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Message from Miss Talbot

Amazing Mathematicians

It has been wonderful to see the talents of some of our amazing Year 5 mathematicians celebrated over the past few weeks as they have engaged with several local maths competitions. Firstly the combined brain power of Noah, Harry, Hannah and Lucy was tested at the annual Ashford School's Year 5 Maths Competition. 20 local primary schools participated in this event which pitched teams simultaneously against each other to answer as many maths questions as they could in 20 minutes. Our team's collaboration was excellent – sharing skills to answer the challenges set for them. They gained 50 points which earned them a very well deserved joint second place. Lucy and Hannah then also participated in the Ashford Maths-a-thon event, again competing against local schools. The girls continued their fantastic streak and made it through to the final 4 but were beaten to victory by Willesborough. Well done to our fab four – we are all very proud of you!

Year 4 have their chance to shine mathematically when they complete the National, statutory Multiplication Tables Check after half term. The holiday is a good chance to keep up the quick recall, times tables practice. Good luck everyone!



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A Creepy Crawly Adventure for Year R



Our EYFS children recently enjoyed a fascinating visit from the *Creepy Claws* team, who brought an exciting and interactive insect experience right into the classroom. As part of

their current learning topics, the session provided a hands-on opportunity to explore the wonderful (and sometimes wiggly!) world of invertebrates and reptiles.

The children were thrilled to meet a wide variety of creatures up close, including a tarantula, scorpion, millipede, cockroach, giant snail, snake and a lizard. For many, it was their first time seeing such unusual animals in real life, and their reactions ranged from curiosity to amazement—and even a little bravery!

One of the highlights of the session was the chance for children to carefully touch some of the animals under expert supervision. This helped them to develop confidence and overcome any initial fears, while also learning how to handle creatures safely and respectfully. Throughout the experience, the *Creepy Claws* team shared lots of fascinating facts, sparking the children's interest and deepening their understanding.

This memorable visit was particularly meaningful for Year R, whose year group hero is the renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough. The experience provided a perfect way to celebrate his 100th birthday, inspiring children to appreciate the natural world just as he has done for generations. Who knows? After such an exciting encounter, we may well have some budding wildlife experts in the making!

Back to the Blitz

Experience days are always a fantastic way to bring the curriculum to life and for Year 4 this meant being transported back to the 1940's as they enjoyed a highly memorable World War Two themed day at Kent Life.



The children have engaged in this area of the curriculum with a high level of interest and have learnt about the causes of the Second World War and the impact the conflict had on day to day life in Britain—from rationing to evacuation, Make Do and Mend to Dig for Victory. Their experience at Kent Life gave the children brilliant first hand experiences that brought them close to the reality of the time. Dressed in costumes, reflective of the period, the children learnt about the RAF, air raids, rationing and what wartime experiences would have been like for evacuees. By the end of the day, I think they were all left feeling how lucky they are to be living in 2026.



We can't get enough of **BOOKS!**

Thank you to everyone for all the fantastic book donations that have come into school to help set up our Book Swap Shed. We have got plenty of books to set up our shed once Mr Rowson has finished building it and lots of lovely books to go into class libraries too. Please keep the donations coming in—we can never have enough books in school.



Year 2 have been making good use of their class books by having comfy and cosy 'book buzz' sessions to enhance their reading for pleasure and we are loving our 'Secret Reader' afternoons in Year R, in which parents have been coming into school to read a story to their child's class. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for this.

In the summer term we will be visited by Kent Libraries who will be promoting their summer reading challenge—'Read to the Beat' to the children. Look out for further details coming soon, including information about prizes awarded to local schools with the highest percentage of children engaged in the challenge. Come on Godinton—we can do this!



Go Go Play Rangers!

Our amazing Play Rangers have been busy getting "green fingered" helping Mrs Carr put together a little Opal garden. We had some lovely plants and soil kindly donated by Harringe Plants in Sellenge, and we have made a lovely little area just behind Festival Corner.

The Play Rangers have really enjoyed getting involved and it is lovely watching the new area take shape. Our Play Rangers are a vital part of the Opal Team, not only helping Mrs Carr and the Play Team over lunchtimes, but also helping the children have fun within our amazing play zones and, now the weather is better, being in charge of music on the field. We are very proud of how well they have all settled into their roles.



If anyone has any donations suitable for Opal please either contact Mrs Carr direct on opal@godinton.kent.sch.uk or leave your donation in the Opal box outside the school entrance.

Thank you to everyone who has completed our Opal survey which was sent out earlier this week. This will help to shape Opal Play at Godinton—to see what is working well and what further steps we might be able to take.

PTFA Update

Our summer fair is drawing closer...

Saturday 13th June 12–3 p.m.

This year promises to be bigger and better than ever with so many stalls and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

As always, we are only able to facilitate all our plans if we have enough help on the day and enough donations. So get grannies and grandpas, aunties and uncles to have a clear out of their cupboards and bring any useful donations into school. If you can help on the day, either for the whole of the day or just part of it, we would love your help on one of our stalls. Help setting up and clearing away is always very welcome so if you can bring some muscle and energy to clearing away tables at the end of the event we'd be very grateful. If you can offer any help, in any capacity, please just contact our PTFA:

ptfa@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Don't forget to sign up for your Father's Day Wonky Bars—a special treat for the important men in your child's life. Bars can be purchased through PTFA-Events (www.pta-events.co.uk/godinton) up until 4.30 p.m. on Friday 12th June. Look out for the golden ticket in winning bars to win an extra surprise.

Finally, don't forget to join in with our £20.26 for 2026 initiative which has so far raised £1,637 due to our children's amazing fundraising efforts. Well done to Arabella and Logan who have raised £300 between them by litter picking, Noah and Amelie who have nearly reached their cycling challenge target, Aathria who has raised £55 and Chloe and Alfie who have raised almost £200 between them. Look out for details of how to sign up in the last PTFA newsletter. Well done!

Keeping Everyone Safe

We always welcome visitors into our school assemblies and this term was the turn of the Kent Fire and Rescue Service who led fire safety talks with the children. These talks are vital in ensuring our children know how to prevent fire related incidents, how to stay safe in an emergency and how to contact the emergency services.

Our children are always excellent during our termly fire drills, when we practice evacuating the school building quickly and safely. This term our drill took place after school to ensure that our Night Owls crew and other after school activities had the chance to practice our procedures.

You can find out more about aspects of health and safety practice and safeguarding guidance at Godinton in our online booklet 'In Safe Hands'. Visit the safeguarding page on the school website and scroll down to the booklet link.

<https://www.godinton.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding/>

Safeguarding is a whole school responsibility. If you are ever worried about a child within our school community, please let us know;

Miss Talbot (Headteacher) Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Stein (assistant Head/ SENCO) and Mrs McGibney (Family Liaison Officer) – Deputy DSLs.

DSL@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Important Governor Update from Steve King

I will begin this Governor update with the news that after 21 years as Chair of Governors I decided that I would stand down when my term of office came up for renewal. I will remain as a Governor but will step back from the responsibility for leading the team. During my years as Chair, I have worked with 3 headteachers who have been supported by a strong and dedicated team of people. Together, we faced many challenges and have seen the school move from strength to strength to make it the excellent school it is today. I have enjoyed every moment during my term of office and have been proud to have been part of the school community. I am looking forward to being able to contribute to the schools continuing successes in my role of Governor.

I am now pleased to report that the role of Chair of Governors passed to Rob Wellard at the Governing Body meeting on 13th May. Rob is an experienced Governor who has been Vice Chair since April 2022. Rob will introduce himself in the next newsletter. I wish Rob well in his new role and am sure that he will continue to serve Godinton Primary School well.

In the coming months Rob will be providing you with more information about the role of Governor and seeking your help in recruiting new Governors. We currently have our full quota of parent governors but we need people who are not parents of children in the school to fill the 2 vacancies we currently have on the Board. If you know of somebody who would be interested in finding out about becoming a Governor please pass their details to Rob at chair@godinton.kent.sch.uk

For all of the Governors this has been another busy term. Some of us were involved in the invigilation of the SATs tests that our Year 6 children sat in mid-May. We have also been monitoring 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). At a recent meeting we looked at Priority 5 of the plan which is seeking to develop the school's environmental credentials and included looking at the latest review of the Climate Action Plan (a copy of the Climate Action Plan can be found on the 'Environmental Priorities' page on the school website).

Looking ahead to next term we will be completing the annual budget setting exercise when 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 Governors will become involved towards the end of the exercise. The Governors role in the process is to review the budget proposals and then, when satisfied, approve them. We will also be completing the annual review of the Strategic Priorities Action Plan which will include thinking of new priorities to add to the list.

With Kind Regards

Steve King

On behalf of all the staff, pupils, parents and Governors at Godinton, I would like to thank Steve for the fantastic support and service he has provided to our school and to wish Rob well in his new role.

Other News and Reminders...

- We now have a new Environmental and Sustainability Policy which can be viewed on the Environment Page of the school website.
- This has been a very short term with a week's half term next week. We return to school on Monday 1st June. Term 6 finishes for the children on Thursday 23rd July. Children return to school in September on Wednesday 2nd September.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

School Games Football Festival: At the start of the month, our school took part in an exciting football festival at Ashford School in Great Chart, with a team made up of nine Year 5 and 6 pupils, including two of our Year 5 girls. The team got off to a fantastic start, winning their first match 7–0, followed by another impressive 4–0 victory in their second game. Although they lost their final match 3–0, the pupils showed great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event. Well done to everyone involved for representing the school so positively.

High 5 Tournament: Our footballing efforts were closely followed by equally as impressive teamwork by our team of seven children who proudly represented Godinton in the Ashford & District Primary School Sports Association High 5 Tournament. The children played five initial matches (1 win, 1 draw and 3 loses) which resulted in them progressing to a 5th/6th place play-off; they showed fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and resilience throughout the competition. Mrs Crowfoot and Mrs Ellis were busy umpiring on the day, so a big thank you goes to the parents who supported, organised and looked after the children so well. A special shout-out also goes to Cyrus, who stepped in at the last minute and did a brilliant job. The team represented the school superbly—we are proud of them all.

High 5 League—Since mid March, a group of 10 children from across Ys 4, 5 and 6 have been competing in the Ashford Netball Youth League at Willesborough Junior School. The team has been training and playing weekly, showing determination and clear improvement with every match. Initially placed in a random pool, the children played six matches, finishing on 8th May. They got off to a fantastic start with a 9–0 win in their first game, narrowly lost the second 5–2, were defeated in the third and fourth matches, and then finished the pool strongly by winning their final two games. As a result of their efforts, the team has now been placed into an ability-based pool and will play a further six matches between 15th May and 3rd July. Amazing work!