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Message from Miss Talbot

Happy Christmas everyone

It's been another very busy 12 months at Godinton but it has been lovely to reach the end of the calendar year having been able to go ahead with so many of our Christmas celebrations. Having ended the Christmas term last year so abruptly, to be able to hold carol concerts, nativity plays and Christmas lunch this year has been wonderful. I'm pleased that we have been able to involve many of you in these celebrations—thank you for coming and joining us, it means a lot to the children.

With National Covid concerns escalating once again, I don't know what we will return to after Christmas. As always we will address whatever lies ahead in a measured way, ensuring that we continue with as many normal aspects of school life whilst doing what we can to keep everyone safe. Thank you so much for all your cooperation with all the measures and restrictions we have had to implement. Your support has been invaluable. On behalf of all the team at Godinton I wish you and your families a very safe, happy and healthy Christmas.



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



The most wonderful
time of the year...

Christmas Performances



Congratulations to all our superstars in Lower and Middle School for their fantastic performances last week. All the children, whatever contribution they made, did an outstanding job. The singing was exceptional, the children acted, played instruments, danced and narrated with confidence and ensured that props were where they needed to be.

It takes a huge amount of courage to perform in front of a live audience and I was immensely proud of all our wonderful children. Huge thanks must also go to all the staff who have worked so hard to give every child their moment to shine.

Thank you to those of you who came to watch, for making it an extra special experience for the children. And to those of you who attended on the day the fire alarm went off at the very start of the performance, thank you for your cooperation in evacuating the building so swiftly.



Christingle Making

Christingle making is always a highlight of our Christmas calendar—we missed out last year, so we were pleased to be able to reinstate the tradition this year. To minimise mixing between year groups, our Year 6 children weren't able to help out the younger children but everyone had fun in their classrooms putting their christingles together and learning about the symbolism behind them. I hope that the dolly mixtures survived the journey home!



Christmas Lunch

Our kitchen team did an amazing job on Wednesday, serving up almost 350 Christmas lunches to staff and children. The helpings were generous, the food was hot and delicious and there was a festive atmosphere in the hall as the children ate lunch accompanied by Christmas music and wearing Santa hats provided by our caterers.



Upper School Carol

Concert

Yesterday, Upper School told the Christmas story through a wonderful medley of carols and narration at our outdoor carol concert.

Although not quite the carol service we had planned it was lovely to be able to perform the carols to an audience of parents. We had very much hoped to have been able to attend church this year. Re-establishing the links with St Mary's Church in Great Chart is important to us, so we will keep our fingers crossed for next year.



Christmas Door Competition

Each class has been very busy over the past few days decorating the doors to their classroom with a Christmassy theme. The children voted for the door they liked the best—with Magpies class coming out as the winners with their Christmas front door. The children will receive some goodies to congratulate them on their win.



PTFA

Christmas Jumper Competition

Well done to everyone who entered our Christmas jumper competition on Tuesday. I was very impressed by the vast array of imaginative creations that came into school. Thank you to everyone who attached elves to jumpers, sewed tinsel round sleeves and dangled baubles from collars.

Congratulations to the following children who were selected by the PTFA as the winner for their class: MB Ophelia, RH Abigail. 1F Enid, 1O Oscar, 2B Isla, 2L Felicity, 3B Caitlin, 3D Sid, 4K Grace, 4N Finley, 5C Lucas, 5M Gracie, 6E Catia, 6F Ella.

Breakfast with Santa

I hope that everyone who came along to Breakfast with Santa enjoyed themselves. It was an absolute pleasure to see the children so excited about seeing Santa. This was our new committee's first event—they all deserve huge congratulations for making it such a success. Thanks must also go to all the volunteers who helped to set up, the elves who served breakfast and helped Santa and to all those who stayed at the end to clear up.

This event and the Christmas film raised £1,245 which will go towards setting up a beautiful wellbeing room for the children once we return to the main building.

If anyone is interested in supporting our PTFA by helping out at future events or if you have any suggestions for other events you would like to see happening for the children, please come along to our next meeting which will be held at 6.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 11th January.**

Building Update and January access arrangements

Over the Christmas holidays, we will be moving Year R and Year 1 back into the main building and into their lovely refurbished classrooms. The rooms are looking amazing and we are delighted with the work our contractors have done to create such great learning spaces for the children.

The teachers have spoken to the children about the move back into the building so they know what to expect. We have also put together a series of pictures which parents can use to talk with their children about the work that has taken place and about what to expect on the first day back after Christmas. These will be sent out to Year 1 parents via ParentMail and Year R parents on Tapestry.

Hoardings and scaffolding will still be up at the start of next term, meaning that we still won't have all our usual access points to the building. This means that as of the first day of term, the drop off and collection arrangements for Year R and Year 1 will be as follows:

Year R—Parents should drop the children at the main office entrance where staff will meet and greet the children. The children will walk through the entrance foyer and into their classrooms. At the end of the day, Year R parents should wait outside the main office doors. The children will be dismissed from there.

Year 1—Parents should walk their children though the playground and drop them at the door next to the rear of the hall. Staff will meet and greet the children there and they will walk through to their classrooms. Parents should then make their way back round through the playground to exit.

At the end of the day, Year 1 parents should wait outside the door where they dropped off and the children will be brought out to you.

To exit, you will then need to make your way back round through the playground. Staff will be on hand in the first few days back to show everyone where to go.

With scaffolding due to be removed in January, we hope that this arrangement will only need to be in place for a few weeks.

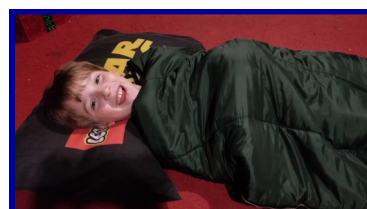
As the Reception children will be entering school and being dismissed from the main entrance doors, I would kindly ask that parents of children in other year groups try to avoid the main office unless absolutely necessary. If there is anything that can be done via email or telephone, that would be preferable.

I thank you in advance for all your cooperation.

Charity Update Year 6 Porchlight

As part of STAR week, Year 6 have been finding out about Porchlight, a Kent-based charity that supports homeless and vulnerable people in the South East. At the beginning of the week, the children made house-shaped money boxes to save their loose change to donate to the charity. They were also encouraged to make some sacrifices in their own personal lives (perhaps forego dessert or 'survive' without their devices for the week), which in some small way represented the daily hardships that homeless people face, as well as develop the children's empathy for their difficult situations.

A special mention must go out to Tyler Keech in 6E who, inspired by the work of Porchlight, set himself a challenge to raise £50 for the charity by participating in a sponsored sleep-out. Tyler spent several nights this week sleeping 'rough' on his living room floor. A huge well done to Tyler for raising over £65 for all his efforts.



Godinton Just Giving Page



As the roof replacement work has been so extensive and with the budget being so tight, it currently isn't

possible to replace some of the furniture and resources that haven't quite survived the work. We would like to fundraise to replace some of these items to ensure that the children have the very best learning spaces to return to.

Although the building project has delivered a few headaches for some of our staff, it has also given us the opportunity to be a little creative in how we put things back together and how we use some of our available space. We would love to turn one of our office spaces into a brand new Children's wellbeing room. This room would be accessible to all those children who receive wellbeing and pastoral support, need a quiet place to talk or a sanctuary where nurture provision can be provided. Life continues to present challenges to many of our children and we would like this space to be a tranquil haven amidst the bustle of school life and a truly special space for anyone who is worried, anxious or upset.

We know that times are hard, but if we could please ask for your help in making our vision a reality, we would be truly grateful. Any donation you can make, big or small will be just fabulous! Please share the link with friends, family, colleagues or anyone else who you think may be in a position to help. Our target is to raise £4,000.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/godinton-primary-school2>

Thank you so much for all your support.

Class News Year 6 Blood Making!

It's not everyday that your teacher informs you are going to make blood, but that was the news that greeted Year 6 when they came into school two weeks ago.

As part of this term's topic on Journeys, the children have been discovering the journey that blood takes around the body, as well as its components. Whilst the production of actual blood would contravene many health and safety regulations in school(!), a number of household items were used to represent the different constituents so the children could clearly see the composition. Water and red food colouring provided the liquid element of the blood, whilst Cheerios were used for the red blood cells, marshmallows for the white and sequins represented the platelets.

Not only was the experience memorable for the children, but it also provided an entertaining introduction to our school, for prospective parents that were visiting on the day!



House Points— Winning House Term 2

Congratulations to Walmer who are the winning house again this term with 1,406 house points.

The children will be rewarded with squash and biscuits and extra playtime during the first week of next term.

Other News and Reminders...



Our Coffee Hub parents, enjoyed festive celebrations last week. Run by our Family Liaison Officer (FLO), Jacqui McGibney, Coffee Hub is open to all parents and is held on a Wednesday morning at school. Come along for a cup of tea and the chance to meet and chat to other parents.

- This Christmas we have been working with a number of local charities and groups who have supported some of our families. We have had gifts and vouchers donated from Gateway Church, the Salvation Army and Ashford Vineyard Compassion which we have been able to share within our community. If you feel that your family would benefit from this type of support, please contact our FLO and we will consider your circumstances should we receive further donations at other points in the year.
- FareShare have donated a number of food boxes ready for families who maybe in need during periods of self-isolation or needy times. Again, if you feel that your family would benefit from this support, please contact FLO. We are immensely grateful to all those who have helped to make Christmas extra special this year for families where parents are suffering with health issues or struggling with other life issues.
- Don't forget that the Term 2 Homework Trails are due in on Wednesday 5th January. Will you go the extra mile and collect your special sticker?

Caught on camera this month...



On behalf of all the staff, thank you for all the lovely Christmas cards and gifts that we have received. As always we have been overwhelmed by your generosity.

Thank you.

We all wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school (fingers crossed!) on Tuesday 4th January.

