennis stars in our midst!

