



Parent Handbook

July 2021

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Godinton Primary School. We are very pleased that your child will be joining our school community. We try to foster a family feel at Godinton and we have written this guide in an attempt to provide you, as a new parent, with all the information you will need about how our school operates.

Our staff are very happy to help if you have any further queries or questions not covered by this handbook – please just ask.

Please, note that this handbook outlines how the school usually operates and does not reflect the arrangements that we have in place due to Covid restrictions; these can be found on the school closure section of the website. We hope to be able to return to our usual operations once restrictions are no longer in place.

www.godinton.kent.sch.uk

Section One – The School Day

School Times

School playground is open to children	8.40 am
Classroom doors open – the children are able to come into their classrooms.	8.50 am
Classroom doors close – children should be in by this time	9.00 am
Playtime – whole school	10.10 – 10.25 am
Lunchtime:	
Lower School	11.30 – 12.40 pm
Year 2	12.00 – 1.00 pm
Year 3	12.00 – 1.00 pm
Upper School	12.30 – 1.30 pm
Playtime – Year 1	2.00 – 2.15 pm
End of School	3.15 pm

Coming to School in the Morning

The school site is open to pupils attending Breakfast Club from 7.50 a.m. For all other children, the site is open from 8.40 a.m. when the gates onto the main playground are opened by the Headteacher, Miss Talbot, who is then in

attendance to supervise the children. In her absence, another senior member of staff will take her place.

Parents are welcome to come onto the school playground at any time from 8.40–9am and children may spend the ten minutes from 8.40–8.50, playing and socialising on the playground before school. Alternatively, you are very welcome to arrive at any time after 8.50 and up to 9am, and to have your child go straight into the classroom.

At 8.50am, a bell will sound and the teachers will open the external doors of their classrooms. The children are then free to enter their classrooms until 9am, when a second bell will sound and the classroom doors will close. No children will be admitted through the classroom doors after 9am, as the teachers will have started their lessons. All pupils arriving after this time should report to the school office where they will be expected to sign the late book, stating the reason for being late. This will be recorded as late on the register.

The caretaker will begin to lock the site, including the external access gates, after 9 a.m. and we would ask parents to leave the school site before he does so. External access gates remain closed during the school day, with the exception of special events when parents are invited into school during the day, in which case the Chimney's path gate will be opened.

Wet Days

If it is wet, the classroom doors will be open at 8.40am and the children can come straight into the school where they will be supervised by their teachers.

Headteacher

Miss Talbot will be on duty on the main playground every morning from 8.40am, apart from the occasional days when she is attending meetings off site. When this is the case, her place will be taken by another senior member of staff. Our Family Liaison Officer (FLO) is also on the gate in the morning.

Should you wish to discuss any minor issue with Miss Talbot, please feel free to

talk to her on the playground. If you have a more major issue to discuss with either her, or another member of staff, you may make an appointment to see them at the school office.

Gate Supervisors

There are supervisors at our three pedestrian access gates; the main gate at Lockholt Close, the side gate leading to the Chimneys car park and the far gate at the end of the school field. The supervisors ensure that once a child has walked onto the school site, they do not turn around and leave again for any reason. The supervisors are there to support the safety of our children and to offer assistance if need be.

End of the School Day

Children will be released from class by their teachers at the end of the school day. Reception and Year 1 children will be released directly from their classroom doors and teachers will not let them go until they have seen a parent or whichever other adult is collecting them. It is helpful for your child to know who is collecting them each day and if this arrangement changes unexpectedly, please let the school know. Year 2 and Year 3 children are brought onto the playground (near the giant pencils) by their teachers. All other children are released from their classrooms in the Upper School part of the school building.

Safety Before and After School

We do not allow any ball games on the playground before school, as it is just too crowded.

The children are not allowed to play on any of the climbing apparatus, which is located on the school playgrounds. The pirate ship and the climbing area are only to be used by pupils when there is a member of staff supervising. Please do not allow your child to climb on either piece of equipment, before or after school. We cannot accept any responsibility for any accidents, which occur outside of normal school hours.

Cycling To and From School

Children are encouraged to cycle or scooter to school. However, it is forbidden for children to cycle or scooter in the school grounds. In the interests of safety, we must insist that children dismount before entering the gates.

Covered bicycle racks are available at the main entrance to the school. Children must lock their bicycles up before leaving them. Unfortunately, the school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage which may occur to the bicycles whilst they are on school property. However, any incident involving a pupil will be dealt with thoroughly.

Parking

There is severe congestion around the school at the beginning and end of the school day, especially in Lockholt Close. If at all possible, please refrain from using your car to transport your child to school. If that is not possible, please try to car share, if you can.

If you must use a car to get your children to school we would respectfully ask all parents to park in the public car park adjacent to the Chimneys pub, and to then walk your child down the path and into the school.

The school car park is a staff car park only. There are electronic gates across the vehicular entrance and exit which are closed for the majority of the day. Visitors should press the entry button to alert the school office of their arrival. Only staff and authorised visitors are allowed to drive on site. Parents may drive onto site to drop their children off at Breakfast Club or to pick up from the After School Club. No other parents, apart from those in current possession of disabled blue badges, or those experiencing exceptional circumstances, such as having a child with a broken leg, are able to drive onto the site. If you are collecting your child from an extra-curricular activity, please walk onto the school site.

We have a regular lollipop lady, who escorts the children across Loudon Way. Please cross the road where they operate.

Section Two – The Extended School

After School Child Care – Godinton after School Club

Should you require after school child-care for your child we have an after-school club run on the Godinton site by Kent Play Clubs. The club operates from 3.20pm – 5.45pm and currently costs £8.50 per session per child. Enrolment forms are available from the school office.

Extra-Curricular Activities (Clubs)

We believe that it is extremely important for children to have every opportunity possible to participate in extra-curricular activities. Hence, the staff at Godinton Primary give up a great deal of their time to run a wide range of activities.

You can collect a list of the current club activities from the office or via the school website. However, the activities generally include a range of seasonal sports, including high five (netball), athletics, hockey, volleyball, cricket and rugby. A range of additional activities are then also offered to different year groups, these may include clubs such as art, paper craft, photography, cooking, homework and choir. These are augmented by activities run by external providers for which a cost is charged. Activities vary from term to term with different clubs being offered to different year groups.

Breakfast Club

We also offer a breakfast club for those parents who require supervision for their children before school opens in the morning. The club is run by members of the school staff. Sessions currently cost £3.30 and the club is open from 7.50 in the morning. The children receive a comprehensive breakfast, including toast, cereal, fruit and yoghurt and have the chance to participate in a range of activities, before being escorted to their class rooms for the start of school. Please contact the school office for further details.

PTFA

The PTFA raise a phenomenal amount of money each year and these funds have supported a wide range of projects within the school. The financial support afforded by the PTFA is crucial to the development of the school.

Through a wide range of activities and events, such as children's discos, summer and Christmas fairs, Mini Olympics, the PTFA plays a valuable role in strengthening our school community.

We would welcome your involvement in the PTFA. It is a very friendly group and meetings are held regularly. All are welcome to attend.

The Godinton Coffee Hub

Every Wednesday morning, parents are invited to come into the staff room from 9–10am, for tea and coffee. The Coffee Hub provides an opportunity for parents to get to know each other and have a friendly informal chat. Our Family Liaison Officer Jacqui McGibney is also in attendance.

Section Three – School Organisation and Curriculum

Staffing

A full list of all school staff can be found on the school website.

Mini Schools

At Godinton, we have organised our children into three mini schools. We have a Lower School which comprises the Reception and Year 1 classes; a Middle School which includes Years 2 and 3; and an Upper School of Years 4–6.

Each mini school has a teacher who leads it, forming our middle management team. Whilst the school has regular whole staff meetings, which allow us to focus on the larger issues we face, we also have regular mini school meetings, which allow the staff to focus specifically on the issues which are pertinent to their children. We believe that this system allows us to focus our efforts more effectively on developing the school at every level.

Curriculum

We offer a rich curriculum for our children. At the core of the weekly timetable are lessons which develop the children's skills in reading (phonics), writing and maths. However, this is supplemented by science and computing, a range of arts activities including visual art, drama and music, as well as sporting opportunities which form 'Learning Adventures', cross curricular teaching units which change 3 times a year. Our 'Star Weeks (showing tolerance and respect) teach aspects of RE (religious education) and PSHE (personal, social and health education) throughout the year. Children are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the curriculum. If parents wish to withdraw pupils from RE lessons, due to religious reasons, they should make an appointment to discuss this with Miss Talbot.

We want our children to be well-rounded learners and to explore the world around them with curiosity, interest and enthusiasm. Teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs) challenge and support all children, meaning that work is pitched appropriately for all abilities. Further information about the curriculum for each year group can be found on the school website.

Guiding Stars

Our Guiding stars focus children on the key learning skills needed to be successful learners. Children are given the opportunity to develop these skills during class based activities.

Our Guiding Stars are: independence, perseverance, team work, communication, problem solving, creative thinking, motivation, self-confidence, risk taking and personal best.

Reception Classes

The Reception and Year 1 class rooms are located together, at one end of the school and they effectively operate as their own setting within the school. This is known as our Lower School.

Before children start in the Reception classes, Reception staff complete home visits, calling in at the homes of every child who is joining our school. They will discuss the child's needs with the parents and start the process of getting to know the child and the family.

In order to ease the transition to school, new reception children are invited in for story time and activity sessions in the summer term before they start. There are also information sessions for parents during which you will be advised about key issues connected with your child starting school. Further information about starting school in the reception classes is available on the school website www.godinton.kent.sch.uk.

We form our reception intake into 4 small class groups of 15. They remain in these groups for their entire Reception Year. Our teachers each register and supervise two of these class groups. By the end of the academic year, we have got to know the children fully, and only then do we form them into 2 distinct classes of 30 children, if appropriate ready for the start of year 1 containing a mix of children from the 4 different reception groups. We want to protect friendship groups as much as we can, whilst also separating children who do not bring out the best in each other, and providing each class with a similar make up regarding gender and ability.

Our School Values

Our school values define the ethos of our school and highlight the expectations we have of all our children.

1. We respect and listen to each other's views, opinions and ideas.
2. We love how we are all different.
3. We look for the best in each other.
4. We are kind, friendly and thoughtful.
5. We are honest.
6. We help and look after each other.

7. We always try our best.
8. We make sensible choices.
9. We show good manners.
10. We are proud to be part of the Godinton family.

Section Four – Information About Pupil Progress

Year Group Welcomes

At the end of each academic year, parents have the opportunity to informally meet their child's new teacher during Open Afternoon. We continue this introduction in the autumn term when all teaching staff are available after school on the playground for the first few weeks so that parents can introduce themselves and say hello. At the start of the autumn term, Parents are also given a copy of the Year Group Welcome letter, which contains lots of useful information about their child's new year group. Information covered includes the Learning Adventures studied and more specific arrangements such as how spellings are taught, when homework will be set, on which days the children will need their PE kit etc.

Reports

Parents are then provided with 3 reports spaced over the course of the academic year. These provide you with information about your child's level of achievement, their progress and the effort they are putting into their studies. You receive a simple target setting report in November; the main written report is given to you in March and you receive a simple concluding report in July. Reports are accompanied by information about the next steps that teachers would like your child to work on.

We prefer to provide you with the main report in March and not at the end of the academic year as is traditional. By doing this, we are able to make you fully aware of any issues which need to be addressed, such as a problem with learning or progress, or the need for a child to improve their attitude, whilst there is still time to do so.

By highlighting issues in March, we still have half the academic year to work towards an improvement. Similarly, it is a boost to children to be praised for their hard work and progress then, and not make them wait until the end of the academic year to share this news with you.

Book Viewing

After receiving each of the written reports, parents are able to come into school to view their child's work and to look around their classroom. These Book Viewing evenings occur three times a year.

Parent Consultation Meetings

You then have the opportunity to meet the class teacher on a one to one basis, to discuss any issues which have been identified. We run parents' evenings in the school hall to facilitate these meetings. However, if *all* parents require such a meeting, the teacher can only offer a ten minute consultation to each parent. Consequently, we strongly request that parents do not ask for a one to one meeting with the teacher, unless they have a specific concern which they wish to discuss. If both you and the teacher are happy with your child's progress and attitude, and you have consequently received a written report to that effect, and you are happy with the work you have seen in your child's books, please do not request a meeting. This will free time and allow the class teacher to offer longer consultations to the parents of children whose progress or attitude is not as it should be.

However, please understand that you are free to make an appointment to see your child's teacher **whenever the need arises** – you do not have to wait for a scheduled consultation evening if you wish to discuss a concern. You can speak to your teacher directly at the end of each day. Teachers in years R-3 will either be on the playground after school finishes, or at the doors of their classrooms. Teachers in years 4-6 will be in their classrooms. They may not be free to discuss an issue straight away, as many of the teachers run after school clubs. However, they will always arrange a time when they can speak to you.

Alternatively, you can make an appointment to see your child's teacher by contacting the school office on 01233 621616. The office is staffed from 8.00 am

to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday during term time.

Section Five – Supporting Your Child

Special Educational Needs, Disability and Emotional Wellbeing

Mrs Stein is our Assistant Head for Inclusion and arranges any provision for pupils with special educational needs or disability (SEND). She manages the work of our Teaching Assistants (TAs), who work alongside the teachers to provide additional support to our pupils. She will be involved with you, should your child have a specific issue affecting their progress within school. This may include special educational needs, medical difficulties, social or emotional concerns, or English as an additional language. Mrs Stein also oversees provision for academically more able pupils. Further information about how the school supports pupils with special education needs can be found on the SEND pages on the school website.

The school has a team of exceptional teaching assistants who support the children's learning and development. Support is provided in class in the mornings, with teaching assistants implementing focused intervention groups in the afternoon to support the children's needs. Some children with more complex special educational needs may have 1:1 support.

Our school has a Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Jacqui McGibney, who is available to help parents in supporting the well-being of their children and family. Mrs McGibney may offer help and advice with issues such as behaviour, separation, bereavement or anxiety. Support may be offered on a 1 to 1 basis or through some of the parenting classes available. Mrs McGibney is also able to signpost parents to other agencies who may also be able to assist. All our children are encouraged to discuss their feelings in school and to let staff know of any concerns or worries that they might have. Provision may be arranged to support children with their emotional or social wellbeing.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children's well-being is a crucial part of a school's role. The safeguarding pages on the school website contain useful information relating to pupil safety and wellbeing. Miss Talbot, Headteacher, is also the designated lead for safeguarding. Any concerns regarding pupil welfare or potential abuse should be brought to her attention, or in her absence Mrs Stein (Assistant Headteacher) or Mrs McGibney (Family Liaison Officer). A copy of the school's Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy is on the website, please look at the safeguarding section of the website for further information.

Section Six – Rewards and Sanctions

School House System

At Godinton we operate a very successful School House system where the children throughout the school (from Year 1 upwards) are divided into four House teams (Leeds – green, Dover–blue, Rochester–red and Walmer–yellow).

Children receive individual house points for good work and good behaviour and these contribute to overall House Totals which are announced in assembly each week. They work towards earning house point badges which are awarded throughout the year. Each house is led by House Captains who are elected from Year 6.

Inter–house competitions, such as our annual sports days in the summer are run throughout the year.

Celebration Assembly and Tea Parties

Celebrating children's success is important to us. Every Thursday, we have a celebration assembly. Teachers select children from their class who deserve to be recognised for either good work or good behaviour and certificates are presented. Some children are also recognised during our celebration assembly as having achieved a 'Godinton Star Award' – these are children who have shown themselves to be particularly kind, caring and thoughtful members of our school

community and who have upheld our school values. All of the citizens then join the Head in the Headteacher's office, for a tea party involving biscuits and juice on a Friday afternoon.

Gold Cards

Children will also have their efforts and achievements recognised by the class teachers, who will award them a gold card. When they receive a gold card, the children visit the Head and/or Assistant Headteachers, who praise their work and award them a gold sticker. It is a lovely opportunity for the children's special individual achievements to be shared.

Friday Assembly

Every Friday, the whole school meet for assembly. Sometimes different classes will lead the assembly by showing the school what they have been working on in class. Parents are invited to join us to watch their child's class assembly.

Red Cards

Should your child misbehave, they will receive a warning from a member of staff. If the poor behaviour persists, or if the child is verbally or physically aggressive towards another child, they will receive a red card. They will then be sent to either the Head of their school, one of the Assistant Heads or Headteacher if the offence is sufficiently serious.

You will receive a letter home detailing what your child has done. They will serve a playtime detention. If the poor behaviour persists, there are a range of increasing sanctions, culminating in a fixed term exclusion or, ultimately, expulsion from the school. These are set out in our behaviour and discipline policy, which is available online in the policy section of the website.

Section Seven – The Wider Curriculum

Educational Visits

We supplement our usual lessons with numerous offsite visits, as well as having visitors to our school. It is important that children gain first hand experience of what they are studying. This can include trips to castles and museums, dressing up days, visits from dancers, actors and bands of all nationalities. Parents are asked to make a contribution to the cost of these activities.

Residential visits

We run annual residential trips for those children in the Upper School at activity centres in the UK.

These trips are activity based and aimed at developing the confidence and social skills of our children. They may involve activities such as abseiling, rock climbing, raft building, fencing, team games, orienteering and no doubt many nights of the children staying up chatting long after they are supposed to be asleep!

Section Eight – General Information

Absence and Attendance

100% attendance at school is encouraged in all pupils. Parents are regularly updated on their child's attendance throughout the year.

It is the parents / carers responsibility to contact the school whenever their child is absent stating the reason for the child's absence. Parents should inform the school of their child's absence on each day thereafter. This should be followed up with a letter upon a child's return to school.

In September 2013, the government introduced a new policy regarding term time absences, which means that parents may be fined if they take their children out of school during term time. Term time absences are only granted for what are classed as exceptional circumstances. Holidays during term time will not be authorised. The full details of the government's measures are outlined in our school attendance policy, which can be found on our website.

Academy

Godinton Primary School is an Academy School. Further details about the Governing Body of the school can be found on the school website.

Administering of Medicine / Medical Needs

In the event that your child requires medication during the day we would, in the first instance, suggest that dosages be taken before or after school. In the event that this is unworkable, we would ask that parents complete a form available at the school office, in order for school staff to administer medicines to your child. However, please note that only prescription medicines can be administered by school staff. Parents are asked to complete a medical needs form for their child. This is a confidential form which asks for information about existing medical conditions and allergies, allowing us to ensure that any needs for your child are accommodated. Please ensure that any severe medical needs are also discussed in advance with school staff.

Please refer to the schools medical needs policy for further information. This is available online.

Assemblies

Assemblies form our daily act of collective worship. During assemblies, children may listen to stories with moral themes, some from different world religions including Christianity, or find out about world events such as an environmental issue. Visitors are also often invited into assemblies. Singing also forms part of assembly time and children may sing hymns or other songs with a meaning.

Assemblies finish with a short period of reflection.

Parents may have particular religious or social reasons for wanting their child to be withdrawn from all or part of assembly. If this is the case, please arrange to discuss this with Miss Talbot.

British Values

As of November 2014, all schools have a duty to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The British Values promoted in our school are:

- Being part of Britain
- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

Further details of the British Values promoted in school are available on the school website.

Our school values are displayed in our classrooms and are the core principles we encourage all children to uphold.

Change of Contact Details

Please keep us informed of any change to your address, email address, telephone numbers, work place or the details of your 'emergency contact'. All children must have at least two emergency contacts.

Communication

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do. At Godinton we use the electronic ParentMail system to communicate to parents on a regular

basis. Details regarding ParentMail and how to verify your account are contained within your information pack.

The school also produces a monthly newsletter, in which we endeavour to provide parents with as much information as possible about what is happening within the school.

The school has its own web site. The address is www.godinton.kent.sch.uk. All newsletters are posted on the web site. In addition, it also contains a school diary, to keep you abreast of forthcoming events.

The school website is also an excellent source of information about many other areas of school life. Here parents can find key school policies, new lunch menus and find out how they can help their children at home.

Complaints

We hope that any issues or concerns you may have can be resolved quickly through meeting with or talking to the relevant member of staff. We are always happy to help. However should you wish to raise a formal complaint the process for doing so is outlined in our complaints policy, which is available on the website or from the school office.

Equipment

We encourage children in the Upper School to bring their own equipment to school in addition to that which we provide. Useful items are pens, pencils and coloured pencils in a pencil case which should all be named.

Food Allergies

The school has a food allergy policy, which outlines the schools procedures in relation to managing food allergies and intolerance. This is available on the school website. Godinton is a nut free school, meaning that nuts and nut based products (e.g. nut bars or Nutella and peanut butter sandwiches) are not permitted in school.

Head lice

Head lice are a perennial problem in all schools. Please regularly check your child's hair for head lice. If you do find lice in your child's hair please treat them and inform the school office so that a general note can be passed on to parents in that class.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

Pupils are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school with them. They are allowed to keep the bottle on their desks, during lessons, to drink from as they wish.

They are also allowed to bring healthy snacks for morning break times. This should be a piece of fruit or vegetables. Chocolate and crisps are not allowed. We participate in the 'Fruit and Vegetables for Infants' scheme, in which every child from Reception to Year 2 is provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable daily.

Helping in School – Parent Volunteers

We welcome parents into the school. We are happy to have you come in and help. Parents fulfil a variety of roles from helping in class, to listening to readers, to helping with displays. Some parents help run clubs. If you feel that you have a special skill, or you just feel that you could help generally, please contact the school office who will explain the application process for volunteer helpers. Please note that this process will include a criminal records check.

Homework and Reading at Home

The school's homework policy is available on the school website. It outlines the expectations for homework in each year group.

The school uses an online homework system called Mathletics for maths homework. Login details are provided for parents to set up the system at home.

Each term, the children will be set a 'Homework Trail' – this is a grid of activities from which the children select which ones they'd like to complete (minimum of 3). Homework is returned to the school on the first Tuesday of

each term where a class ‘Homework Showcase’ is held during which time the children look at each others efforts. For those who go ‘the extra mile’ and complete more than 3 challenges the children will earn a special sticker. If they collect 3 of these stickers during the year they will receive a special end of year reward.

Parents should read with their children at home every day. This might be sharing a book together, listening to your child read, or reading a story to them. This can then be recorded in their contact book. Class teachers will explain the process of bringing reading books home and changing books in the ‘Welcome letters’ produced at the start of each year. This information can also be found on the school website.

The school website also has a useful information section for parents which focuses on how you can help your child at home.

Lost Property

Please ensure that any items of clothing or equipment brought to school are permanently named. With over 420 children in school there will be times when property goes astray, although measures are taken to avoid these. Lost property boxes are located in the front entrance.

Lunchtimes

We aim to make the lunch break as enjoyable as we can. We don’t want the children trying to eat as quickly as possible in order to get back outside to the playground. We want the children to have a suitable period of time to eat their lunch and to sit and talk with their friends whilst they eat. All children eat their lunch in the school hall.

All children in Years R-2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Government’s Universal Free School Meals Scheme. Children in Years 3-6 may also be entitled to a free school meal if parents are receiving certain benefits. If you believe that your child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office.

The school kitchen is run by 'Independent Catering'. They provide a very good meals service with an emphasis on providing fresh food. Pupils are able to choose whether to have a packed lunch or a school dinner on a daily basis. During morning registration, those children who wish a school dinner are able to choose what they wish from the menu. The menu is on our school website, so you are able to look with your child whenever you wish. You pay for the meals through an online payment system only.

If children choose to have a packed lunch, we would ask parents to supply a lunch which is healthy in nature and which reflects a good dietary balance. Please do not overload lunchboxes with lots of unhealthy snacks and include fruit or vegetables if possible. Sweets are not allowed in lunchboxes. We would also ask parents to refrain from including nut based products (e.g. peanut butter, packets of nuts), due to the number of children we have at school with nut related allergies.

Children are only allowed to drink water during the school day. Water bottles can be refilled as required at school, as drinking water is available from taps in the classroom.

Milk is available to all children in the school at lunchtime whether they have a school dinner or a packed lunch.

Lunch playtimes are supervised by our team of mid-day supervisors.

Medical and Dental Appointments

We would ask where possible that any medical or dental appointments be made out of school hours. We appreciate that this is not always possible but would ask that you accompany your child to the school office after their appointment for them to be signed in. This will then be recorded as an authorised absence in accordance with our attendance register codes.

Online Safety

It is important to us that our children learn how to use modern technologies such as computers and the internet safely. Both parents and children are informed about our online safety rules and full details of the school's approach

to online safety can be found on the school website.

Our Digital Images Policy outlines the protocol involving the taking and use of pupils' photographs by the school and by parents at school events.

P.E.

The children must wear school P.E. kits for all activities. Earrings must be removed, by the children, before any activities begin. If the children are not able to remove earrings please do it for them on the days that they have P.E., before they come to school. If your child is considering having their ears pierced then please do so at the start of the summer holiday – this will allow sufficient time for ears to heal so that earrings can be removed for PE at the start of the year.

Policies

Please see the school website to access an online copy of key school policies. A hard copy can be obtained from the school office on request.

Privacy Notice and GDPR

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) is the law that protects personal privacy and upholds individual's rights. It applies to anyone who handles or has access to people's personal data. Godinton Primary School is a data controller for the purposes of these acts and as such collects information about the children and may receive information from previous schools, Kent County Council or the Learning Records Service. Full details are outlined in our GDPR and Data Protection Policy and in our privacy notice, both of which are available on the school website.

PPA

Teachers contracts require that 10% of the teaching week be set aside for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA). We employ a reliable and committed team, who cover classes when teachers have PPA on a regular basis.

Pupil Premium

The school is able to obtain additional funding for pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits. Please contact the school office if you believe that you may be entitled.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

RSE is built into our PSHE (personal, social and health education) curriculum. In Year 5 children are taught about changes at puberty and in Year 6 about how babies are made. Parents are fully informed as to the content of these sessions and how they may withdraw their child from certain aspects of this curriculum.

School Closure

In the event that the school has to close due to bad weather, parents will be notified via ParentMail and an alert placed on the school website. The school will do all it can to remain open but will not compromise the safety of staff and pupils.

Sun Protection

In sunny weather we ask that parents put sun cream on their children before school if they so wish. You may send sun cream in with your child if they are able to apply it correctly. We ask that you impress upon your child that it is for their use only.

Sunhats or caps should be worn for protection.

Smoking

We have a 'smoke free' policy in school. Smoking is not permitted inside the school building or in the school grounds. This includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping products. We would kindly ask that all visitors to the site respect this policy.

Swimming

Swimming currently forms part of our curriculum for Year 3 with a block of swimming lessons taking places at the Stour Centre led by instructors from the Centre.

As part of our curriculum all children are expected to take part in the lessons which are conducted depending on ability.

What to wear and bring to school

- A new school logo was launched in March 2017 which features in green on items of school uniform. Uniform showing the previous yellow squirrel logo can still be worn.
- The children must wear school uniform at all times. A list of school uniform is provided separately and can be obtained from the school office.
- The children may not wear coloured trainers in school. They are allowed black training type shoes, provided they are not covered in coloured stripes/markings of any description.
- Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled.
- Children may wear stud earrings, but if you are having your child's ears pierced, please do it during the summer break, as children are not permitted to participate in PE activities whilst wearing earrings. In addition, we are not allowed to remove earrings for children, so please don't have their ears pierced until they are of an age when they can remove and replace the jewellery independently.
- Children should wear no other jewellery.
- Children are not allowed to bring toys to school, apart from when joining the Reception year. Class teachers will advise regarding this.
- Please do not send your child to school with expensive or sentimental items.
- Children may not bring mobile phones to school.
- Large hair bows are not permitted

A full list of uniform expectations is outlined on the school website. Uniform with the school logo can only be purchased from Emporia, who offer an online service <https://www.emporia-uniform.co.uk> as well as having a shop in the Park Mall shopping centre in Ashford town centre. Orders can be delivered to the

school office for collection or to your home address. We have a selection of sizes in the office, should you wish to try a size before you place an order online.

Website

Please see the school website www.godinton.kent.sch.uk for further information about the school.

We hope that your child will be very happy at Godinton Primary and we look forward to working in partnership with you during the course of your child's time at school.