

Godinton Primary School Learning and Growing Together

Information for parents of children starting school in September 2022









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.

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 15th June we will also be setting up pages on the school website specifically for our new Reception children and their parents. These can be accessed from the main menu.

What to expect from tonight's meeting...

Meet the staff



Key dates

The first few weeks

Getting school ready

You will also have time to view our Reception classrooms.

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.
 Staff can also be contacted
- via email in September.

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. In your information pack, you will find the details of your child's class and teacher.

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



Miss Ward

teaches Moles and Badgers.

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

teaches Rabbits and Hedgehogs.

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.

Our current teaching assistants in year R are:



Mrs Pullen



Miss Clark



Mrs Prior



Mrs Taylor



Mrs Ellis



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.



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.





Mrs Kelleher



Mrs Smith



Mrs Clark

FLO



Mrs McGibney

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

Key Dates

Stay and Play

Story time Sessions

Lunch

- Various opportunities are built into this term to help settle your child into school.
- All information and dates are in your pack. Ring, email or pop into the office if you are unsure of anything.
 Home visit times are also
- Home visit times are also included in your information packs.

Home Visits



Home Visits Your information pack contains details of when your child's teacher and teaching assistant will come and visit them at home. 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.

Stay and Play sessions We hope that you will have already signed your child up to one of our stay and play sessions. These are held after school and are a time when a grown up can come to school with each child to explore the classrooms and outside areas.



Story Time sessions Your child is then able to come into school on their own for our story time sessions. They will be able to play in and explore the classrooms and enjoy a story with their new teacher.

Lunch at School

We hope that you have signed up to come and have a school lunch during one of our allocated slots over the coming weeks. This will be an opportunity for your child to try out the main meal (or vegetarian meal of the day) and experience our dining hall.

Nursery Visits Our team have already visited lots of pre-school settings to start to get to know your children. These visits and conversations with nursery staff are useful opportunities to find out more about your child especially any particular needs they might have.







Your child will start at Godinton during the week commencing Monday 5th September— 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 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 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.

Tuesday 6th September: First group of 20 children in the year group start school. They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

These children will attend for the rest of week until 12.40 p.m.

Wednesday 7th September: The next group of 20 children in the year group start school. They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m. These children will attend for the rest of week until 12.40 p.m.

Thursday 8th September: The final group of 20 children in the year group start school (the eldest children). They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m. These children will attend for the rest of week until 12.40 p.m.

Friday 9th, Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th September: All children attend school. They will stay for lunch and be collected at 12.40 p.m.

Thursday 15th 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.

your information packs.

• Reception children will have their lunch at 11.30 in the school hall.

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. 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 with help from our midday supervisors who look after the children during their lunchtime. Please help your child to be ready for lunchtimes by practising eating with a knife, fork and spoon.

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.



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.





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.





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, plain jumpers or cardigans 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 pair 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.



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/

After School Club is currently run by Kent Play Clubs on the school site but operation of the club will be transferring to the school in September. Further information is available on the school website:

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

A typical day in September

Fun!

Exciting!

Messy!

- We will be uploading information about a typical day onto the school website over the coming weeks.
- It is a mixture of Teacher Directed and Child Initiated sessions which we call Investigation and Discovery.
 Broad and balanced
- 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!



Tiring!



Parents
drop their
children
off at the
main
playground
gates.



The children will walk to their classroom.

At the end of the day Moles and Badgers come out of this door.





Parents should wait by the wooden hut on the small playground.

Rabbits and Hedgehogs waiting area at the end of the day.



Come and have a look at your child's classroom













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 and the reception curriculum 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.

Getting school ready Toilet

Eating

Talking

listening

 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. Don't under-estimate the importance of these vital skills.

Look for ways in which you can help

your child to be independent.
Lunchtime skills — using a knife, fork and spoon.

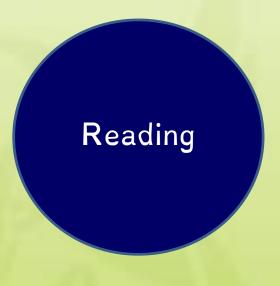
Lots of speaking and listening activities.

Following instructions

 Opportunities for sharing and how your child deals with situations when they can't get their own way.

Read Getting Fine school Motor ready Skills Numbers Read to or with your child every day.

Development of fine motor skills. Name Counting activities
Explore the phonics and
maths leaflets for activities to try at home. Physical Skills



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.



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.

Numbers

Start to practice recognising numbers and counting.





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.

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







I can share



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





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



School website www.godinton .kent.sch.uk Useful information can be found on the school website, This includes information about phonics and number

https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/foundation-stage-starting-school/

From Wednesday 15th
June, there will also
be webpages
specifically for our new
Reception 2022
starters and we will be
launching our
Reception curriculum
pages.





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.