

Contents

Breakfast with Santa.....	2
Christmas Happiness.....	2
Christingle Teamwork.....	3
Christmas Lunch.....	3
Staff News.....	3
Opal Update.....	4
Going Green at Godinton.....	4
Other News and Reminders.....	5
Sports Report.....	5



Message from Miss Talbot

Merry Christmas Everyone!

This festive season has been truly special at Godinton and a particular highlight has been the amazing Christmas performances, in which all our children shone brightly. Our youngest children delighted the audience with their wonderful Nativity performances. Their enthusiasm and confidence shone through as they shared the traditional Christmas story with heartfelt singing and dancing. Our Middle School children also focused on entertaining us with beautiful singing for their Christmas performance, filling the hall with festive cheer. Finally, to conclude our celebrations, Upper School led a moving Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Great Chart and provided us with a perfect blend of music, readings, and reflection on the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has come into school to share our celebrations with us this year. On behalf of everyone at Godinton, we 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 Monday 5th January.



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Breakfast with Santa



Last Saturday, our school was transformed into a winter wonderland for the much-loved PTFA Breakfast with Santa event. Families arrived bright and early, to a magical sprinkling of snow from our snow machine— ready to share in the festive fun and create special memories together.

Each session began with a delicious breakfast prepared by Jo, our amazing school cook, featuring warm bacon rolls and a tempting selection of pastries. It was then over to the main event when each child had the opportunity to meet Santa, share their Christmas wishes and receive a special gift to take home.

A huge thank you to our PTFA, Jo, and all the staff who worked so hard to make this event possible, and of course to Santa himself for finding time in his busy schedule to join us for breakfast.



Spreading some Christmas Happiness

It was a pleasure to take our Upper School Mini Managers to the William Harvey Hospital last week, to visit Bartholomew Ward and deliver over 150 Christmas pictures to brighten up the cardiac ward.



The tradition of creating Christmas artwork for the ward was started by our school and a local brownie pack during the Covid pandemic and has continued every year since. The children's pictures are displayed on Bartholomew ward and the Cardiac Care Unit for patients and staff to enjoy over the Christmas period. Binnie Cheesman, ward manager of Bartholomew ward and Lin Schultz, cardiology inpatient pathway co-ordinator, welcomed our arrival and received the stack of amazing artwork from our Mini Managers. They told the children how the pictures, which will be displayed on the walls throughout the unit, help to lift everyone's spirits at a time when life can feel very difficult for patients in hospital over Christmas and their families.

"We are very grateful to the children and the school for thinking of us at such a busy time of year and it was an absolute pleasure to meet Godinton children when they delivered their masterpieces to the ward."

Christingle Teamwork



Earlier this week, our school came together for our annual Christingle Making Morning, a tradition that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. Every child had the opportunity to create their own

Christingle orange, each part symbolizing an important aspect of the Christian message of hope and light.

The hall was filled with excitement, concentration and the smell of citrus as the children carefully added the candle, red ribbon, sweets, and foil to their oranges. A highlight of the morning was the incredible teamwork on display. Year 6 pupils stepped into the role of helpers, guiding and supporting our younger children with patience and kindness. Their leadership and care made the event even more special and very much showed our Godinton star values in action.

Entertaining our Neighbours



It was a pleasure to invite our neighbours from Loudon Court over to Godinton on Tuesday, for an afternoon of refreshments and carol singing. 10 residents joined us and were entertained by the children who sang a medley of Christmas songs. This is another Godinton Christmas tradition which we very much enjoy.

Christmas Lunch

Our catering team work hard all year round to provide our children with delicious school meals and on Christmas dinner day, we really see their talents as they provide 350 Christmas dinners for children and staff.

In January Independent Catering will be reintroducing the coloured band system in order to ensure that all children get the meal they have ordered. Once children have selected their school dinner in the morning they will be given a corresponding band to show to the kitchen team when they collect their dinner.



Staff News

Our congratulations go to Cuckoo's class teacher, Miss King and her fiancée, who are getting married over the Christmas break. Miss King will return to school in January as Mrs Ward.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Fulford from our Outdoor Play Team at the end of January, as she steps down from work to care for elderly family. We are currently running an advert on Kent Teach for someone to join our amazing outdoor play team and to help to support Opal Play at Godinton.

Opal Update

Wow! What a great couple of terms we have had Opal wise! Our new Reception children are loving playing in all our amazing Play Zones, we have made beautiful fairy wands and Snowmen, we have opened up Den Building for Upper School, we have moved nearly 150 tyres kindly donated by parents onto our field to use in our play time, we've cleared and played with thousands of leaves, battled wind and rain, and had lots and lots of fun!



Now that we are well into the winter months, please ensure your children have warm coats, water-pooofs and wellies as we continue to be outside in all weathers (spare socks are also useful for damp toes). We also recruited 14 Play Rangers this term. These are children in years 2-6 who act as Opal Ambassadors and work with Mrs Carr and the Play Team ensuring that Zones, Areas and Equipment stay safe and fun for everyone. We will tell you more about this exciting new role in the new year. As always we are very appreciative of any donations given and have had some wonderful things turn up in Opal HQ – Mrs Carr never knows what she is going to find when she arrives at work. If you have a clear out, especially over Christmas, and are getting rid of toy musical instruments, small cars, old mobile phones/tablets (with batteries removed), shower curtains or tarp for den building shelters, clothes pegs and dollies/prams, please bear us in mind.

Going Green at Godinton

CLIMATE ACTION CREW



A huge thank you to our amazing Climate Action Crew, who have been working hard to tackle the challenge of reducing single-use plastics in our school. Their commitment to making a positive difference is inspiring!

The team has launched a campaign to encourage every child to bring a refillable water bottle to school every day. This simple change helps us avoid using disposable cups and supports our goal of reducing waste. They are also promoting the use of reusable cups for school tea parties, ensuring that even our celebrations are eco-friendly.

To spread the message, the Climate Action Crew have been busy creating eye-catching posters to display around the school and drafting a letter for parents to explain the campaign.

We're excited to share that the group will be revealing more about their campaign in January, so watch this space for updates. Together, we can make a difference—one refillable bottle at a time!

Other News and Reminders...

- If you have a child due to start school in September 2026, don't forget that your application for a place for your child needs to be submitted to KCC by Thursday 15th January. If you are looking for a place at Godinton and already have another child at the school you are likely to have a sibling link which will place you higher up the offer list in the event that we are over-subscribed. However if you have moved more than 2 miles away from the school since your first child was enrolled at Godinton, then the sibling link will be broken. This means that in the event of the school being over-subscribed you would be considered for a place on the basis of distance. Please contact the school office if you think this may apply to you and they will be able to offer advice.

On behalf of all the team at Godinton, I'd like to thank you for all the kind cards and gifts we have received and to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Venture Camps Gymnastics

We are excited to announce that the children in our Year 2 and Year 5 classes will be taking part in a new gymnastics programme run by Venture Camps. Venture Camps will bring the RISE Gymnastics scheme into our PE lessons, across the term the children will work towards level 1 and 2 of the RISE EXPLORE programme, developing their Core Skills. Each lesson is designed not only to teach the required skills, but also to assess progress so that the children can achieve their level. Our aim is for as many children as possible to finish the term with a certificate and a medal celebrating their achievement.

In term 3 – Butterflies and Magpies will complete the sessions, and in term 4 it will be the turn of Ladybirds and Cuckoos. Sessions will take place every Tuesday afternoon.