



Contents

STAR Week Projects.....2
 Charity News Update..... 2
 It's Christmas!..... 3
 Carnival of the Baubles 4
 Homework Trails 4
 Guiding Stars.... 4
 Staff News 5
 PTFA News .. 5
 Parking.....5
 Breakfast Club.....6
 Sports Report.....6



Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

Christmas is always such a lovely time of year at Godinton with everyone working so hard to make it a very special time for the children.

This year has proved no exception with fantastic productions, Christmas lunch, Christingle making, carol singing, Christmas films and brilliant PTFA Christmas events all forming part of our celebrations this year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff and helpers at the school who have worked so tirelessly to add to the Christmas magic this year and to all the parents and grandparents who have helped to create costumes, remember oranges, rehearse lines and have come along to watch our children perform. Thank you.

I think that our children know how fortunate they are to have such special experiences to enjoy at this time of year, but our STAR week this term has helped to focus our attention on those within the community who are perhaps less fortunate. Each year group has created a project over the last couple of weeks for the benefit of our local community. You can read more about their efforts on page 2. I am sure you will agree that at a time of often great excess—the chance to think about our own good fortune is an important message for the children. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these projects possible.

I know that the children will all be very pleased to break up on Friday and are looking forward to the special family celebrations you will be having over the coming week. On behalf of everyone at Godinton, I would like to thank you for all the kind cards and gifts received by the staff and to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 6th January when we have the start of a new decade at Godinton to look forward to.



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

Class News...

STAR Week Projects

When it comes to thinking of others at this time of year, our children have pulled out all the stops to help our community over the course of STAR Week this term.



Year 2 created hampers of goodies and made Christmas cards and Year 5 also made cards which they hand delivered to our neighbours at Loudon Court to very grateful thanks.

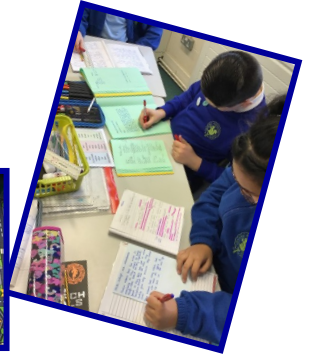
Years 1 and 4 focused their attention on children within the community less fortunate than themselves and gathered donations of unwanted toys for the Barnados charity. We know that these gifts will help brighten Christmas for others.



Year 3 decided to focus their attention on our environment and having enlisted the help of the local council in providing litter pickers, completed a clear up of rubbish around the estate. They kept a record of the waste they collected which was weighed and the data tabulated. They now know which parts of the estate need most attention.



Year 6 decided to focus on the charity Porchlight, Kent's largest charity for homeless and vulnerable people. The children each made a little house money box which they took home and filled with change to donate to the charity. In return for their donations, the children each attempted to go without something—some slept on the floor for a night, some went without a warm bath or shower, and others went without little luxuries like their phones or tablets. The children brought their money boxes back to school and set up a Porchlight village. Their efforts raised £182 for the charity which made the children extremely proud.



Thank you to everyone who helped the children to complete these projects.

Other Charity News...

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in November. We have had notification from the charity that we raised a staggering £457.05 and out of all the Ashford schools, raised the third highest amount. Thank you so much for your kind generosity.

Hygiene Bank Christmas Bags

Thank you as well to everyone who put together a bag of goodies, at very short notice, as Christmas gifts for the Hygiene Bank charity. We managed to send 14 bags off in total which will help to make a difference to people's lives.



It's Christmas...

Lower School and Middle Christmas Productions



Congratulations to all our children for their fantastic efforts in our Christmas productions this year. I think that it takes amazing courage and confidence to take their place on stage and perform in the way that they do. All the children, whether they were acting or singing, made an important contribution to the success of these productions. We hope that you very much enjoyed coming along to watch—I know that it means a lot to the children to have you there.



Upper School Carol Service

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Upper School Church service at St Mary's Great Chart, yesterday afternoon. Our carol service is a key part of our Christmas celebrations and an important reminder of the meaning of Christmas. We are grateful to Rev Cathie Aldis for accommodating us within the church.

Christingle Making

Christingle making has been a tradition at Godinton for as long as I can remember and one of the most rewarding elements of this activity is always how wonderfully our Year 6 children support the younger children in putting their Christingles together. So whilst dolly mixtures may well be eaten by the time the Christingle makes it home, know that a huge amount of care and thought has gone into the process of putting these together. Well done Year 6 for being such fantastic helpers.



Carol Singing

Our school choir has been immensely busy over the past few weeks—carol singing in a range of venues to a range of audiences. The choir started their seasonal rounds by performing at County Square shopping centre at the start of December to those out Christmas shopping. We hope that you then enjoyed the carol singing at the end of the school day on Monday, and enjoyed a mince pie or two, with kind courtesy from the team at the Co Op. Finally, the choir entertained our neighbours from Loudon Court with carols by the Christmas tree in school on Tuesday. I know that it means a lot to our guests to be involved in our festive activities and they were full of praise for the children's efforts.

We hope that their recent singing experiences have helped prepare the choir for their next challenge—when they perform at the O2 in January as part of the Young Voices Choir.

Carnival of the Baubles



It was lovely to hear of so many of our children taking place in the lantern parade around Ashford last Saturday as part of Love Ashford's Christmas celebrations. Year 5 had the opportunity to display the lanterns they had made during their class workshops which looked amazing. We were one of only 6 schools in Ashford, chosen to take part in this project; thank you to everyone who represented the school so well.

Homework Trail

Just a reminder that the Term 2 Homework Trails are due back into school on **Tuesday 7th January**. This is when the children will have their Homework Trail Showcase in class—an opportunity to view each other's work and have a look at the variety of tasks produced. The children have really enjoyed doing this and I hope that the breadth of different ways in which the tasks have been interpreted has provided further inspiration.

As well as being in the children's books, all Homework Trails can be found on the school website.

The term 3 Homework Trails will go out to the children on Monday 13th January and will be due back in on **Tuesday 25th February** (day after the INSET day).

Guiding Stars

Over the course of this term, we have been introducing the children to our new 'Guiding Stars'. These are 10 icons each reflecting a different learning skill that we believe it is important to develop in the children. These skills are being built into the children's learning and they are guided in how they can help to develop their skills in each area.

The Guiding Stars are about developing skills for life that will help the children in a range of academic and non academic tasks. They address the areas of: risk taking, motivation, self-confidence, problem solving, independence, perseverance, creative thinking, personal best, teamwork and communication. These are the areas which we think are most vital in ensuring that the children develop as well rounded individuals with a good bank of skills at their disposal to enable them to be successful and to achieve the best they can.

Next term, we will be sending home more information about our Guiding Stars and how parents can help to support these areas at home with their children. You will start to notice the Guiding Stars around the school and reference being made to them in your child's books.

We hope that this will prove to be a successful way of developing the children's confidence and their ability to try their best, with a positive outlook, at whatever they come up against.



Staff News...

Lower School Team Leader

At the end of this term, Mrs Christopher steps down from her role as Lower School Leader when she starts her part time teaching position, job sharing with Miss Marsh. Once again, I would like to thank Mrs Christopher for everything she has done for the school as Lower School Leader.



As of January, Miss Jemma Causebrook will take on the role of Lower School Team Leader. Miss Causebrook teaches in Year 1 and has made a really positive impact within the school during the time that she has been with

us. I know that you will join me in congratulating Miss Causebrook on her new role and will look forward to working with her in this capacity in January.

New Teaching Assistant

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Hannah Hubbard to our Teaching Assistant team in the new year.

PTFA News...

I must say a huge thank you to our PTFA and all parent helpers who assisted with our two big Christmas events over the past couple of weeks.

We had a great turn out for Breakfast with Santa last week, which always proves to be a wonderful seasonal highlight.

Our new committee also held their first Christmas Fair this December and this proved to be equally as successful. Visitors were entertained by a magician and had lots of opportunities to spend their money on a variety of stalls. A huge amount of work goes into the arrangements for an event of this nature—thank you to everyone who helped out in whatever capacity. The school is incredibly grateful for all your support.

Other Reminders..

Parking

As I have said on many occasions, we are very lucky to have such accessible parking for drop off and pick up so close to the school. We should be making full use of this but instead we still have problems with parents parking so close to the school that their actions are dangerous. I know how much our parents care about our children's wellbeing, so I am incredulous as to why some people would want to put children at risk.

Please do not park just outside the vehicular exit gate. We have observed parents parking here and walking their children through the 'out gate' straight into oncoming vehicles that are attempting to leave the site. This is not a safe place to park and a serious accident will occur if this carries on. We have already had a number of minor collisions between vehicles in this area.

At drop off and pick up, the school car park can only be used by blue badge holders. Please do not park in the school car park—use the car park by the village hall.

Please watch your speed when driving down Lockholt Close. Our extended school provision means that we have children leaving the site from 3.15 through to 5.50 and they deserve to be safe from reckless driving at all times.

Finally, please remember that the school site is non smoking (this includes vaping products) and that smoking or vaping whilst sitting in your car on the school site is not permissible.

I apologise for using the Christmas newsletter as the means by which to draw these matters to your attention but I know that the vast majority of parents will share my sentiments. If any of the above points strike a chord, please make it your new year's resolution to ensure that these practices are changed for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please can we remind parents of the need to keep up to date with their **Breakfast Club** accounts. Unfortunately, we will have to withdraw places for children in the new year where accounts have gone into arrears until the account is brought up to date. If you know that you need to make a payment to your account please do so before we return to school in January in order to guarantee that your child will still have a place at **Breakfast Club**. Thank you.
- I hope that the weather will continue to be kind as we head into the new year. Please remember that any implications for school opening due to severe weather will be announced via **ParentMail**
- Please make sure that any lovely new pencil cases, lunch boxes, bags, wellies and coats received over Christmas are clearly labelled with your child's name when they return to school in January.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Cycling

Moles and Badgers class will complete their cycle ready session which was postponed from this term in the new year. I hope that all the children who have taken part in cycling initiatives this term have enjoyed the opportunity to develop their cycling skills. We consider cycling to be an excellent form of exercise and a healthy alternative to travelling to school by car. We will continue to look for ways in which we can extend these opportunities to our children next year.

Football

We have tried really hard this year to find a way of facilitating a football club at the school. I strongly believe that this is an important part of our sports provision but at the moment we don't have the skills within the staff team to provide this. If anyone knows of anyone who would be interested in volunteering to help us with this, please contact Mrs Crowfoot or Mrs Partridge.

Coming Soon...

We have some exciting sports opportunities presenting themselves to the children in the new year. Our children will be taking part in local competitions in the following sports: Boccia, Dodgeball, Rapid Fire Cricket and Speed stacking and Year 3 will be receiving 8 weeks of cricket coaching. We look forward to hearing how they get on.