

Godinton Primary School Learning and Growing Together

Information for parents of children starting school in September 2020









Welcome to Godinton Primary School.

My name is Jill Talbot and I am the Headteacher at Godinton. On behalf of all the staff we are delighted to welcome your child to our school and hope that this will be the start of a very happy time for them.

We are currently in very unusual times with the Covid-19 pandemic having a significant impact on the operation of schools. However, despite this we will be doing everything we can to ensure your child has a positive start to school.

The Government have advised schools on the measures they need to implement in September to comply with the reopening to all children. We still have some details to work through and will of course keep you updated.

In the absence of being able to hold a welcome meeting for parents, I have put together this information presentation to cover the details that we would usually run through.

We will be contacting all parents by phone over the next few weeks to answer any questions you might have about your child's transition to school. We are here to help and support both you and your child every step of the way.

Further information can be found in the Parent Handbook which can be found on the school website:

https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/welcome-to-godinton-reception-2020/reception-2020-information-for-parents/

Included in this presentation...

Meet the staff



Key dates

> The first few weeks

How you can help

Meet the Staff

Class Teachers

> Teaching Assistants

> > Senior Management Team

- Working in partnership with parents is essential and helps to ensure seamless support for the children.
- All our staff are here to help. Please ask if there is anything that you are unsure about.
- Usually teachers and TAs are available to talk to parents at the end of the day about any day to day matters. With Covid restrictions this may not be possible in September in the usual way and we may have to use more phone calls.

Support Staff





Your child's first year at school is known as Year R, Reception or Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The children are split into 4 groups of 15, with 2 groups joining together to form one class. Letters are being sent out this week to let you know which class your child will be in.

Your child's teacher and teaching assistant will be your first and main point of contact regarding your child. However all the staff in the year group will work with your child to support their learning and development.





Miss Marsh and Mrs Christopher teach Rabbits and Hedgehogs.

Mrs Christopher teaches on a Monday and Tuesday and Miss Marsh teaches on Wednesday to Friday.



Mrs Day teaches Moles and Badgers.

Mrs Kelleher and Mrs McGoldrick will teach your child on the day that their regular teacher has non-contact time (PPA).



Our teaching assistants provide valuable support to all the children within the classroom and get to know them as well as the teachers do.

Our teaching assistants act as an additional point of contact for any questions that you might have.



Mrs Pullen is the teaching assistant (TA) for Rabbits and Hedgehogs.

She is in class every day.



Miss Clark is the teaching assistant (TA) for Moles and Badgers.
She is in class every day.

We are also in the process of recruiting an additional TA to provide further support in Year R in September.



Our school has two Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Stein who is also the school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and Mrs Partridge. Along with Miss Talbot, this forms our school's Senior Management Team.

Year R is part of our Lower School, which consists of Year R and Year 1. Miss Causebrook is the Head of Lower School. She is currently on maternity leave.



Mrs Partridge



Mrs Stein



Miss Causebrook

Our Management Team can help with a with a broad range of school matters. Mrs Stein can assist with any matters for parents of children with special educational needs.

A member of the Management Team is on the gate every morning.



We have a number of support staff who work in different capacities within the school.

Some of the key individuals who you may get to know over your child's first year with us, are our office team and our Family Liaison Officer (FLO). Our FLO can help to support families with a whole range of matters such as the impact of divorce and separation or bereavement on the children or behaviour.

Office Team



Mrs Kelleher



Mrs Smith



Mrs Atkins

FLO



Mrs McGibney

The school office can be contacted on 01233 621616 or office@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Key Dates

Parent Phone Calls

'Goody Bag' Pick Up

> Woodland Summer Challenge

- Due to Covid restrictions we have had to alter the transition programme that we usually have in place for our Reception children as they are currently unable to come into the classrooms.
- We are keen to start children as soon as we can in September and will balance this with the need to support their emotional wellbeing.
- Parents will have the opportunity to talk to staff about their child over the coming weeks and the children will be able to come onto site and say hello to their teacher.

September start



Parent Phone Calls This week, you will receive a letter, letting you know when you will be phoned by a member of the school staff to talk about your child. These calls will take place between Tuesday 14th July and Tuesday 21st July. This is a time to ask any questions and to tell us about any particular needs that your child has e.g. medical needs, food allergies, and whether your child has been attending nursery over the last few months.

'Goody Bag' pick up On Wednesday 22nd July, you can bring your child to school so they can pick up a special bag of 'starting school' goodies. The children will have the chance to say hello to their teacher and teaching assistant as well. Times for collection are as follows:

Moles: 9.30 to 10.30 Badgers: 10.30 to 11.30 Rabbits: 12.30 to 1.30 Hedgehogs: 1.30 to 2.30



Woodland Summer Challenge We hope that your child has enjoyed joining in with the activities on our school website especially for our new starters. We are setting a very special summer holiday challenge which we hope you will join in with. The details of the challenge will be in your goody bag.



Your child will start at Godinton during the week commencing Monday 7th September — their starting date will be confirmed in the letter you receive this week (different children will have different start dates). The children's start to school will be staggered to assist their transition. During their first week at school and on Monday 14th September, they will attend for mornings only in order to settle into school life and new routines most effectively. They will have lunch at school and should be collected at 12.40 p.m.

Start times will be confirmed in due course as we are still finalising the arrangements for whole school drop off and pick up in line with the Government's guidance to schools.

Tuesday 8th September: First group of 10 children from each class start school (the youngest children).

They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

These children will attend every day this week until 12.40 p.m.

Wednesday 9th September: The next group of 10 children from each class start school.

They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

These children will attend every day this week until 12.40 p.m.

Thursday 10th September: The final group of 10 children from each class start school (the eldest children).

They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

These children will attend every day this week until 12.40 p.m.

Friday 11th September: All children are in school. They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

Monday 14th September: All children are in school. They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

Tuesday 15th September: All children are in school full time. Finish time to be confirmed.

The first few weeks in September

Lunch

Water and Snacks

Book bags

 Information about lunch, uniform and what to bring to school were included in your information packs.
 We still have some details

 We still have some details to finalise with regard to the timings of lunch due to the need for schools to keep year groups separate at key times of the day. Uniform

Breakfast Club and After School Club





All children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school lunch under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme.

Our meals are cooked on site by our cook Jo and her team from Independent Catering. Please ensure that you let us know of any allergies that your child has.

Every day the children choose what they would like for lunch when teachers take the morning register. Weekly menus are sent out via ParentMail so you can help your child to choose. We are currently working with our caterers to plan meal options for September. This may vary from the normal offer due to the Covid safe systems we will be putting in place. All children are able to have a glass of milk at lunchtime.

The school kitchen will cater for children who need dairy or gluten free diets, those who are vegetarian and those who follow religious dietary practices.



Usually the children eat their lunch in the school hall — they collect their meal from the serving hatch. We may have to make some changes to this arrangement in September due to the need for schools to keep year groups separate at key times of the day. We will update parents with further information as we have it.

Children are able to bring in a packed lunch from home. We ask that parents provide a healthy, well-balanced packed lunch for the children. We are a 'nut free' school, therefore nuts and nut based products (e.g. peanut butter) are not allowed in school.

Water and snacks

The children will be given a special Godinton water bottle which they should bring to school every day. They will be encouraged to drink and refill their bottles throughout the day. Only water is permitted in these bottles.

The children should bring a snack to school to have for morning break. This should be either fruit or vegetables.

Please ensure that this is labelled with your child's

name.

The NHS provide a free piece of fruit to every child in Year R which they can have for their afternoon snack. We hope that this scheme will still be running in September.





Your child will be given a book bag as part of their bag of goodies. They should bring this to school every day. Their reading book will be put into this as well as any letters they bring home.

They do not need to bring any other bag to school on a day

to day basis.





It is helpful, if the children can have a small drawstring bag of spare clothes including underwear, which they can keep in school on their peg.

Children should wear school uniform to school. A full list of uniform was included in your packs. Most children wear a Godinton logo sweatshirt or cardigan which is available from our online supplier. Details are on the school website https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/uniform/

White polo shirts can be purchased from any outlet as can trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafores and summer dresses. The children need to wear black school shoes (no laces or tricky fastenings please. Shoes with Velcro are great.

For outdoor play, the children will need waterproof trousers and a waterproof jacket. These can be any colour and can be left in school. Our online uniform supplier has these items available (waterproof trousers £4.25, rain jacket £7.25 and a rain suit £9.45).

A pair of wellies should also be brought to school. The children will not need a PE kit until the summer term.

Any uniform ordered prior to the 1st July from our online supplier can be collected from the school car park on Tuesday 21st July between 10-11 a.m. if you have opted for collection rather than home delivery.

Any subsequent orders can be collected from the school car park on Friday 28th August between 10.00 and 12.00 if you opt for collection rather than home delivery.

We would suggest that uniform is ordered at the start of the holiday to allow time for it to be processed.

Samples of uniform will be on display when you come and collect your goody bags so that you can see sizes.

Please ensure that anything your child brings to school is named.



Once your child starts school, they will be able to use our Breakfast Club which is operated by our school staff.

Breakfast Club usually runs from 7.50 a.m. Please see the school website for further

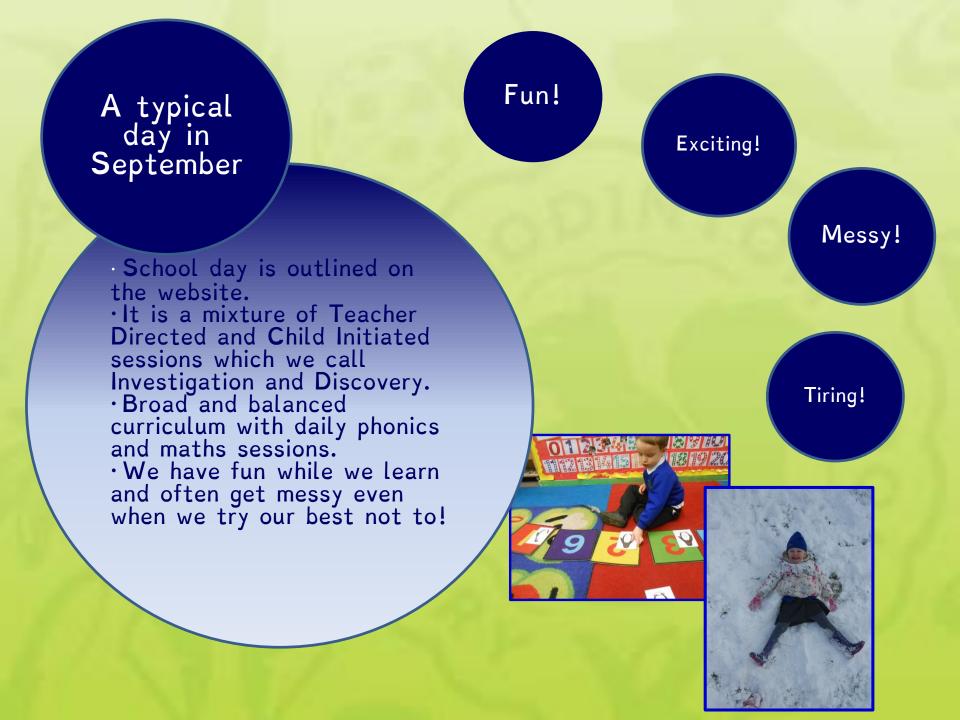
information:

https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/breakfas
t-club/

We are currently reviewing the operation of Breakfast Club in light of the ongoing Covid restrictions. We will let you know of the procedure for notifying us that you would be interested in a place at Breakfast Club for your child and will provide further information for parents in due course.

After School Club is run by Kent Play Clubs on the school site. Further information is available on the school website:

https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/after-school-club/





We are currently working on our drop off arrangements in the morning in order to comply with the new guidelines for September.

Once we have clear arrangements in place we will share this with you so that you can talk to your child about these.

At the moment we have one way systems in place which we are likely to have to keep in September.





We are also looking at adaptations to our arrangements for pick up at the end of the day.

Again, we will let parents know once these have been finalised.



Investigation and Discovery time takes place in the classroom and the outside areas, where there is free flow between the two.

The children can engage in a wide range of activities to support their learning and development. Play is often scaffolded by the adults who play alongside the children. The teachers and teaching assistants will make observations about the children to steer the direction of their teaching to meet the children's needs.



Teacher directed times are when the children will engage in more structured activities led by an adult which cover all areas of learning and development

There is further information about the school day on the school website.

https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/foundation-stagestarting-school/ What to expect...

It takes some children a little longer than others to settle.

Some children may get quite tired, especially after their first full week.

Your child may want to talk about their day, others may not.

Your child
may come
home messy
— especially
if they have
been outside!

Most children are able to leave parents independently but some need more support.

Every child is different.





We want all our children to have a love of books

and we enjoy sharing books and stories in class.

Parents can help by reading and sharing stories with their child every day.

The children will bring reading books home from school. Reading books will be changed twice a week when possible. Books will be without words to begin with to encourage lots of questioning and develop comprehension skills.

· We will provide further information about how you can support phonics with your child at home in the autumn term. Our website contains useful information including sound articulation. Please

follow the link below:

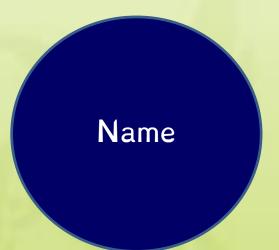
https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/phonics/

Talking

Talking with your child is also really important. Please see our website for speaking and listening activities that you can try with your child at home.

https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/welcome-togodinton-reception-2020/reception-2020-

information-for-parents/



 Some children may be able to write their name when they start school and others won't be at that stage yet.

Get your child familiar with recognising their name. Remember that they may not be the only child with that name in the class.



Help your child to become as independent as possible with key tasks such as toileting. Encourage them to know when they need to go and how to wipe properly.

Spare clothes can be kept in a draw string bag on your child's peg in case of

accidents.



www.pacey.org-uk/schoolready

We have posted lots of useful resources for parents on our school website.

Steps to starting school

Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources at pacey.org.uk/schoolready









More top tips:

- Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- And remember, every child is different and starts school with different abilities



Further guides for helping parents

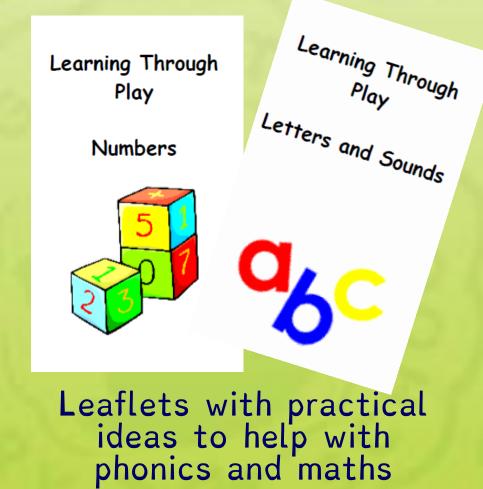
www.4Children.org.uk

www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents

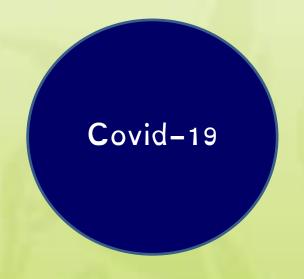




School website www.godinton .kent.sch.uk These documents can be found on the school website:https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/foundation-stage-starting-school/



Cursive handwriting guide



The pandemic has meant that we have had to put many measures in place to ensure the safety of our school community.

Over the last few months, many elements of school life have had to operate differently as we adjusted to the restrictions in place.

In September we will be operating with far more normality than we have had since March, however some measures will continue to be put in place to reduce the spread of the virus.

More details will be shared with parents as we continue to work through our risk assessments in the coming weeks.

Please be assured of the following:

School is a safe and welcoming place for our children. The measures we put in place have safety at the heart but are implemented in child friendly ways wherever possible. We want our children to understand the importance of safety in the current climate but we don't want them to be scared or worried.

Cleaning regimes in the school are robust

Hand washing and personal hygiene are integral to our daily routines. We keep parents updated in the measures we are taking to protect our

school community

44 very happy, Reception children have been in school over the past 6 weeks and have adapted very well to all the measures we have implemented. They have shown immense resilience and come into school smiling!



The importance of team work is essential in securing a happy and successful time at school for your child.



We want everyone to love being part of the Godinton family.

Please get in touch if there is anything that we can do to help. please contact the school office (Tel: 01233 621616 / office@godinton.kent.sch.uk) or myself (headteacher@godinton.kent.sch.uk) if there is anything we can help with.

We can't wait to meet the children and to welcome you and your family to Godinton.