

Godinton Primary School  
Lockholt Close  
Ashford  
Kent. TN23 3JR  
Telephone: 01233 621616  
www.godinton.kent.sch.uk  
office@godinton.kent.sch.uk



Newsletter July 2016

Issue 4

# Godinton Gazette

## Message from Miss Talbot

We all know that we've got wonderful children at Godinton but it's always nice to hear that message from those who don't know our school. Frequently when our children return from school trips, we are emailed by the organisers to say how polite, well-mannered and thoughtful our children have been. It's always lovely to hear that the behaviour of our children stands out so positively to others who spend their day working with school group.

Last month, Year 2 visited Godinton House for a day of activities exploring the house and grounds. We were delighted to receive an email from the school's coordinator upon their return, saying:

As I told the children yesterday they were fantastic and probably one of the best groups so far this year: well behaved, great listening and answers to questions. A real credit to you.' Feedback from the residential visit to Hardelot was similar with the centre staff asking if our children could stay there all summer as they had been such a pleasure to have.

Recently our Year 6 children also received a similar accolade after taking part in a 'Safety in Action' workshop run by Ashford Borough Council. The workshops, which involved the children participating in various activities focusing on keeping safe online, road safety, peer pressure and making sensible choices, were attended by over 1,400 children from 39 local primary schools. The organisers selected one school from all the participants, whose children were the most polite, attentive, well-behaved and well-engaged – and of course they chose Godinton. This was a wonderful honour which won the year group £100 (the children have decided to spend the money on ice-creams). We are exceedingly proud of our Year 6 children and this award makes a fitting final tribute to their time at Godinton.

**As this year draws to a close, can I take the opportunity to wish all our children and their families a very happy summer break. I'd also like to thank the staff for all their support over the past few months in Mr Holditch's absence. We will see you all back in school in September for another exciting academic year.**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FLO .....	2
Reading Books .....	2
My time at Godinton.....	3
Year 6 Activity Week.....	3
.....	3
Sports Report.....	5
Diary Dates.....	5

**Don't Forget Friday 22nd July is an inset day school is closed to all children. The new academic year starts for the children on Tuesday 6th September.**

**Individual School photographs on Monday 26th September.**

# Can you help? Reading Books Required.



Next year we will be continuing to encourage our children to read at home through our Star Reader Challenge. Regular reading practice at home is essential to developing the children's fluency and comprehension skills. It gives them the opportunity to put into practice the skills they have been taught in school. The Star Reader challenge only asks that children read for a short period of time each week. We appreciate that families have busy lives and that regular reading practice is sometimes difficult to fit in but would hope that all our children would be able to meet the challenge each week and that many would be able to exceed it. Please keep up your child's regular reading practice over the summer holidays, so that they come back to school in September ready to move onto their next set of reading skills.

We will be having a sort out of our 'home reading books' over the next few months. Many of our books are now so well used that they no longer have that exciting 'new book appeal'. We are therefore looking for donations of books which could top up our reading book collection. If anyone has any children's reading

books at home which they no longer need and which are in good condition, then these can be brought into school in September. In particular we are looking for:

- Early reading books, (phonics reading books) especially Oxford Reading Tree books (Biff and Chip)
- Good condition children's paperbacks
- Good quality non-fiction books

We are also looking to build up a group of reading volunteers who could commit to coming into school on a regular weekly basis (perhaps a couple of hours per week in a regular time slot) to listen to children read. This would involve reading with children on a 1:1 basis, to help them apply their phonics knowledge and to discuss the text with them. We would provide some training for our volunteers in term 1. If anyone is interested, please pick up a volunteer helper form from the school office in September. Volunteers will be required to complete a successful DBS.

## What can the Flo help you with?

Coming Soon...

### PTFA Events

Sunday 14th August Boot Fair

Saturday 1st October Pamper Evening



My name is Tracey, although I am often just called FLO (Family Liaison Officer), and I am part of the Pastoral Support Team within Godinton school.

My job here is to support families with any problem that they may have, whether that's a school related issue or one that affects the family personally. The help I offer can include helping families to access resources both within school and in the wider community but more often than not I am just someone with whom you can talk things through with.

On Mondays from 1 till 3:30 I hold a toddler group in the village hall. This is a great opportunity for parents from school and the wider community to come together, with or without their children, and share the challenges of being a parent, as well as a chance for younger children to interact with each other. For this I ask for a donation of £1 to cover the cost of the hall and snacks.

Then on a Wednesday morning from 9am till 10am we have a coffee morning. This is usually held within the staff room, although occasionally we go for breakfast or an outing. This is another chance for parents to come together and share the challenges of being a parent.

Once a term after school I also help run a Young Carers group with Mrs Stapleton. This group is supported by our local Young Carers group, however registration with this local group is not compulsory for attendance. The Young Carers group is an opportunity for children who have to support someone within their family with an illness, disability or other difficulties that impact family life, meet one another and know that there are others in similar situations.

All of these apart from the young carers one are open to all and it would be great to see you there. However if you can't make it, my door is always open and I would be happy to help you any way that I can.

# My time at Godinton

## Year 6 reflect on their happy memories!

My time at Godinton has been amazing! It all started back at day 1 in year R, class P. Of course I was scared at first, but when I met my teachers and some of the children in my class I knew that this was the school for me. I think that year 6 can all agree that we've been through some tough times at primary school, but we have helped each other get through them. Whether it's a family member that has passed away, parents splitting up or even as simple as a friend leaving the school. We have always stuck together.

Moving up a year has always been a slight challenge and most children think about some of the things that could go wrong in a higher year group and there tends to be a lot of what ifs. However once we do enter another year, we realise that its not as bad as it seems. It doesn't matter what class or lesson you are in, you always have a good laugh and your teacher will join in too.

A big part of my primary school life are the teachers, the staff are very kind, caring and always there when you need a shoulder to cry on. Godinton are so lucky to have such people, the people that make you smile and laugh and give you plenty of cherished memories to take with you to secondary school. Though lessons may be tough, the teachers still try to add some fun activities now and then.

The pupils at Godinton Primary are also part of my school life as well as the teachers. Everyone is kind to each other on the playgrounds and of course people have their ups and downs but at the end of the day they are the best of friends and nothing or no-one change that. Fine, some people think that they will never be friends with a certain someone ever again, but when you get to year 6 all of that changes. You get the sudden urge to be friends with somebody that you don't play with or that you don't talk to.

I know that I will leave Godinton Primary School on Thursday 21st July with many happy moments, playing through my head. I couldn't have had such an excellent experience without everyone who works at the school or the pupils at the school. So once again THANK YOU!

**By Elisa Kannur 6A**



### Garden Donations

Over the summer, when pottering in the garden, if you come across any garden items which the Reception classes may be able to use in their outdoor area, then please donate them to the school. We are looking forward to seeing the creative ways they are going to use wellington boots as planters!



## PROUD ARTS AWARDS

This year, 24 children from Godinton have earned their Arts award. This is a recognised National Award endorsed by Trinity College, London. This included children who have attended the Year 3 Art Club and the Year 5 and 6 Art Club. During the course of the year, the children have worked on a variety of visual art activities and have produced some stunning pieces of artwork. The children's certificates were presented in assembly this week.

## Other news in brief...

### Website Update...

Recently, the hosting facility for our school website has been updated, meaning that you will have noticed a change of layout to our school website. During the course of the upgrade some links have been misplaced and some pages require refreshing. Over the summer we will be working on updating the website to ensure that it is returned to the same level of functionality we had before. We would ask you to bear with us during this process and hope that we will be able to provide you with a revitalised Godinton website in September.

### Road Crossing...

Mrs Dianne Smith has decided to step down from her post as road crossing patrol officer in Springwood Drive. The council are assessing whether the site still presents a need for a crossing service and whether they will be replacing Mrs Smith's post and will be advising us in due course as to the outcome. This may mean that there will be no crossing patrol at this location when we return to school in September. We will continue to pursue this with the council and will keep you updated.

# Out and About

At Godinton, we like to be able to offer our children a wide range of enrichment opportunities, whether that is through after school clubs, visitors to school or off site visits. Over the course of the year, we have offered our children the opportunity to take part in over 45 educational visits, 3 residential visits and 19 different offsite PE events. The viability of these excursions does depend on parental contributions and we would like to thank you for making such visits a possibility this year. They help to bring many aspects of learning in the classroom to life in realistic and practical ways. Recent highlights include a visit by the Reception children to the Rare Breeds Centre, a Year 5 trip to Kent County Cricket Ground in Canterbury and an opportunity for Year 3 to watch the Kidenza children's orchestra perform at Highworth School.

The residential visit to the Hardelot Centre in France was a highlight of the year for many children.. 24 children took part in the residential visit which involved a visit to a chocolate factory, a snail farm and various outdoor adventurous activities at the centre..



### Car Parking...

The exit barrier to the school car park is being replaced over the summer holiday and will be fully operational when we return to school in September. Cars will be unable to exit the car park without either a token or key fob. We would kindly ask that parents continue to park outside the school site - preferably in the Chimneys' car park. A number of disabled parking spaces are available in the school car park and are for use of disabled-badge holders only. We would ask that parents dropping children off at the nursery do not monopolise these spaces which are for the benefit of those members of the school community with access difficulties.

Thank you.

## Remembering the Battle of the Somme

We were delighted to have been invited to a service at St Mary's Church in Ashford last month to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Our year 6 children attended alongside children from 4 other local primary schools in remembering soldiers from the parish who died in combat. Daniel Horn, Elisa Kannur and Thomas Hickman laid a wreath and planted a cross at the village war memorial.



# Sport Report



We have been delighted with the sporting success of our children this term. They always approach competitive events with such a positive attitude of good sportsmanship, cheering each other on and working collaboratively as a team.

On Saturday 2nd July we entered a team of 20 children from years 4, 5 and 6 into the Ashford athletics tournament at the July Rose Stadium, competing in the middle sized school category. Each child competed in either a track or field event against children from other local school. We were immensely proud of the team who came first in our group, bringing back to Godinton the award shield which will hang proudly in the school hall next year.

Further success came to the boy's Year 5 and 6 relay team, consisting of Thien Williams, Oliver Nash, Liam Stokes and Jett Pelosi, who were placed first out of all the teams, across each of the school groups. Jake Taylor came second overall in the standing long jump and Thien Williams came second overall in the 80m sprint.

Congratulations go to the whole team, who were as always, well behaved and sensible.

Our High Five teams also ended the year on a high, with success in their league. Two teams were entered into the league this year and competed every Friday over the course of term 5, then out in ability pools for term 6. Our younger team came 4th in their pool (competing for "The Plate"), only just missing out on a medal. Our older team - all year 6 - competed for "The Cup" and won their section undefeated. They all received medals and brought further silverware back for the school trophy cabinet.

Again, we congratulate all our children for their hard work over the course of the summer. Thanks as well must go to Miss McMath, Mrs Crowfoot, Mrs Busbridge and Mrs Ellis for all their work with our sports teams this year.



## Useful email contacts:

### Useful email contacts:

Mr Holditch

headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Miss Talbot

jilltalbot@godinton.kent.sch.uk

School Office

office@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Tracey Jones - FLO

traceyjones@godinton.kent.sch.uk

## Diary Dates for September

### September

Tuesday 6th—Return to school

Thursday 8th—Kent Test—Year 6 Pupils

Friday 9th—Reception children to stay all day until 3pm

Monday 12th—Reception children become full time

Monday 26th September—Individual class photos

### Godinton Primary School - Term Dates

Term 1 2016 –Tuesday 6th September to Friday 21st October 2016

**Staff Dev Day—Monday 5th September (school closed)**

**Half Term—Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October**

Term 2 2016—Monday 31st October 2016 to Wednesday 21st December 2016

**Christmas Holiday - Thursday 22nd December—Monday 2nd January 2017**

**Staff Dev Days—Monday 19th December, Tuesday 20th December & Wednesday 21st December (School Closed)**