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Message from Miss Talbot

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

December has been a busy month, with so many festive activities having taken place for the children to enjoy. Our Lower and Middle School children treated us to a wonderful medley of Christmas songs to kick start our Christmas celebrations and Upper School continued in a similar fashion with a delightful carol service at St Mary's Church in Great Chart village. We even discovered that Mr Rowson had a hidden talent for playing the trumpet as he led the children in a beautiful rendition of O Come All Ye Faithful. Thank you to one of our lunchtime supervisors, Mrs Heder, for playing the cello in the carol service too. Their musical talents put me to shame!

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents and extended family to Godinton too over the past month—whether that has been coming to watch a performance, attending our Christmas Fair or having breakfast with Santa. Thank you for sharing the celebrations with us.

On behalf of all the staff at Godinton, I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



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

Thinking of others this Christmas time

Amidst all the excitement of Christmas, the past few weeks have been an opportunity for our children to put our school values into practice by showing kindness to others.

At this time of year, we love inviting our neighbours in Loudon Court to school for some carol singing. This week we were joined by 18 residents who joined in with a lovely selection of Christmas songs.

A beautiful medley of Christmas songs also raised the roof of the County Square shopping centre earlier this month, when a choir of 40 of our children took part in a carol singing event to raise money for the Demelza House charity. Representatives of the charity came into school at the end of November to talk to the children about this hospice charity and to share the work undertaken to deliver care and emotional support to babies, children and young people facing serious or life-limiting conditions.



It has become somewhat of a Godinton tradition to draw Christmas pictures to decorate the wards at the William Harvey Hospital over Christmas. We hope that the children's amazing efforts will put a smile on the face of those who are unwell and will be spending Christmas in hospital.

Finally, Our Year 5 children baked and sold biscuits to raise money for the Kent Air Ambulance Trust as part of this term's PSHE topic. Thank you to everyone who helped the children to raise £85 for this charity.

Christingles Light up Christmas



Making Christingles in the last week of term, has been another Godinton Christmas tradition which we first started almost 20 years ago. With tables set up in the hall, and the smell of oranges filling the whole school, our Year 6 children help every child in the school to make their own special Christingle to remind them of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to Year 6 for all their kind assistance.

Tucking into Christmas Dinner



We are very fortunate to have an amazing kitchen team who work so immensely hard to produce lovely food for our children and staff. This year the team made over 350 Christmas dinners which went down a treat. A huge thank you to our cook Jo and her team for all that they do to support our school.

PTFA Update...

Snow fell last Saturday during Breakfast with Santa (ok, it was Mr Wise and his snow machine!) creating a magical start to this festive PTFA event.

Father Christmas made a visit to Godinton to have breakfast with the children and to listen to them telling him how good they had been and what they wanted for Christmas.

Thank you so much to our PTFA for all their efforts in creating lovely Christmas events this year.



Thanks again to everyone for all the help that went into making our Christmas Fair such a success. Over £3000 was raised for the school which is amazing. We also raised over £100 through the design a Christmas card project.

Our next PTFA meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th January at 6.00 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

Getting Arty

There have been lots of creative activities taking place this term with our Art Leads, Miss Almond and Mrs Fagg leading the way. Miss Almond's art club have created some beautiful winter inspired pieces of art work which you can see in the pictures below. We have also started 'Sketchy Fridays'. Early morning work in many classes on Friday mornings includes inspiring sketching and art activities which children complete in their special sketch books. A good incentive to get into school early on Fridays!



Out to Play

Thank you to everyone for your support in getting Opal Play up and running since the start of the year.

We now have a clear Play Policy in place which can be found on the Opal Play pages on the school website:

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/parents/opal-play-lunchtime-play-at-godinton-primary-school/>

We are very grateful to everyone who has helped with donations in recent weeks. We have had donations of guttering, pipes and fittings from The Plumb Centre and from Mr Strotten at Willow Plumb Pipes. These will come in very useful for den building and giant marble run activities planned for the new year.

We are also very grateful for the donation of storage crates from StoneCraft. Thank you all so much.

If anyone has any spare wellies which they would like to donate we would be very happy to take these off your hands. Please pass these onto Mrs Carr, via the school office.



September 2025 Admissions

If you are looking for a school place for a Reception child in September 2025, applications need to be made by Wednesday 15th January. Further information about the admissions process can be found on the school website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/school-information/admissions/>

Other News and Reminders...

- We have a number of children in years R to 2 who are bringing a packed lunch from home and are also ordering a school dinner on the same day which is resulting in a huge amount of food waste. Please can we ask that you talk through with your children whether they are having either a dinner or a packed lunch each day to ensure that we aren't cumulating lots of waste at lunchtimes.
- This week, we say goodbye to Mrs Kirova as part of our outdoor playteam. We will still see her at Night Owls. Mrs Keech will be taking over Mrs Kirova's lunchtime role.
- As we head deeper into winter, please note that we will do all we can to ensure that school remains open in the event of heavy wintery snow. It is usually not site access that presents a problem but rather difficulties that staff might have coming into school from across the county, meaning a shortage of adults to supervise. In the event that we did have to close school or close specific classes, notification would be sent via ParentMail as early as possible and remote learning activities would be set.
- On behalf of all the staff, thank you so much for your kind gifts and Christmas cards. We are all immensely grateful.
- We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report— Year 5 and 6 Multi-Skills Tournament

It has been lovely to be able to take part in a series of Multi Skills tournaments at the Stour Centre this term, where groups of our children have been able to compete against other schools in different sporting events. The start of December saw the turn of Year 5 and 6 at their competition. Our group took part with enthusiasm and good sportsmanship, representing our school very well.

We have more competitions to look forward to in the new year.

