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### Message from Miss Talbot

## Green Dreams: Growing a Sustainable School

This year, we will be focusing on our school's green credentials and looking at ways of improving environmental sustainability at Godinton. Working with the organisation, 'Let's Go Zero' we have put together a plan which outlines our priorities for the year; this includes, developing initiatives to increase the number of children who walk or cycle to school, reducing single use plastic in the school and developing our recycling measures. You will shortly be able to view our Climate Action Plan on the 'Environmental Priorities' page of the school website.

Helping to promote environmental initiatives across the school are our 'Climate Action Crew', composed of children from across Years 3 to 6. Jake H and Evina R (Year 6), Freya S (Year 5), Khandro L, Phoebe G, Maisie B, Macie S (Year 4) and Megan G and William W (Year 3) will be starting their campaigning by encouraging all children to have a water bottle in school in order to reduce the number of disposable plastic cups being used when children forget their bottles. They will also be promoting our WOW (walk and cycle to school initiative funded by the organisation 'Living Streets'). Badges can be collected each month for walking, cycling or scootering to school, at least once a week. October badges will be coming round to everyone this week. Year R will join in with the initiative this term.

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## Pedal Power

We were delighted to have received a travel grant from KCC for £5000 to improve cycle storage at Godinton. The cycle shelter at the front of school was in desperate need of updating: the flooring was uneven and muddy and the roof was leaking. Over Half Term, Mr Rowson has been working his magic and has built a new shelter which now has a sturdy concrete base and proper storage for both bikes and scooters.



Cycling or scooting is a great way to travel to school. Not only is it better for the environment but also offers great exercise—a much better alternative than using the car. In November, some of our Year 4 and 6 children will be participating in Bikeability training, delivered by our training provider Cycle Circle, which will help develop their safe cycling skills. Year 5 will then have their turn in March. Bikeability is the UK's national cycle training program that teaches children practical skills and confidence to ride on today's roads. The program consists of three levels that build on each other, starting with bike control in a traffic-free area, moving to journeys on quieter roads, and finally progressing to navigating more complex traffic situations on busier roads.

We hope that by providing both training and facilities for cycling, more children will be encouraged to put their foot on the pedal and ride to school.

## Harvesting Kindness



This year's Harvest Festival assembly was a heartwarming celebration of generosity, gratitude, and community spirit. Led by Reverend Cathy Aldis, from St Mary's Church, Great Chart, the service brought our children together to reflect on the importance of sharing and supporting those in need.

In the spirit of harvest, children from across the school brought in a wonderful array of donations—ranging from tins and packets of food to hygiene products—all destined for the Repton Connect People's Pantry. The generosity on display was truly inspiring, and it was clear that every contribution, big or small, was made with kindness and care.

Reverend Cathy Aldis led a thoughtful and engaging service, reminding us of the values of compassion and thankfulness that lie at the heart of the harvest tradition. Her words encouraged everyone to think about how we can make a difference in our local community, especially for those who may be facing difficult times.

All donations collected will go directly to the Repton People's Pantry, a local initiative to reduce food insecurity and support to individuals and families in need. We are proud to be part of this effort and grateful to everyone who contributed.

Thank you to all the children, families, and staff who made this year's Harvest Festival such a meaningful event.

## Term 1 Topics

### Year 6 Time Travel to the Middle Ages— no longer in the dark about the Dark Ages!

Since the start of term, Year 6 have been swapping their trainers for tunics and diving headfirst into the fascinating world of the Middle Ages.

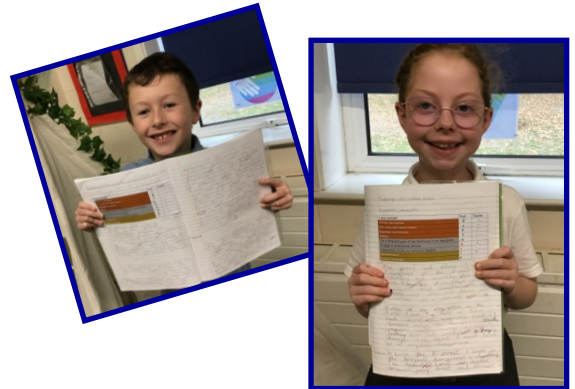
The children kicked off their historical adventure with a medieval banquet, where they sampled some authentic pottage and bread, with not a pizza in sight! They also explored the social ladder of the time, learning about the roles of the king, knights, barons and peasants; let's just say, not everyone was thrilled to be a peasant!

Next, our young historians turned detectives as they investigated the murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. With clues, suspects and a dramatic tale of power and betrayal, the children worked hard to uncover who might really have been behind the infamous crime.

And the adventure isn't over yet! After the holiday, Year 6 will be heading off to Canterbury, a city steeped in medieval history. It's the perfect place to bring their learning to life – and maybe even spot a knight or two (in statue form, at least). History has never been so alive!

Alongside all this medieval excitement, Year 6 have also been busy preparing for the next step in their education. At the start of term, some pupils also took the 11+ PESE test for grammar school entry, and many of the children have been visiting prospective secondary schools, to get a feel for what lies ahead.

## Year 4—Tantalising the taste buds



Year 4 have had a fantastic time immersing themselves into the delicious world of all things chocolatey. The children's learning has centred on the book, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl, as their inspiration for developing creative writing skills, deepening geographical knowledge and creating chocolate taste challenges.

An exploration of the Amazon rainforest, gave the children an insight into the scale of this area of the globe and the fauna and flora it contains. They discovered where chocolate comes from and how the journey begins to transform cacao beans into the many chocolate treats they enjoy. The children showcased their brilliant writing skills by creating vivid and imaginative descriptions of the Amazon Rainforest and engaged in writing tasks inspired by Charlie's adventures in the Chocolate Factory.

A chocolate quiz put their knowledge to the test and demonstrated just how much they all loved chocolate. The Year 4 classrooms have been filled with creativity, enthusiasm, and some truly impressive work. And with the opportunity coming to design some chocolate bars of their own, their learning is only going to get more delicious!



## Year R— Getting to Know You



It has been such a pleasure to get to know our amazing new Reception children over the past couple of months. They have blown us away with how amazingly they are all coming into school each morning and have coped really well with learning classroom routines. They are now successfully collecting their own dinners from the hatch, putting on their own wellies and coats and have been working really hard on 'choose it, use it, put it away'. We are so proud of all of them.

The children have been doing lots of learning all about themselves and getting to know our school values. They have taken selfies, drawn self-portraits and explored famous self-portraits too.



Keep up the amazing work Reception—we can't wait to hear about what you get up to next!

## Year 3 – Inspired by the Ancient Greeks

This term, Year 3 have been diving into the fascinating world of Ancient Greece through their exciting Sculpture topic in Art. The children have explored how the Greeks used pottery and sculpture to tell stories, celebrate their gods and to decorate their homes.



Using a range of materials such as salt dough, play dough and clay, the children have been developing their skills in moulding, shaping and manipulation to create their very own pinch and coil pots. They've experimented with different textures and techniques, learning how to smooth, pinch, join and carve patterns in the different materials just like real potters from Ancient Greece.

The children are looking forward to using the skills they have acquired so far, to design and create their own coil pot pen stands which they will no doubt be excited to bring home once complete!



## Year 1 – Amazing Us

Year 1 have had a brilliant start to this academic year. They have adored their 'All About Me!' topic, where they have learnt how to write their very own autobiographies and have begun to use interesting adjectives to add extra detail. The children have loved learning all about their class hero, Frida Kahlo. In Creative Adventure, they have made their very own self-portraits and then extended their learning to create a self-portrait in the style of Frida Kahlo. Their Science learning has taken them on a journey of understanding more about the human body. The children have loved learning the names of different bones and were particularly excited to make their own skeletons out of cotton buds. They have been intrigued to look at pictures of x-rays and discover more about who they are.

## Year 5 – It's Electrifying!



Year 5 have been lighting up Godinton with lots of electrifying experiments to learn about the effect of voltage on the brightness of a bulb. The children hypothesised whether a bulb would be brighter if the voltage was increased. Using various numbers of cells within a circuit they were able to test their ideas. They tested circuits with 0v, 1.5v, 3v and 4.5v by increasing the number of cells used within the circuit, and came to the conclusion that their hypothesis was correct – the bulb was far brighter with 4.5v than 1.5v.

## Year 2 – Up, Up and Away



It's been an exciting start to Year 2 too for Butterflies and Ladybirds Classes. As an introduction to their topic 'Up, Up and Away', the children found a mysterious hot air balloon in the woods– with a special delivery of a brand new book to share! This led to some exciting work in Learning Adventure, including finding out and writing biographies about the famous aviator Amelia Earhart. Amelia was the first woman to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean. In Science, the children have been learning about life processes and the differences between living and non-living things. A habitat hunt in the school grounds was a great way to bring Science to life. The children are really looking forward to the next part of their 'Up, Up and Away!' topic!





## Opal Parent Play



It was lovely to welcome so many parents to school last month for our Opal Parent Play events. We hope that this gave you the opportunity to see the extent of activity we have going on for the children at lunchtimes and how creative they are becoming in their play.

Thank you for all the amazing donations that keep coming into school from dolls' prams to logs, plastic dinosaurs to drain pipes. We will find a home for any good quality items that you no longer want that could benefit the children's play.

We have amazing and extensive grounds but we are lacking height and the opportunity for children to have mounds to climb over and tunnels to crawl through. We are desperate for a large drainage pipe that we can create into a tunnel so if anyone has any connections in the building trade that might be able to donate something suitable, please get in touch with Mrs Carr ([opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk)).

We will be offering further Parent Play sessions later in the year.



## Showing our Charitable Side

Congratulations to Joshua G in Year 2 for his outstanding efforts earlier this month to support the charity Medway Street Angels who work with the homeless community and also run a soup kitchen for those in need. Joshua collected donations which he took to the charity showing immense empathy and thoughtfulness for those less fortunate. Thank you to everyone who supported Joshua with his amazing act of kindness. We're really proud of you Joshua.



And speaking of Kindness, I hope that lots of the children have been taking part in our October Kindness Challenge, choosing someone to focus their kindness super powers on.

Entries need to be returned to school by Friday 7th November; certificates and prizes will be given to all those who take part.

Congratulations to Lila D in Year 6, whose Christmas card design has been chosen by the school to be put forward for the KIMS Hospital Year 6 Christmas card competition, capturing the theme of this year's competition which is 'Community Spirit'. Good luck Lila!



## Coming Soon...Children



## in Need

On Friday 14th November, we will be showing our support to the charity Children in Need. Donations can be made via the school's Just Giving page.

The theme of this year's dressing up event on the day is 'Crazy Hair', so if you want, get plaiting, beading, braiding and backcombing. Dust off wigs, or get out the glitter spray and colour chinks. Children may wear their own clothes to school on this day too.

Now what colour do you think would cover up my grey the best??

## Our New House Captains

We are very proud of our new Year 6 House Captains who were elected into their positions by their team mates earlier this month.

Our congratulations go to:

**Dover House Captains: Jake and Poppy**

**Dover Vice Captains: Ben and Felicity**

**Walmer House Captains: Ethan and Harley**

**Walmer Vice Captains: Jessica and Robyn C**

**Rochester House Captains: Tommy and Perryn**

**Rochester Vice Captains: Poppy and Devya**

**Leeds House Captains: Oliver and Evina**

**Leeds Vice Captains: Aariya and Bertie**

One of their first tasks will see them helping out at the information evening for prospective parents in November.

## PTFA Update

Our PTFA has started the year with two fantastic events so far under their belts. We now have a new committee in place, chaired by Kelly Prior. Keira Grayson joins as chair and Natalie Bibey and Marion White will act as Treasurers. I am extremely grateful to everyone for all the support given to the school through the PTFA. Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday 25th November at 6.00 p.m.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Mini Olympics event back in September, you can read more about this in the Sports Report on the back page. This was shortly followed by the Term 1 disco which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.

We have a non-uniform day for Years R to 5 on Friday 7th November (the Year 6 non-uniform day has been rescheduled for Thursday 6th November due to their trip to Canterbury) in return for donations for the Christmas Fair which takes place between 12.00 and 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 22nd November. We then have our Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday 6th December. Details will follow shortly.

To help parents out with uniform needs, our PTFA have set up a second hand uniform cupboard in the entrance foyer. This contains a range of uniform items which parents are able to help themselves to, at no cost. All we ask is that after selecting any items which might be of use, the cupboard is left tidy. We hope that this will help to support some of our families with uniform needs. If anyone has any uniform items that they no longer want and that might be of use to other families, these can be left in the appropriate sizing section.



## Meet Our New Mini Management Team

We're excited to announce that our new Mini Management Team has officially been voted in! Pupils from across the school took part in the democratic process, casting their votes to elect representatives who will help share ideas, raise concerns, and make our school an even better place.

The newly elected councillors from years 2 to 6 are already full of enthusiasm and ready to get started. They'll be meeting regularly, with Mrs Partridge, to discuss ways to improve school life and represent the voices of their classmates.

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the voting process—and congratulations to our new School Council members! We can't wait to see the positive impact they'll make this year.

Year 6: Ben R and Robyn C

Year 5: Daisy-Mae D and Hannah F

Year 4: Violet F and Olivia J

Year 3: Olivia K and Toby W

Year 2: Serena R and Arthur C

## Book Fair—thank you

Thank you to everyone who made a purchase at the Book Fair on Book Viewing Evening or on one of our Parent Consultation Evenings. We took a staggering £1000 which will result in £250 commission for the school to choose on books.

## Playground Buddies: Helping Hands and Friendly Faces



This year, another group of dedicated Year 5 and Year 6 children have taken on the important role of Playground Buddies. After completing their training with Miss King, these responsible and caring children are now helping to make playtimes happier and safer for our younger pupils.

Whether it's offering a listening ear, helping to solve small playground problems, or simply joining in with games, our Playground Buddies are always ready to lend a hand. Their kindness and leadership are making a real difference!

You might also spot them at the school gate in the mornings, welcoming children with big smiles and a cheerful high five. It's a lovely way to start the day and helps everyone feel part of our school community.

Thank you to our Playground Buddies for being such fantastic role models.





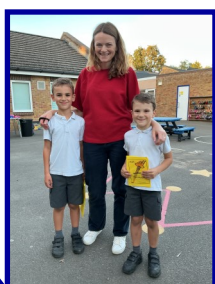
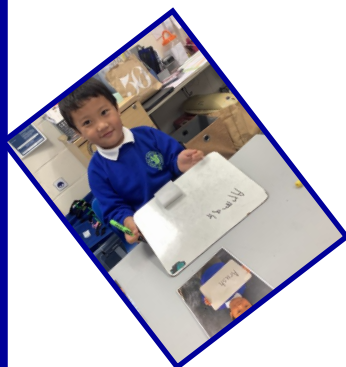
## Other News and Reminders...

- Thank you so much to everyone who helped with Gardening Club's 'Saturday Garden Tidy Up' earlier this month. All the weeding and tidying has certainly helped to maintain the school wildlife garden as a usable space for all sorts of activities.



- Term dates for the academic year 2026–27 have now been sent out to parents and are available to view on the school website.
- We look forward to welcoming parents of children due to start school in September 2026 to our information evening on Wednesday 5th November. This is an informal opportunity to drop in, any time between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m. to meet staff and view the Reception classrooms where there will be activities for the children to join in with.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

We were lucky to have a beautiful evening of early autumnal sunshine and a range of fantastic activities that our children and their grown ups could get stuck into at our PTFA Mini Olympics evening last month. Many of the games were run by children from Year 5 and 6 who were utterly brilliant in the way in which they ran the activities they had been assigned.



We had so many lovely, positive comments from those that came along about the children's conduct—we were very proud of them all. With medals and certificates for everyone who took part, it was a brilliant evening.

