



## Contents

Class News— Years 5 and 2.....	2
Class News— Years R and 3.....	3
Class News— Years 4 and 1.....	4
Class News— Year 6.....	5
Coming Soon... World Book Day.....	5
Online Safety.....	5
PTFA Update.....	6
Burst Pipe Update.....	7
Attendance Update.....	7
Night Owls .....	7
Other News and Reminders.....	8
Sports Report.....	8



## Message from Miss Talbot

### Supporting Success: New Workshops Empowering Parents

We often get asked by parents, how can I help my child at home? This applies to both academic support and emotional wellbeing support. Teaching methods are often different to those that parents experienced in their own education and sometimes there can be a worry about supporting in the wrong way and parents are often keen to understand the most appropriate ways to support children experiencing emotional or behavioural difficulties. To that end we have extended opportunities to support parents this year and have been really impressed with the levels of engagement with recent initiatives.

We had a very high level of interest in the Year R, 1 and 2 maths workshops recently delivered by our Maths Lead, Ms Moss and the class teachers. We hope this gave parents a greater insight into how maths is taught and that the take home activities have proved useful. Thank you to all of you who participated, I know that the children loved having you join in with their learning.

Equally, we had a great response to the MUD training delivered by Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney. This provided support for parents in Managing Uncertainties Daily and provided lots of useful discussion around strategies and opportunities for parents to share their own experiences. The current group had one further session to go at the end of this term but we hope to be able to offer further workshops in the future.



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## Class News

### Engineering Excellence: Year 5 Bridge Builders

Last term, Year 5 explored the fascinating world of bridge design.

They began by investigating which materials are most suitable for constructing strong bridges. After experimenting with pasta bridges and observing how different structures handled weight, they concluded that wood would be the most effective material for their final designs.

Building on their Year 4 design and technology learning, the children revisited the strong shapes used in engineering—particularly triangles—and used this knowledge to design and construct their own truss bridges.

Throughout the project, they learnt the importance of accurate measuring, as well as how to angle and cut wood precisely to create strong 45-degree joints. They then carefully assembled their bridges using wood glue, ensuring that each piece was joined securely.

This term, the class will be putting their bridges to the test—quite literally! They will test them to destruction to see how much weight each structure can withstand before evaluating their designs and reflecting on potential improvements for the future.



## Year 2 Scent

### Detectives on the Trail of History!



Ladybirds and Butterflies became ‘Scent Detectives’ last term as they launched their brand-new topic: What’s That Smell? With plenty of curiosity – and some very brave sniffers – the children investigated a range of mystery scents, from cheese and fresh bread to fire, perfume, and even one very stinky surprise!



After carefully matching each smell to the correct picture, an exciting clue emerged: all trails pointed toward their next big adventure – The Great Fire of London, which will be the focus for Terms 3 and 4. The children are already buzzing with questions about what life was like in 1666, and they’ll soon get to deepen their learning with a special online workshop this term and a special event involving their hand made Tudor houses.

A fiery topic in every sense – and they’re ready for it!

## Exploring Winter Wonders in Year R



In Year R, our children continue to learn in a holistic and creative way. Last term, they explored the theme: 'It's Cold Outside', through a wide range of sensory and imaginative activities.

The children have taken part in exciting investigations such as rescuing penguins from ice and writing letter shapes and tricky words in snow, foam, and glitter. They have produced plenty of penguin-themed artwork and enjoyed stories that inspired further creativity. As part of their learning, the children also discovered the magic of the Northern Lights and created beautiful artwork linked to this phenomenon.

Throughout the term, the class have continued to discuss how everyone is unique and special in their own way. Stories such as 'Tacky the Penguin' and 'Pink' have supported thoughtful conversations about individuality and celebrating differences.

The term concluded with a Valentine's theme, giving the children the opportunity to explore love, friendship, and kindness within their classroom community.



## From Monsoons to Mountains: A Term of Discovery in Year 3

Last term, Dragonflies and Bumblebees took an exciting journey around the world through their geography learning. The children explored our planet and discovered why different places experience different temperatures, learning how factors such as distance from the equator, altitude and climate affect the weather we experience. They also investigated the water cycle, developing a clear understanding of evaporation, condensation and precipitation, and how this continuous process shapes our world.

Building on this knowledge, the children compared Nepal and England, looking closely at cultural similarities and differences, as well as contrasting geographical features, rainfall patterns and temperatures. A particular highlight was learning about monsoons and droughts, helping pupils understand extreme weather events and their impact on people's lives, both at home and in other countries. The children were fascinated by their study of Mount Everest, including the historic 1953 expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, and showed great curiosity and admiration for this remarkable achievement.

Year 3 have been highly engaged throughout the term, asking thoughtful questions and showing genuine enthusiasm for their learning. It has been wonderful to see their interest in the wider world grow with confidence and excitement.

## Unearthing the Past: Yr 4 Become Anglo-Saxon Archaeologists!

Last term, Year 4 enjoyed an exciting start to their history topic when they uncovered their very own Anglo-Saxon burial site at “Godinton Hoo” on the school field! Equipped with curiosity and determination, the children stepped into the role of archaeologists, searching carefully for clues to help them solve the mystery.

Inspired by the famous discoveries at Sutton Hoo, the class have since immersed themselves in learning about the remarkable burial ship and the fascinating artefacts found there. Using their growing historical knowledge and observational skills, the children worked together to piece together ideas about who might have been buried at the site and what the objects reveal about Anglo-Saxon life.

This hands-on experience has brought history to life, allowing the children to explore the past in a meaningful and memorable way. Year 4 have shown fantastic enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork as they uncovered the secrets of this ancient Anglo-Saxon world.

### Find out more on the School Website

Don't forget, you can find out more about our school curriculum and the topics covered across all subjects on the school website. Just follow the curriculum tab from the main menus and click on the link to the relevant subjects.

## Explorers in Training: Year 1 Sets Sail



This term, Year 1 have been busy discovering what it means to be an explorer!

The children set off on their learning adventure with a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean alongside Christopher Columbus, before journeying to the North Pole to learn about the incredible achievements of Matthew Henson.

To support their learning, the class enjoyed singing a lively song about the seven continents, and can now confidently locate the United Kingdom in Europe on a world map. Using globes, Google Maps and atlases, they worked together to identify and label the world's continents and the five major oceans.

As part of their exploration of the wider world, the children also tasted a variety of fruits from different places. They will be using these ingredients to help create a pirate-themed picnic for our exciting Pirate Day, which will take place at the end of the topic.

Year 1 have truly embraced the spirit of adventure—well done, explorers!

## A Tropical Journey in Year 6

From the start of term 3, our Year 6 classes have been whisked away to warmer shores as we explore our new topic, Paradise Found, inspired by the vibrant and varied islands of the Caribbean. The children have been delving into both the geographical wonders of the region—discovering its climate, landscapes and unique wildlife—and its rich history, from early indigenous cultures to the journeys and influences that have shaped the Caribbean we know today.

In writing, the children have shown fantastic creativity and imagination. They began with suspense stories, crafting tense moments, mysterious settings, and cliffhangers that kept us all gripped. Now, they have turned their attention to persuasive writing as they design their very own webpages advertising a Caribbean resort. From turquoise seas and golden sand to thrilling adventures and cultural delights, their advertisements are so convincing that many of us are ready to pack our bags!

Art lessons have brought a burst of colour too. The children have been creating their own Caribbean carnival masks using papier mâché. With feathers, bold patterns, metallic paints and plenty of sparkle, their masks capture the energy and joy of Caribbean festivals. The finished pieces are truly eye-catching and will make a fantastic display.

Alongside our classroom adventures, we have also launched our Forest School sessions. Falcons enjoyed their time outdoors last term, and this term it is Eagles who are embracing woodland exploration. From teamwork challenges to crafts, the children have been developing confidence, curiosity, and a wonderful sense of independence in the outdoor environment.

It has been a busy and exciting start to our topic, and we look forward to seeing where the rest of the term takes us.



## Coming Soon— World Book Day

Next week (Thursday 5th March) we will be joining in with National celebrations for World Book Day. Whilst we won't be dressing up this year, we still have lots of fun activities for the children to join in with, including shared reading events, mystery books and online reading activities. Year R are even heading off to the theatre to watch a performance of the Gruffalo's Child.

Don't forget to bring in your book character toilet roll on the day—we can't wait to see your designs. Mrs Walker, our Reading Lead, will also be sending home a special book review reading challenge—we hope your children will enjoy joining in with this at home.

World Book Day vouchers will also be coming home and can be used to put £1.00 towards a book purchase or to buy one of the special £1 World Book day books that you will find in bookshops.

## Online Safety

Online Safety Day provided a fantastic opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 children to share some online safety tips with children from Year 3 and 4. The children split into groups and delivered workshops and activities, which they had planned themselves, focused on how to stay safe online. Not only did the children provide some really sensible advice to the younger children, it also helped them to reflect on their own online activity.

The school website includes links to a variety of websites which will help parents in supporting their child's online activity.

## PTFA Update

It was a little disheartening to have only 6 people turn up for the PTFA meeting earlier this week but I'm extremely grateful to those who did and for the fantastic ideas circulated regarding upcoming events. Everyone is always welcome to attend meetings. The next general meeting is **Tuesday 19th May at 6.00 p.m.** It would be great to make double figures at this meeting!

Thank you for all the donations for the Mother's Day shop that came into school today. Please encourage grannies and aunts to search for any unwanted items too; the more things we have, the wider selection of gifts we are able to offer the children to choose from. If you find any further suitable donations – just drop them off at the office.

Easter Bingo takes place on **Saturday 28th March**. This is a brilliant activity for the everyone – so gather friends and family together and book your place once details are sent out shortly. Friday 27th March is another non-uniform day in return for easter egg donations.

Look out for details coming soon about our exciting new fundraiser **£20.26 for 2026**. We are encouraging children to raise £20.26 in funds for the PTFA in fun and imaginative ways at home – this could be by doing jobs around the house, keeping their room tidy or a mini sponsored event – it's up to you. Children have until the end of December 2026 to raise their funds. Further details will follow.

Finally don't forget to put **Saturday 13th June** in your diaries. This is the PTFA Summer Fayre which promises to be bigger

and better than ever! There will be many stalls and games to enjoy, face painting, two bouncy castles, BBQ and refreshments, as well as live performances in the area. It's set to be a brilliant day for the whole community – and we'd love you to be part of it.

To make this event a success, we are asking for your help and need your superpowers on the day of the fair...

- Could you spare an hour (or a few)
- Fancy running a stall or showing off your skills?
- Happy to help with set-up or join the clean-down crew?

Every single helper makes a huge difference – and as a thank you, all volunteers will be entered into a draw to win a £30 voucher.

You can also help with event promotion... We've teamed up with independent local estate agent Chris Payne – EXP, who has kindly offered to print promotional boards for us – we just need some homes to display them.

If you're happy to have a board outside your house to help spread the word about the fayre, we'd love to hear from you. All those households who offer to house a board will be entered into a draw to win a prize.

If you think you could be apart of any of the above please contact us at [ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk) for more



## Burst Pipe Update

Things never seem to move quickly when it comes to roof work at Godinton and the latest saga rumbles on. We are however making small steps of progress.

Eagles Class continue to be based in the Computing Room—their classroom was the worst impacted by water damage and is requiring some advanced drying methods to get moisture levels down to acceptable levels—we have been told this could take anything between 2 and 4 weeks for the process to be completed.

With the drying out process now complete in Magpies and Kingfishers' rooms, we are ready for carpets to be laid, sink units to be replaced and ceilings to be repaired. Storage containers are now on site so furniture can be cleared from the rooms ahead of this work being completed. We hope this will start next week so we can get the children back into their usual rooms as soon as possible.

Carpets also need to be replaced in Kingfisher and Cuckoos classrooms but we are hoping to arrange this work for the Easter holiday. I will keep everyone posted. I know that the change of rooms has been unsettling for some children but they have all been brilliant at adapting to the new measures we have in place. Hopefully we will be back to normal soon.

## Night Owls—After School Club

Having temporarily been displaced from the After School mobile, Night Owls have been enjoying using the hall and the Reception classrooms as their new base for the time being. Just a reminder from Mrs Ellis and the team, that punctual pick up by 6.00 p.m. is expected and that pick up after this time does incur a penalty.

## Be an Attendance Hero: Here, Everyday, Ready, On Time

Late and absence letters will be sent out to parents this week where attendance is falling below expectations. Attendance at Godinton is very high with figures above those both nationally and locally. However we do have a small number of children who are falling into the persistent absence category, with absences below 90%. Attendance meetings with Miss Talbot will be arranged where attendance or lateness is flagging as a concern so we can look at what we can do to help support you in improving your child's attendance.

It is really important that your child arrives promptly at school every day. Having to walk into the classroom late can be very unsettling for the children and means they miss vital aspects of learning. Early morning activities take place between 8.35 and 8.50 and some key interventions also take place at this time. So please get your child to school before the gates close at 8.50.

On the flip side we have a high number of children with 100% attendance and a great level of punctuality—well done for this.

Further information about attendance, including penalties for holiday absence can be found on the school website.

Attendance certificates will be awarded at the end of this term to children with 100% attendance in Terms 3 and 4 and a special certificate for those who have achieved 100% attendance since the start of the year.

## Other News and Reminders...

- Unfortunately, Arbor does not offer the facility for the automatic top up of account payments. Please can I therefore ask for everyone's cooperation in ensuring that they keep an eye on their account balance so this doesn't go into arrears, especially with regard to school dinners.
- We are starting the season of school trips and have some exciting opportunities coming up for the children. As always we are extremely grateful for the voluntary contributions made by parents to cover the cost of the trips. Financial shortfalls are made up by the school and as educational budgets remain tight, if we don't receive sufficient parental contributions, then trips will be cancelled. Thank you to everyone for all your help in enabling these exciting opportunities to take place.
- Look out for Mrs Carr's Opal plea for donations of large plant pots, bulbs and plants to brighten up our school grounds. We have some daffodils in bloom already but a touch of spring colour will help to brighten up our grounds.

## Caught on camera this month...



## Sports Report

### Sportacus

We always love working with different organisations and were pleased to welcome the team from Sportacus to Godinton over the half term break for a series of sporting activity days. Uptake was high and the days provided the children with fantastic opportunities to work with Team Sportacus on different activities and challenges both outside and in the school hall. We hope to welcome the team back to Godinton later in the year so look out for further information. To find out more about Sportacus, visit their website: [www.sportacus.co.uk](http://www.sportacus.co.uk)

**SPORTACUS  
ACTIVITY CAMPS**

