



Contents

Easter Celebrations.....2
 Eat Well, Learn Well.....2
 Whole School Opal Playtime....3
 Other News and Reminders.....4
 Sports Report.....4



Message from Miss Talbot

Year 5 Residential

Before the Easter break, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed an exciting and memorable residential visit to Grosvenor Hall, the PGL centre in Ashford. During their two-night stay, the children took part in a packed programme of activities, including zip wiring, climbing walls, archery, and raft building.

For many pupils, this was their first experience of staying away from home, making the trip an important milestone. It provided a fantastic opportunity to build resilience, develop independence, and embrace new challenges—often stepping well beyond their comfort zones.

Throughout the visit, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, supporting and encouraging one another to succeed. Their positive attitudes and determination enabled them to achieve some truly impressive accomplishments, and we were incredibly proud of their efforts. Looking ahead, our Year 6 pupils are eagerly anticipating their own residential experience in June. Twenty-eight children will be heading to the Carrotty Wood Activity Centre in Tonbridge, while the remainder of the year group will take part in a range of exciting local activities, including survival skills sessions. We are sure these experiences will be just as rewarding, offering further opportunities for growth, teamwork, and adventure. As always, I am extremely grateful to all our team who give up time with their own families to support our children.



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Easter Celebrations

As we move swiftly through this term, our Easter celebrations already feel like a distant but very special memory. We were delighted to end the previous term with what has now become a much-loved tradition—our annual Easter bonnet parade. The creativity on display was amazing—we are always very impressed by everyone’s ingenuity. Children proudly showcased a wonderful array of imaginative designs, from impressive three-dimensional creations to bonnets beautifully decorated with Easter eggs, fluffy chicks, chocolate treats, and a helter-skelter.



Following the parade, the school grounds came alive with excitement as we held our spring treasure hunt. It was especially heartwarming to see our older children partnering with younger children, working together to spot and collect spring-themed pictures hidden around the school grounds. To round off the festivities, all participants were rewarded with ice pops and gold stickers—simple treats that were very well deserved after such an energetic and entertaining day.

Eat Well, Learn Well

We have noticed some unsuitable items creeping into packed lunches so would like to remind everyone on the importance of healthy eating and how it supports our children’s learning, wellbeing, and overall development.

A balanced lunchbox plays a key role in helping children stay focused and energised throughout the school day. We kindly remind families to provide a variety of nutritious foods, including a portion of fruit or vegetables, alongside sandwiches, wraps, or other savoury options. In line with our school’s approach to healthy living, sweets and chocolate bars should not be included in lunchboxes.

For those who choose school meals, we are proud to offer a range of high-quality, healthy options each day, carefully planned to provide a balanced diet. Dinners include access to the help your self salad bar which children can have in addition to their meal. School lunches are free to all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, as well as to pupils eligible for certain benefits. If you would like to find out more about eligibility, please do not hesitate to enquire at the school office.

We have also recently updated our *Healthy Living Booklet*, which provides useful guidance on healthy eating and drinking at Godinton. This can be found on our school website and offers helpful tips and information to support families in promoting healthy choices including breaktime snacks, drinks and lunches.

Just [click here](#) to follow the link to the school website.

All the World's a Stage



We are delighted to introduce an exciting new addition to our school field—a dedicated stage area that is already inspiring creativity, confidence, and imaginative play among our children.

Thanks to the hard work and creativity of Mr Rowson, the space has been transformed with a fantastic stage backdrop beautifully painted onto the wall. This has provided an amazing performance area where children can step into the spotlight and let their imaginations run wild.

The stage has quickly become a hub of activity, especially now that the weather has improved and we have been able to get the dressing-up costumes and props out again. With access to music as well, we've got all we need to create some fantastic shows.

We are incredibly grateful to Mr Rowson for his vision and dedication in bringing this project to life.



Everyone out to Play

Last week, we enjoyed a truly unforgettable afternoon as the entire school community—children, teachers, and teaching assistants alike—came together to celebrate the wonderful range of OPAL play opportunities now available at lunchtime.



The playground was filled with laughter, energy, and creativity as our staff team fully embraced the spirit of play alongside the children. From donning colourful wigs and dressing up in princess costumes to digging for treasure, racing around on scooters, and constructing some truly impressive dens, everyone threw themselves wholeheartedly into the fun. I'm not sure who enjoyed the afternoon more—children or staff!

With such a rich variety of activities now on offer, it is safe to say that playtimes at our school will never be boring again! We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved during our Opal journey and look forward to seeing our children continue to thrive, learn, and most importantly, enjoy every moment of their play.

Other News and Reminders...

- We are looking forward to starting to get to know the children who will be joining us in Reception in September. This is an exciting time and September will roll round before we know it. Please keep your eye on the new starter page on the school website, where we will keep you updated on events in relation to starting school.
- KS2 SATs tests for Year 6 take place w.c. 11th May. The children have been working really hard and we wish them all well.
- We are setting up a 'Book Swap Shed' at the front of school and would welcome any donations of fiction or non fiction books to get us started. This will operate on an informal swap basis—bring a book, take a book. Any book donations to get us set up can be dropped off in the school foyer. Bank holiday weekend may be the perfect opportunity to have a good clear out.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report—Year 3 Make a Splash!

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to their swimming lessons this term, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. From the very first session, the children have approached the water with enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude. Lessons are taking place at Ashford School, where pupils are grouped according to their swimming ability and confidence in the water. This ensures that all children are well supported and appropriately challenged. Our non-swimmers are receiving excellent support as they build their water confidence, while more experienced swimmers are being stretched to further develop their skills. With two sessions each week, we are already seeing great progress.

It has been wonderful to witness such a wide range of achievements. Some pupils have demonstrated strong swimming ability and confidence, while others have shown incredible perseverance and resilience as they work hard to improve. We have been especially impressed by those children who have shown real bravery—stepping out of their comfort zones, overcoming their nerves, and giving everything a go. The sessions are not only helping to develop swimming skills, but also important life skills. Children are becoming more independent, for example by drying themselves and getting changed efficiently after each lesson.

We are excited to see how much further they will progress. Well done, Year 3—keep up the brilliant work!