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Message from Miss Talbot

Joy Across the Generations

It was lovely to receive an invitation, from the Halden Heights Care Home in High Halden, to join their residents for a day of fun activities to celebrate the start of the World Cup. I am always keen to involve our children in activities which help to support the wider community and this was a fantastic opportunity to bring old and young together. Halden Heights is a large, purpose-built nursing and residential care home located on Ashford Road in High Halden. Operated by the Eleanor Healthcare Group, it provides 24-hour nursing and dementia care for older adults and individuals with physical disabilities as well as palliative care.

We took 20 amazing children, from Year 4 and 5, over to the care home for the day. The children joined the residents in singing football anthems, playing football and completing football related puzzles and colouring activities. It was very evident that the children's presence had a very positive impact on the residents and brought a lot of joy. For the children, it was opportunity to understand that increasing age doesn't mean you can't have fun and enjoy the feeling of bringing such pleasure to others. As always, our children were kind, polite, patient and thoughtful—I was immensely proud of them all.



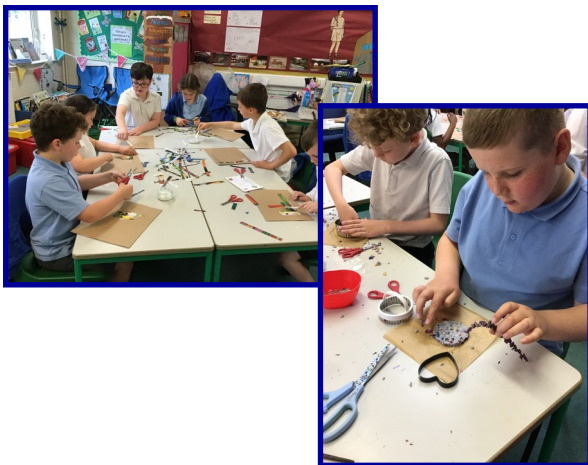
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Trash to Treasure— Our Fantastic Art Day

Our second whole-school Art Day of the year, was a fantastic celebration of creativity, teamwork and environmental awareness, all centred around the theme: “Trash to Treasure.” The day challenged our children to transform recycled and natural materials into beautiful, imaginative works of art—and the results were truly impressive!

Year 3 were incredibly busy exploring a range of artistic techniques. They created stunning collages using old newspapers and magazines, carefully selecting colours, textures and images to bring their ideas to life. The children also headed outdoors to gather natural materials from the school grounds, which they used to produce detailed clay prints.



Year 6 pupils took on the challenge of working with more unusual materials. They enjoyed making their own **seed paper**, learning how recycled paper can be repurposed in an environmentally friendly way. In addition, they crafted imaginative sculptures using old pieces of tin foil, demonstrating great skill in shaping and designing their creations.

Meanwhile, Year 2 added a splash of colour around the school by painting stones with vibrant designs, which have now been placed throughout the grounds for everyone to enjoy. They also created beautiful lanterns using recycled glass jars.



The whole school contributed to a range of collaborative decorations that will brighten our outdoor spaces for weeks to come. These included eye-catching spiral decorations and colourful flowers, all made from recycled plastic bottles and weavings on old hoops, using scraps of recycled material.

We also created a wonderful bug hotel, built using natural and recycled materials which is now proudly situated on the school field. We are excited to see which insects and creatures make it their home in the weeks ahead.



It was inspiring to see every class working collaboratively, thinking creatively, and gaining a deeper understanding of how we can all help protect our environment. We hope you enjoy seeing some of the works of art when you come along to Open Afternoon.

A Whirlwind Week of Adventure, Creativity and Crusty Pizza!

The week before last saw our children dive into a jam-packed Activity Week filled with fun, flour, and a fair bit of fresh air. From Monday to Friday, no two days were the same—and judging by the smiles (and occasional splatters of paint, rocky road and mud), a fantastic time was had by all.



Monday saw the year group split, with some children heading off on their residential adventure to Carrot Wood where they began three days of climbing, geo-caching, abseiling, swimming and raft-building (to name but a few). The remaining children stayed local but certainly not low-key; Black Wolf Survival joined the children for a hands-on day of den building, fire lighting and arrow crafting with natural materials. It was survival skills meets Bear Grylls (without the need to eat any bugs – phew!).



Tuesday saw the children in school embrace their inner chefs, whipping up rocky road, smoothies and cheese and onion pinwheels. This continued,

on Wednesday, when they enjoyed a mouth-watering morning at Pizza Express, where they delved into the history of this much-loved dish, learned the art of pizza-making and devoured their delicious creations.

On Thursday, the excitement ramped up with the whole year group heading on a grand day out to Chessington—rides, laughter and unexpected thrills thrown in for good measure – despite the weather and the traffic on the way home, all of the children had an amazing day.



The week finished off on Friday with an arts and crafts extravaganza, as both classes got stuck into a day brimming with creativity.



All in all, it was a week to remember—messy, marvellous and packed with moments the children won't soon forget. A huge thank you to all the adults who helped to create such a fantastic week for the children.

Musical Memories

This year we have enjoyed many musical moments at Godinton. As well as our curriculum lessons, celebrated with class performances in our Charanga assemblies, our children have had lots of opportunities to showcase their musical talents to an audience.

At the start of the term, we were treated to a truly memorable evening as we came together to celebrate some of our children's musical talents at our Music Showcase. The showcase involved 45 of our most committed musical students who all worked hard to represent the many different musical opportunities available in our school and achievements from their own external music lessons. We had performances from representatives of the Young Voices Choir, Lower and Middle School choir, Music Club, Guitar and Ukulele Club plus solo and group performances from children having private music lessons on drums, guitar, piano and singing.

The event was a celebration not only of musical talent, but also of the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff. I was immensely proud of all our children and would like to thank Mrs Kelleher and Mrs Holmes for all their hard work in bringing out the best in our superstars.



We hope that having seen this year's Showcase we will have lots of children interested in taking part next year.

Guitar and Piano

Lessons

In April, following the departure of Buster, Mrs Kelleher reduced her HLTA role at Godinton in order to take on the delivery of private guitar lessons in the school on one day a week. The good news is that if you are interested in private music lessons for your child, Mrs Kelleher will be continuing to offer these in September, for children from years 3-6 on **Thursdays** during the school day. The lessons available are:

- Half hour group guitar lessons
- Half hour paired piano lessons; this keeps the cost per pupil down but still offers opportunity.
- If the timetable allows there may also be some scope for 1-1 lessons on guitar or piano, but these will obviously be at a higher cost.

To find out more information, Mrs Kelleher can be contacted through 'Jude Kelleher Music' judekellehermusic@hotmail.com and is happy to provide testimonials from parents whose children have been taking music lessons with her since April.

"Music is a great way to build confidence, I would definitely recommend music lessons with Mrs Kelleher. She has extensive musical knowledge and is supportive and encouraging towards all the children".

Team Spirit Shines at Sports Day

Thankfully Sports Day managed to go ahead in pleasant temperatures, making it a fantastic day for everyone.

During the morning, the children took part in the flat and relay races which got the day off to a competitive start. The morning was won by Walmer with Dover in second place, Leeds in third and Rochester coming in fourth.

The afternoon saw our traditional carousel of activities with our older children taking the lead in supporting their younger house mates. The points from the afternoon session will be added to the morning total to reveal our overall winning house. We will announce this next week.

Well done to all the children for showing such good team spirit. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and support.



Going the Extra Mile

This year, 164 children went the extra mile on their Homework Trails and will be receiving special certificates and an afternoon film treat during the school day (Year R and 1 on Friday 10th July and Years 2-6 on Wednesday 15th July). Well done to all these children for their fantastic efforts with their homework.

Don't forget that the Term 6 Homework Trail postcards are due in by Friday 3rd July to receive a Headteacher gold sticker.

Kings of the Castle— Year 2 Visit Leeds Castle



Year 2 recently stepped back in time with an exciting and memorable trip to Leeds Castle, bringing their “Turrets and Tall Tales” topic to life in the most magical way.

The day was filled with exploration, discovery and hands-on learning. The children had the opportunity to explore the inside of the castle, where they were able to see for themselves what life might have been like in years gone by. As they explored the rooms and staircases, they began to understand how castles were designed and why their features—such as thick walls and defensive towers—were so important.

Outside, the breathtaking castle grounds provided even more to explore. The children were particularly fascinated by the moat and surrounding lake, learning how these water features protected the castle from invaders.

A highlight of the day was a brilliant drama workshop, where children took part in imaginative activities based on the different animals associated with the castle.

By the end of the visit, Year 2 had developed a strong understanding of the key features of castles and their historical importance. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life and create lasting memories along the way. Well done Year 2 for giving yourselves such a fantastic day.

Keeping Cricket in Play at Godinton

With football fever currently sweeping the nation, it would be easy for other sports to be bowled over... but not at Godinton! Over the past month, our pupils have proudly been flying the flag for cricket by taking part in a series of exciting events.

One of the highlights was a series of all-day Dynamos Cricket festivals held at Mersham Cricket Club. Despite the hot and humid weather (perfect for spectators, if not always for players!), our children showed fantastic determination and enthusiasm throughout.

Over the course of three days, brilliant groups of budding cricketers, including eight children from Years 3 and 4 (and some very enthusiastic fathers), as well as two keen teams from Years 5 and 6, were very excited to participate in a series of matches against other teams from the local area. The tournament followed standard cricket rules, with a few helpful tweaks to ensure the format was accessible and enjoyable for younger players.

For some of our children, this was their very first experience of playing “proper” cricket, while others were rediscovering the joy of the game after some time away. Regardless of experience, every single child gave it their all and had a fantastic time. It’s safe to say that cricket is alive and well at Godinton—no matter how strong the pull of football might be!



PTFA Update

We have been blown away by everyone’s fantastic efforts to raise £20.26 for the PTFA—it really has been incredible. So far, your efforts have raised over **£2000** for the school and with more exciting challenges planned for the summer, that total is bound to rise.

We are really proud of Ivy and Violet F who have raised almost £150 between them and Joshua and Abigail W who have walked over 26 km in just 3 weeks, raising £500 – an amazing achievement.

Please sign up to the £20.26 challenge on Superkind to start your fundraising project and email the PTFA to let them know of your amazing ideas to raise money.

We will be awarding the next lot of certificates for children who have reached £20.26, in an upcoming assembly.

Well done everyone!



Our PTFA Summer Fayre was bigger and better than ever with so many stalls and activities for everyone to enjoy—from crafts to Forest School, bouncy castles to soaking members of staff!

I can’t thank our PTFA, staff and all our volunteers enough, for making the day so amazing—we are truly grateful. The fair has raised over **£4000** which is phenomenal. Thank you all so much.

Ashford Library Challenge

Read to the Beat

Last week, we were visited by Vicky from Kent Libraries who told us all about something very exciting...

This summer an exciting reading challenge is coming to Kent Libraries from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 5 September – and it's completely free to take part. If you're looking for something fun, flexible and screen-free to keep your children busy over the summer, then this activity is perfect and will help children to discover new stories, build confidence and enjoy reading at their own pace.

This summer, it's all about **Read to the Beat** – celebrating music, rhythm and the joy of a great story. Whether it's an action-packed adventure or a quiet moment with a favourite book, children can explore reading in their own way, inspired by sound, imagination and creativity.

Get started and join in...

Taking part is easy, and children can join at any time during the Challenge.

Simply head to your local Kent library to:

- sign up with a library card
- borrow a book
- pick up a sticker booklet and start tracking progress

Prefer digital? Children can also take part online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk by creating a profile and logging what they read.

Reading your way...

There's no set reading list – children can read to their own beat and choose what they enjoy most. From fiction and non-fiction to audiobooks, e-books, comics and poetry, everything counts. The aim is simple: enjoy reading in a way that works for them. Just make sure to borrow from a library to earn rewards!



Little wins, big achievements...

As children make their way through the Challenge, there are rewards to collect:

- after 2 goals – a bookmark
- after 4 goals – a key ring
- after 6 goals – a certificate and medal

It's all about celebrating progress, building confidence and making reading feel rewarding. Children taking part online can collect their certificate and medal from their local library once they finish.

More things are happening...

Alongside the books, libraries across Kent will be running free activities and events inspired by Read to the Beat, bringing the theme to life in fun and creative ways.

There's plenty to explore, whether you pop in for a quick visit or make a day of it.

You can find more information, including how to join, recommended reads and activities, at

www.kent.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge

Our very own Book Swap Shed is also now open for business. Bring a book that you think someone would love and leave it in the shed. Pick up something that someone has donated and take it home to read. Thank you to our PTFA for funding this.



Welcome to our new Chair of Governors—Rob Wellard



Following Steve King's message in last month's newsletter I am delighted to be writing my first message to you since being elected as Chair of Governors. I would like to extend a special thanks to Steve for his 25 years of service as a Governor at Godinton Primary School, including 21 years as Chair, and for the help and guidance he has provided to me since my arrival.

Having served as a governor for the past seven years, including four years as Vice Chair, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the dedication, care and commitment that make Godinton Primary School such a special place. As Chair, I look forward to building on the excellent work already taking place across the school. However, I recognise that the role of Chair brings new responsibilities and so, over the coming weeks, I will be working closely with Miss Talbot and the rest of the Governing Body to ensure a smooth transition, support the school's priorities for the remainder of the academic year, and prepare for the start of the new academic year in September.

The final term of the academic year is always a busy and exciting time with lots to look forward to. It's a time filled with exciting events for pupils, staff and parents, including the Year 6 residential and the annual Summer Fayre, which was

again a huge success earlier this month. It's also a time to celebrate achievements and reflect on the progress our pupils have made throughout the year, and to say goodbye to our year 6 pupils as they move on to secondary school in September. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at Godinton, and I am sure they will embrace the transition to secondary school with confidence and enthusiasm. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank all our year 6 pupils for being amazing ambassadors for our school, and wish them every success in the next chapter of their education.

Thank you for taking the time to read my first message as Chair of Governors. I'm looking forward to writing more of these over the next couple of years to keep you all updated on the activities and role of the Governing Body. In the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a successful and enjoyable final term.

School Reports

On Friday this week your child's final report of the year will be emailed out to you via Arbor (years R to 5). Year 6 reports will come out to you on Friday 10th July once the KS2 SATs results are back.

This report provides a data summary of your child's attainment so you can see how they will proceed into the next academic year.

Other News and Reminders...

- Just a reminder that Tuesday 27th July, from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m., is Open Afternoon when you can come into school to view your child's classroom and work and meet their next teacher.
- We are still in the process of finalising our new school uniform supplier and will let you know as soon as we can, the details of how to make new uniform purchases.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Multi-Skills Event at Ashford Stour Centre

On Thursday 25th June, selected pupils from Years 3 and 4 had the exciting opportunity to attend a multi-skills event at the Ashford Stour Centre. Throughout the day, the children took part in a wide range of fun and engaging activities designed to develop their coordination, teamwork and physical skills.

Our pupils approached every challenge with enthusiasm and determination, putting in maximum effort and supporting one another brilliantly. They were sensible, well-behaved and showed fantastic attitudes, truly making the most of the experience. It was wonderful to see how much they enjoyed themselves, and we are very proud of how well they represented the school.

A special thank you and congratulations must go to the students from The Beacon School, who planned and delivered all of the activities. They did a brilliant job in making the day enjoyable, inclusive and well-organised for everyone involved.

Well done to all pupils who took part – you were a credit to the school!

High 5 Netball Team Update

Our High 5 netball team has made a fantastic start to the second half of their Ashford Netball Youth League Plate group campaign!

On 5th June, the team began their challenge with a strong 4–2 win. They continued their excellent form the following week with an impressive 8–1 victory. On 19th June, they showed great determination and teamwork across two matches, winning 8–3 in the first game and 5–2 in the second.

Thanks to their hard work and commitment, the team currently sits at the top of their group—an amazing achievement! They have two matches remaining on 3rd July to complete their campaign. We are incredibly proud of their effort, teamwork and sportsmanship so far.