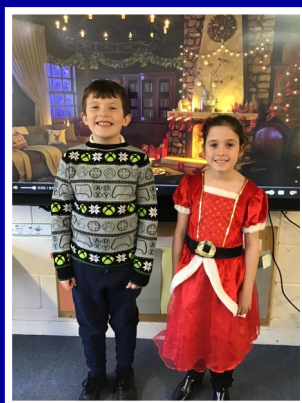


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Message from Miss Talbot



**We Wish You a
Merry Christmas**



It has been a very busy few weeks with many Christmas activities for the children to participate in. The children did themselves proud at our carol service and nativity performances and have enjoyed Christmas lunch, Christmas films and making Christingles. It was lovely to see so many of you join us for Breakfast with Santa and at our Christmas Fair. Thank you so much for all your support in helping to give our children exciting Godinton Christmas memories.

As Term 2 draws to a close, I'd like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas on behalf of everyone at Godinton Primary School. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year when we return to school on Tuesday 3rd January.



Class News

Year 6 – The Heart of the Matter

For Year 6, this term has focused on matters of the heart, both literally and metaphorically. Both classes have been learning about the circulatory system and the essential role that the heart plays in pumping blood around the body. The children have participated in a number of engaging activities to consolidate their understanding of the journey that blood takes, including a dramatization of its travels, in addition to making blood using regular household items such as food colouring, Cheerios, marshmallows and Smarties.

Year 6 have also been finding out about Porchlight, a Kent-based charity that supports homeless and vulnerable people, as part of STAR week. At the beginning of the week, the children made house-shaped money boxes to save their loose change to donate to the charity. We're hoping that the classes prove themselves to be kind-hearted in the amount of money raised for this worthwhile cause. All things considered, you could say that this term's learning has been a work of 'heart'.



Year 4 – A Choctastic Adventure



Year 4 have had a very busy term this term. They began by taking a trip to the Amazon Rainforest where Willy Wonka was on a quest to discover a new flavour of chocolate. The children then looked into what happens to chocolate when we eat it by creating their own digestive system; needless to say, things got a little messy! When they had finished making their discoveries, the children practised giving instructions to an alien (they wanted to make a jam sandwich) before using these skills to give instructions on how to catch a new species in the Amazon. This took the children out to the woods to imagine finding our new species!

Year 2 – Africa

This term the children have been learning about the continent of Africa. They have used maps and atlases to find the continent on a world map and locate and name some countries within it. The children researched and produced a fact page about the country of Kenya and have written adventure stories about rescuing a safari animal from poachers in the Maasai Mara savannah.

Year 3—Life in Ancient Greece

This term, in Year 3 the children have been learning all about what life was like for children in Ancient Greek times; especially focusing on children from Sparta and Athens and what they were taught in school. Having learnt this, the children used their new found knowledge to plan and write their own diary entries, from the perspective of an Athenian boy. In Design and Technology, Year 3 have been planning their own Ancient Greek meals through the use of Power Point Presentations. They will make their creations before the end of term.

Year 1—Fairy Tales in the Woods



In Year 1 the children have been looking at Fairy Tales. The term started with a trip to the forest to find clues to discover which story they were going to be exploring further. The children gathered up all their evidence and learnt they were going to be looking at the tale of Rapunzel. The children explored the different characters in the story, and the settings, and focused on finding brilliant adjectives to describe them.

The ending of the topic was to write the story of Rapunzel independently. The children have all worked very hard and thoroughly enjoyed looking at the features of a Fairy Tale.

Lots of fun in Year R

We are so proud of the children in Year R – what a fabulous term they have had. The children are now so confident to come in each day and love exploring the exciting opportunities that their teachers have planned for them. They have enjoyed sharing different stories such as ‘The Gruffalo’ and ‘Stick Man’ and have been learning lots about number and 2D shapes. They had a letter arrive from Stick Man’s family asking them to complete some missing posters to help to find him – thankfully the posters did the trick and Stick Man was safely returned to his family tree! The children also had a visit from a magical fairy and thought about what they could wish for. Some of the children wrote that they wished for happiness for everybody in the world.

The children have had lots of fun preparing for their nativity play and enjoyed performing to you in their fabulous costumes. They have now completed the term with lots of fun and laughter in the snow.

The children are looking forward to next term when they will be joining in with exciting activities in ‘Forest School’.



Year 5— Secret Devices

Cuckoos and Magpies have been learning about the Suffragette movement. The children have learnt that the suffragettes would often have secret meetings to devise militant plans to support their cause. To ensure that all plans were kept secret from the police or other intruding eyes and ears, they created alarm systems during their Design and Technology lessons. Using their electricity knowledge from Term 1, they built an electrical circuit which included a home-made switch. They had to choose to make either a sliding switch or push-to-make switch depending on how they wanted their design to work. They then created ways of concealing the circuit within a Victorian looking object, such as a green pillar box.



Homework Trails

Don't forget that the next Homework Showcase is due in on Wednesday 4th January so don't forget to bring your homework into school. We always enjoy looking at all the exciting work that has taken place at home. Remember to collect your special sticker if you go the Extra Mile.

Night Owls Update



This term at Night Owls we have been enjoying all things wintry. The children have been exploring outside and enjoying the change in season. They have gone from playing in the Autumn leaves to investigating ice and playing in the dark with torches! In the run up to Christmas the children have filled the club with handmade decorations and taken part in lots of craft, such as making edible Christmas trees and "elfing" themselves. We have also been running a Christmas colouring competition with prizes for the winners in upper, middle and lower school. Congratulations go to Annabelle, Tommy C and Maggie.

For further information about Night Owls, please see the school website or contact:

afterschoolclub@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Charity News

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Your generosity helped us to raise almost £500 for the charity.

Thank you.

Christmas News

It has been a magical Christmas at Godinton this year and we have been so pleased to once again be able to fully involve our families in our special celebrations.

We were immensely proud of how well our Lower and Middle School children performed in their nativity plays. Standing up in front of a full audience, whether to sing, narrate, dance, act or play instruments is a very brave thing to do but our children very much took this in their stride, determined to put on an amazing show to impress their guests. We were so disappointed that the poor weather thwarted our plans to hold our carol service at St Mary's Church in Great Chart. Icy paths and roads would have made the walk to church a little too dangerous. Our alternative arrangement still allowed the children to sing beautifully to our audience and to deliver a lovely re-telling of the Christmas Story. Thank you to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who came to watch all our performances this year – it makes things extra special for the children to have you there.

Our annual Christingle making is always a lovely event, with our Year 6 classes helping the younger children to put their Christingles together. We hope you will enjoy lighting your Christingle candle over the Christmas period.



Santa has been to Godinton several times over the past few weeks, keeping an eye on who is on his good list. We loved joining him for breakfast last Saturday and seeing him at the Christmas fair. I'm hoping that he may pop into our Christmas parties too.

Christmas lunch was also a huge success this week with Jo and her team cooking over 350 Christmas dinners which were very much enjoyed by all.

As well as entertaining Ashford, with our carol singing at County Square last week, we were delighted to welcome some of the residents of Loudon Court across to Godinton to join in with a Christmas sing a long. Our guests were immensely complimentary about the children's singing and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to join in with our celebrations. Well done to everyone involved.



Staff News

I am delighted to share the happy news with you, that Miss Attenborough has welcomed baby Milo into the world, weighing a healthy 7lb 9 oz. I am sure that you will join me in sending Godinton congratulations to Miss Attenborough. We look forward to meeting baby Milo very soon.

Let it Snow



The first snow of the academic year made for an interesting and exciting start to the week. On snowy days, we will always endeavour to keep the school open and would only close if we couldn't make the site safe or we had insufficient staff to supervise the children. All our team made it into school on Monday from all parts of the county, despite some lengthy journeys but the varying conditions across Kent, mean this may not always be possible. In the event that we have a heavy downfall of snow, we will send a ParentMail out as early as we can to advise as to the arrangements for the day. This may be to notify you that the entire school is closed or that the school is only open to certain classes or that school will open slightly later than usual. If we should have a heavy snowfall during the school day, once the children are in and it would be unsafe to keep the site open for the duration of the school day, we would send a ParentMail out to advise you to collect your child earlier if you are able to.

As an extra reminder, we will put a note on the Kent School Closure website, if the school is closed. Parents can sign up for an alert to this service by following the following link

<https://www.kentclosures.co.uk/>

On snowy days, please send your child into school with wellies or a suitable change of footwear as well as a waterproof coat, gloves, hat and scarf. We will generally let those who want to, have a play in the snow providing the site isn't too icy. We have had great fun making snow men this week!



Reading

If your child is in Years R, 1 or 2, don't forget to sign up for your free access to the Monster Phonics eBook online library. Each week, Year R and 1 class teachers have been letting you know which eBooks to read alongside the sound being looked at in class. In the new year, Year 2 will also be encouraging the children to look at the eBooks which link with their phonics lessons. The eBooks provide an extra layer of reinforcement of the phonemes that the children have been learning in class. We would encourage you to read at least one of the eBooks each week with your child as well as keeping up daily reading of their colour coded book.



Pre-Loved Clothing Sale

On Friday 13th January we will be holding a pre-loved clothing event in the school hall between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m.

The PTFA will be selling second-hand uniform with fleeces available for £3.50 and cardigans and sweatshirts for just £2.50. We would very much appreciate any donations of school uniform items that you might have which can be sold onto other parents. These can be handed into the school office between Wednesday 4th January, and Friday 6th January.

We know that times are quite financially challenging for some of our families at the moment. To try and help everyone out, the school would like to run a pre-loved children's clothing event alongside our uniform sale. If anyone has items of children's winter clothing (non uniform) that they would like to donate to the event, we will make these available to families for a very minimal donation.

In order to make this event a success we would welcome donations of trousers, jumpers, hoodies, long sleeved tops, coats, hats, gloves, shoes or wellies etc. Please only donate clean items in good wearable condition that you think would make a difference to some of our children this winter. Items can be dropped off at school between Wednesday 4th January, and Friday 6th January. Miss Walker, one of TAs is taking a lead with this initiative and will sort out any items that come in, ready for the pre-loved event on January 13th.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the sale. Teas and Coffees will be available so even if you don't need any clothing, pop in for some refreshments. We hope that this events will help families out over the winter months.

Kent Library Reading Challenge

Earlier in the year, Kent Libraries and The Reading Agency teamed up with the Science Museum Group for a fantastic Summer Reading Challenge with the Gadgeteers.

Now they are back for the Winter Mini Challenge!

Join the Gadgeteers as they use their ingenuity and creativity to keep everyone entertained during a snowstorm.

Get ready for cool do-it-at-home experiments and the best reading activities around as you complete your very own Winter Mini Challenge.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple: all you have to do is read at least three books between 1 December 2022 and 20 February 2023.

You can choose any books you like – fact books, fiction, joke books, picture books, eBooks, audio books – the choice is yours!

Once you've read a book, add it to your website profile and write a review to let everyone know what you thought.

Add 3 books or more to complete the Winter Mini Challenge and unlock a brand new certificate **AND** a limited-edition virtual badge!

For more information and to join the fun, click on the link below:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2022>

Happy reading everyone!



Other News and Reminders...

- Good attendance at school is very important. Please only keep your children at home when they are too unwell to attend. Holidays during term time should be avoided and will be recorded as unauthorised absences. Please try to make medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible. We know that we are entering the season of coughs and colds, but would ask that you are mindful of your child's attendance and the severity of their symptoms when deciding whether to keep them at home. Punctuality is also important so please consider whether in these winter months you may need to leave a little longer for your journey to school.
- Please ensure that items of school uniform and cold weather paraphernalia (scarves, hats, gloves, ear muffs etc) are named. The lost property box is bursting with items we are unable to return to their owners.
- Congratulations to Year 5 who raised £93 from their Christmas Bake Sale. The money will go to support Pilgrim's Hospice and Kent Air Ambulance. Year 6 have also been fundraising for Porchlight as part of their work during STAR week. Thank you to everyone who has helped to support these good causes.
- Congratulations to Falcons class for a lovely class assembly about life in Medieval England. We look forward to inviting parents into school to watch Eagles' assembly at 2.40 on Friday 27th January and Nightingales' assembly at 1.40 on Friday 10th February.
- Bumblebees and Falcons have their Forest School sessions next term. Please see the ParentMail sent out a few weeks ago for further information.
- Thank you so much for all the kind Christmas cards and gifts that the staff have received. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

On behalf of all the team at Godinton Primary School, I would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 3rd January.

Caught on camera this month...

