



New Build

Obviously the new build is progressing apace. We are on schedule and hopefully the work will be completed during the summer holidays so that we can move into the space at the very beginning of September.

The plan for the new build is on the school website so that you can see exactly what is being built.

The new school office will be located alongside a greatly improved and much larger lobby. There will be automatic doors at the main entrance to allow you easy access into this lobby. As you would expect, there will be key pad security doors at the opposite end of the lobby to control access into the school itself.

There will be a properly equipped medical room and disabled toilet, with shower, adjoining the new office. This will allow us to care for our children and to meet their medical needs in a way that has hitherto been impossible.

Over the course of the summer, the side entrance to our Reception classes will be altered and a ramp will replace the steps which are currently there. We will review the procedures for the Reception class entering and leaving the school, and decide how best we can manage this after September.

Hellos and Goodbyes

I am very sorry to say that Mrs Pearce will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Mrs Pearce has been at Godinton School for 13 years and has taught across the year groups in key stage 1. Of late she has been our Lower and currently our Middle School Manager. She is a very experienced and capable teacher and we are extremely sorry to see her go.

She is leaving us to take up a new position at St Nicholas School in New Romney, where she will teach Year R and be the school's Leader of Teaching and Learning. We wish her every success in her new position and thank her for all of the hard work and dedication she has given to Godinton during her time here.

I am very pleased to say that Miss Lizzie McMath will be joining us in September. Miss McMath currently teaches at the Folkestone Academy and will be in her third year of teaching. She will join our Upper School team to fill the gap left by Mrs Cripps being on maternity leave. We have been extremely lucky to have Mrs Tinker and Mrs Kelly to fill this gap for us this year and I thank them for all of their hard work. They will still be with our school next year, most likely going back to their usual role as supply cover.

In the next newsletter I will let you know more about teacher placements for next year and how we are replacing Mrs Pearce.

Waste Recycling

If you have unwanted clothes, bed linen, towels, curtains, paired shoes or trainers, please put them into a bag and send them into us next Monday or Tuesday morning. We have organised for a collection of these items next Tuesday afternoon. They will be recycled and as a reward for doing it, the school will receive science equipment. The more we recycle, the more science equipment we receive, so please send your unwanted textiles this way!

Academy News

Our conversion to academy came and went without any great fanfares or disasters. Life is continuing as normal and I can't think of any changes which have occurred to affect any of us.

However, behind the scenes, we are working to make use of the greater freedoms afforded us as an academy, and we will be putting together a bid for development money from the government. We are hoping to get the funds we need to extend the hall, kitchen and car park, and to build a second small hall and extra removal rooms. If we are successful we will be able to fully address a great many issues which currently hamper our work here and the education we can provide to the children.

We have a great deal of work to do to prepare the bid which has to be submitted to the DfE in November 2015. If we are successful, we will be able to begin building work early in 2016. Fingers crossed.

Catering News

Independent Catering have now taken over from the Contract Dining Company as our meal providers. I hope that you are all coping with the online payment system. There were a few small teething issues at the start, but in the main it has seemed very successful. Even I mastered it and I still can't work a TV remote.

I want to remind you that you are now able to opt in and out of the service on a daily basis. The children can have a cooked meal as often as they wish and they aren't limited to certain days.

We are already serving over 200 meals, two or three times a week and we expect more children to have a cooked school meal as time progresses. We fully appreciate that this will have implications for us and this is why our application for funding to expand the hall and kitchen is such a priority.

Football Success!

Congratulations to the boys who played in the recent Ashford Schools' football tournament at Wye School. They really gelled as a team and some fantastic performances saw them win through to the final of the competition, where they were unfortunately narrowly beaten by one goal. However, they should feel very proud of coming second in a hotly contested competition.

Well done to Charlie Dixon, Ben White, Jamie Betts, Mark Wilmer, Rhys DeVall, Harley Bowles, Rowan Shardlow, and Mikey Ferris.

Young Voices

Miss Ricketts and Mrs Fagg have registered our school for the Young Voices concert which is staged annually at the O2 arena.

The Young Voices event has been running for a number of years. It is a national event, and schools across the country form choirs and spend months practising their singing, and learning songs. In our case, Miss Ricketts and Mrs Fagg are going to start an extra curricular club for this choir, which will be open to children in years 2 and 3.

Young Voices culminates in a concert at the O2 arena, when our children will join between 5000 and 8000 other children, to give the largest school choir performance in the world. They will spend all day at the O2, practising under the guidance of professional musicians, before performing to the parents that evening.

This is a fantastic opportunity and the children will remember performing at the O2 for the rest of their lives.

RNLI thank you!

Thank you to everyone who wore wellies to school! We raised a grand total of £601.37 for the RNLI, which is a superb effort. Congratulations to everyone who supported this extremely worthy cause.

International Links

We place great store on the wider education which we provide to our pupils. As part of this, we try to offer our children a great many ways of developing their experience of other cultures and languages.

On the 18th May, 6 of our pupils will fly out to Poland with Miss Talbot, Mr Cook and Miss Ricketts to spend a week with the children of our partner school in Tychy, and 6 children from our other partner school in Kortrijk, Belgium. We are the only primary school in Kent to be involved in an EU funded Erasmus project such as this.

In recent weeks your children may have mentioned having either Japanese or German visitors in their class, as we have had secondary school pupils from both countries visiting the school. The Japanese students spent a day with us whilst the 5 German students spent two weeks working in a number of our classes.

On June 18th, some of our Year 3 pupils will go across the Channel to visit our French twin school, Sainte Anne in Hazebrouck.

Hopefully we will be able to widen our international links even further in the coming years. We aim to provide our children with more opportunities to experience other cultures and languages than any other primary school in the country.