



Godinton Primary School

Learning and Growing Together

Information for parents of children starting school in September 2026



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/>

What to expect from tonight's meeting...



Meet
the
staff

Key
dates

The
first
few
weeks

Getting
school
ready

Meet the Staff

Class Teachers

Teaching Assistants

Senior Management Team

Support Staff

- 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.



Our Year R Teaching Team

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.



Mrs Ischt-Berger Miss O'Beirne
teaches Rabbits and Hedgehogs.



Miss Kirk-Smith
teaches Moles and Badgers.

Mrs Ischt-Berger teaches Monday to Wednesday.
Miss O'Beirne teaches on Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Kelleher, Mrs McGoldrick or Mr Wise will teach your child on the day that their regular teacher has non-contact time (PPA).

Our Year R Teaching Assistants

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 Pumphrey



Miss Moody



Miss Bushell

Our Management Team

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.



Mrs Partridge



Mrs Stein

Our Management Team can help 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.

Support Staff

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.

Office Team



Mrs Kelleher



Mrs Clark



Miss Keep

FLO



Mrs McGibney

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

Key Dates

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

Stay
and
Play

Story
time
Sessions

Lunch

Home
Visits



Home Visits

Details of your home visit is in your welcome pack. 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

You are invited to come in 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. Details have been sent out.

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.





**September
Start**

All the children will start school on Thursday 3rd September for a 2 hour session.

They will not have lunch at school

	Morning Session 9.15am- 11.15am	Afternoon Session 1pm-3pm
Thursday 3rd September	Moles	Badgers
Friday 4th September	Hedgehogs	Rabbits



September Start

Week Commencing Monday 7th September

All the children will attend school each day (Monday – Friday) from 8.50 am – 1pm.

- Children will have lunch at school.
- Please provide a morning snack and water bottle.

Week Commencing Monday 14th September

The children will be full time this week.

The first few weeks in September

- Information about lunch, uniform and what to bring to school are included in your information packs.
- Reception children have their lunch at 11.30 in the school hall.

Lunch

Water and Snacks

Book bags

Uniform

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Attendance



Lunch

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 uploaded to the school website 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.

Water and snacks

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.

Book Bags

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.



Uniform



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 and kept here.

The children will not need a PE kit until the summer term.

Our school uniform supplier has just ceased trading. We are therefore in the process of setting up a new supplier and will be able to provide details of this shortly.

Please ensure that anything your child brings to school is named.

Breakfast
Club and
After
School
Club



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/breakfast-club/>



We run 'Night Owls' After School Club which currently provides child care after school until 6.00 p.m.

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



Attendance

It is really important that your child arrives at school on time (by 8.50) every day.

Attendance is monitored and we are here to help with any issues that might arise that impacts on your child attending school.

Your child should only not attend school if they are too poorly to do so. It is ok to attend school with a cough or a cold. Sickness or diarrhoea requires being away from school for 48 hours.

Details on how to report your child's absence is in the Parent Handbook.

Holiday absence is not permitted. KCC do impose fixed penalty notices for absences of 10 sessions (5 days) or more within a 10 week period.

Further information can be found on the attendance pages on the school website.

A typical day in September

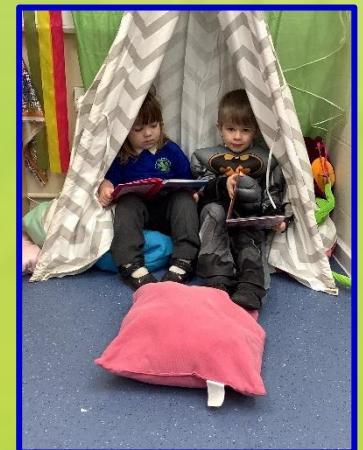
- We will be uploading information about a typical day onto the school website over the coming weeks.
- It is a mixture of Teacher Directed and Child Initiated sessions which we call Investigation and Discovery.
- Broad and balanced curriculum with daily phonics and maths sessions.
- We have fun while we learn and often get messy even when we try our best not to!

Fun!

Exciting!

Messy!

Tiring!



Parents
drop their
children
off at the
main
playground
gates.

Drop off in the morning is
between 8.35 and 8.50.



The
children
will walk
to their
classroom.

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



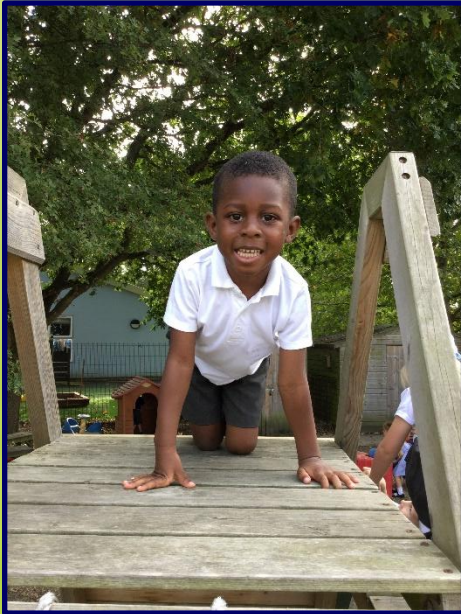
Reception
children
start
being
released
from
class at
3.10



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

School Day

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-stage-starting-school/>

Every day
is exciting
and fun!



What to expect...

Some children may get quite tired, especially after their first full week.

Your child may come home messy – especially if they have been outside!

Your child may want to talk about their day, others may not.

It takes some children a little longer than others to settle.

Most children are able to leave parents independently but some need more support.

Every child is different.

Getting school ready

- 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.

Eating


Toilet

Talking

listening

Following instructions

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



Practical
tasks and
independence

There are lots of practical things you can do to help get your child ready for starting school.

The lunchtime staff will help your child to cut food but it helps if your child is familiar with how to use cutlery and how to drink from a cup as well as a water bottle.

Practise sitting at the table to eat rather than eating on their lap.

Some children will have genuine difficulties with toileting when they start school (perhaps due to an **SEND** need or a medical issue) and we are here to help with this so please don't worry.

If your child is on the verge of being toilet trained, use the next few months to secure this and to help your child to be independent when using the toilet (e.g. how to use toilet paper, how to pull underwear up, pull tights up etc).

Encourage your child to do things for themselves e.g. put wellies on, put their coat on.

Speaking and Listening

- Listening activities – listening to stories, sounds
- Talking to your children

Following Instructions

- Helping your child to follow instructions.
- Tidying up – getting them to tidy up once they have finished an activity.



Getting
school
ready

Read

Fine
Motor
Skills

Numbers

Name

- Read to or with your child every day.
- Development of fine motor skills.
- Counting activities
- Look for opportunities to talk to your children
- Reduce tech time down

Speaking
and
Listening

Physical
Skills

Reading

- 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.
- If your child uses an iPad a lot at home, look for alternative activities in the run up to starting school e.g. practical play activities, drawing, colouring, physical activities

Name

- 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.

Fine
Motor
Skills

- Try lots of activities to develop fine motor skills, drawing, cutting, sticking,



Getting Ready for school

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

pacey
professional association for
childcare and early years

- I am happy to be away from my parents or main carer
- I can go to the toilet, wipe myself properly and flush unaided
- I like to read stories and look at picture books
- I enjoy learning about and exploring new things
- I know when to wash my hands and can wipe my nose
- I like interacting with other children
- I am happy to tidy up after myself and can look after my things
- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
- I can share toys and take turns
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not tired for school
- I can use a knife and fork and open my lunch on my own
- I am able to ask for help if I don't feel well
- I can follow instructions and understand the need to follow rules
- I can button & unbutton my shirt, use a zip and put on my own shoes & socks
- I enjoy making marks and have practised holding a pencil

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

#READYFORSCHOOL

pacey
professional association for
childcare and early years

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR STARTING SCHOOL



START SCHOOL WITH A SMILE

Starting school is an exciting time for young children and their parents. It can be a daunting time, too. But with a little preparation and encouragement, most children will settle in easily at school.

PACEY childcare professionals have a great deal of experience in helping children to cope with times of transition. Here are some top tips, put together by some of our most experienced members, to help you prepare your child for starting school.

We hope they help you both start school with a smile!

www.4Children.org.uk

Further
guides for
helping
parents

What to expect, when?

Guidance to your child's learning and development
in the early years foundation stage



Supported by

Department
for Education



The 7 areas of learning are:

**Prime areas of learning particularly
important in the first 3 years**

**Personal, Social and
Emotional Development**

Physical Development

**Communication and
Language**

Specific areas of learning

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

School
website
[www.godinton
.kent.sch.uk](http://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/>





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.