

Godinton Primary School Learning and Growing Together

Information for parents of children starting school in September 2021







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.

I am hopeful that come September we will be able to operate as normal, but we will of course wait to see what measures the Government may still expect us to implement.

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

Further information can be found in the Parent Handbook which can be found on the school website: https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/parent-handbook/

From the evening of Wednesday 23rd June we will also be setting up pages on the school website for our new Reception children and their parents. These can be accessed from the main menu.



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 always be possible but you will still be able to contact the team via email or phone.

Support Staff



Our Year R Teaching Team

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 Mrs Varnaseri teaches Rabbits and Hedgehogs.

teaches Moles and Badgers.

Miss Ward

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

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

Our Year R Teaching Assistants

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 will also be having some further teaching assistant support within the year group. Our Management Team 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.



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 available at drop off every morning.

Support Staff

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 Clark

FLO



Mrs McGibney

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

Key Dates

Home Visits

Teddy Bears' Picnic

> 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
- Your information pack contains details of your home visit and when your child will start school in September. You will have received in the post, details of the time when your child can come to school for a Teddy Bears' picnic and meet their new teacher.

September start



Home Visits

Your information pack contains details of when your child's teacher and teaching assistant will come and visit them at home. It includes details of the Covid measures that we will be taking and we would ask that this visit takes place outside if possible. Home visits are a great way for our staff to see your child in the place where they are most comfortable. The grown ups will be bringing a special gift for your child.

Teddy Bears' Picnic We have had to change our 'stay and play' sessions to an outdoors Teddy Bears' Picnic. Your child and one grown up can come and enjoy a story with their new teacher. Don't forget to bring their favourite teddy with you.

> We hope that your child will enjoy joining in with the activities on our school website especially for our new starters. The new starter webpages will go live on the evening of Wednesday 23rd June. We are setting a very special summer holiday challenge which we hope you will join in with. The details of the challenge are in your information pack.



Woodland Summer Challenge

September Start

Your child will start at Godinton during the week commencing Monday 30th August – their starting date is confirmed in your information pack (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 6th 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.

The arrangements for dropping off and picking up will be confirmed in due course as we are awaiting any updated guidance from the Government regarding the new academic year.

Wednesday 1st September: First 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 2nd 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.

Friday 3rd 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.

Monday 6th September: All children are in school. They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

Tuesday 7th September: All children are in school full time. They will collected slightly earlier than usual at 3.00 p.m.

The first few weeks in September Lunch

Water and Snacks

> Book bags

Information about lunch, uniform and what to bring to school are included in your information packs.
Reception children will have their lunch at 11.30 in the school hall.

Uniform

Breakfast Club and After School Club



Lunch



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.

The children eat their lunch in the school hall — they collect their meal from the serving hatch with help from our midday supervisors who look after the children during their lunchtime.

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.



Book Bags Your child will be given a book bag. 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.

Uniform



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 trouser's, shorts, skirts, pinafores and summer dresses.

The children need to wear black school shoes (no laces or tricky fastenings please. Shoes with Velcro are most sensible.

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, rain jacket and a rain suit).

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

Our uniform supplier — Emporia Uniform, is based in the Park Mall shopping centre in Ashford. They sell items of Godinton uniform showing our school logo. Uniform can be bought directly from the shop or online.

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

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

Breakfast Club and After School Club 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: <u>https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/breakfas</u> t-club/

Due to Covid restrictions this year, we have been running our Breakfast Club with reduced numbers. We hope to return to our normal operation in September and will provide further information before the end of term, once the Government have notified schools of the arrangements for September.

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/

A typical day in September

Fun!

11 12 13 148 13

Exciting!

Messy!

Tiring!

School day is outlined on the website.
It is a mixture of Teacher Directed and Child Initiated sessions which we call Investigation and Discovery.
Broad and balanced curriculum with daily phonics and maths sessions.
We have fun while we learn and often get messy even when we try our best not to! Coming into school in the morning



We will be reviewing our arrangements for drop off in the morning over the coming weeks once we know whether we will be working with any Covid restrictions in September and to take into account the building work we are facing.

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

Currently we have one way systems in place due to Covid restriction but we anticipate that these will no longer be needed in September.

Pick Up

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.

Your child's classroom

As we are having extensive building work completed on our school roof, your child will start their time at Godinton in a modular classroom on the school field. These classrooms will be set up in a similar way to their permanent classroom in the main building. They contain toilets and a cloakroom and have suitable heating. We will put some photos on the website in the coming weeks so you can show your child what they look like.



In December, your child will then move back into their usual classroom in the main building. When the time comes, we will once again support the children's transition to their new room.

Both mobile classrooms and those in the main building will have access to outside space.

School Day

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_stage_ starting_school/

What to expect...

It takes some children a little longer than others to settle. Your child may want to talk about their day, others may not.

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

Every child is different.

Some children may get_quite__

tired.

especially after their

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

How you can help

Read

Talking

By working in partnership with parents we can provide the best support for your child. We value the support that parents provide for their children at home in helping them to get ready for school. The most important things that parents can help with prior to their child starting school are practical things such as developing the children's independence, toileting, self

care and building confidence.

Toileting

Name

Reading

- 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:

<u>https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/phonics/</u>

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.

Name

- 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.

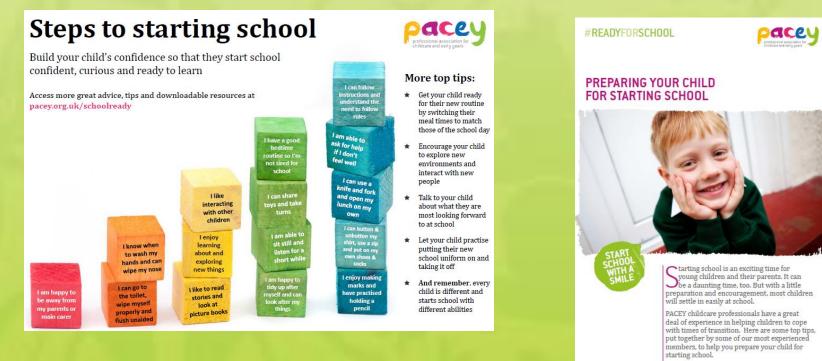
Toileting

- 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.

Getting Ready for school

www.pacey.org-uk/schoolready

We will be posting lots of useful resources for parents on our school website. We will be adding to these each week.



We hope they help you both start school with a smile!

Further guides for helping parents

www.4Children.org.uk

What to expect, when?

Guidance to your child's learning and development in the early years foundation stage



Supported by Department for Education



The 7 areas of learning are:

Prime areas of learning particularly important in the first 3 years

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Specific areas of learning

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

School website www.godinton .kent.sch.uk

The school website also includes lots of useful information on phonics. These documents can be found on the school website:https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/foun dation-stage-starting-school/

Learning Through

Play

Numbers

Learning Through

Letters and Sounds

Leaflets with practical ideas to help with

phonics and maths

Covid-19 Supporting our children and families through the pandemic

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

In September we hope to be operating with far more normality than we have had since March 2020, however some measures may 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 ahead of the new academic year. Please see the Covid pages on the school website for further information.

ParentMail is our key means of communication so please make sure that you keep the school office updated with your contact details.

- 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
- This year, our Réception children adapted very well to all the measures we have implemented. They have shown immense resilience and have 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, Miss Talbot (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.