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Message from Miss Talbot

A Very Happy Christmas

Christmas is always a very happy time of year at school with so many exciting things for the children to enjoy. Our Lower and Middle School productions this year were amazing. It was a pleasure watching the children shine on stage and take such pride and pleasure in their involvement. It takes a lot of bravery to stand on stage in front of a large audience but the children all did themselves proud. Yesterday we enjoyed a wonderful Upper School carol service at St Mary's Church in Great Chart. These celebrations are very much a team effort. We are grateful to all the efforts at home that helped the children learn their lines and practise the songs and carols and thank our school team for helping to bring out the best in all the children.

On behalf of everyone at Godinton, we wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 2nd January.



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Christingle Making



Christingle making is very much part of our Christmas tradition at Godinton. For the past 20 years, we have devoted one morning during the last week of term, when our Year 6 children help the school to make their Christingles.

'Christingle' means 'Christ Child' and originates from the Moravian Church. A symbol of Christianity, Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets or dried fruit and a candle. Each of these different elements has a special meaning:

- The orange symbolises the world.
- The red ribbon shows God's love for the world and the blood of Jesus.
- The sweets/dried fruit represent God's creations.
- The four cocktail sticks can represent either the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
- The candle represents Jesus being the light of the world, bringing hope to those in darkness.

At a time when we are very much immersed in seasonal commercialism, it's important to remember the true meaning of Christmas. The dolly mixtures taste good too!



Christmas Round Up

I hope the children enjoyed their Christmas lunch this week. Our grateful thanks goes to our cook, Jo and her team for all their hard work in serving up over 350 plates of Christmas dinner.



I'd also like to thank everyone who has helped with the Christmas film screenings over the past few weeks and at the PTFA Breakfast with Santa last Saturday. It has been lovely to once again involve so many people in our Christmas celebrations.

We had an amazing array of Christmas pictures and drawings produced by the children which will decorate the wards at the William Harvey Hospital this year. It's been nice to know that the children's efforts will brighten the days of those in hospital over the Christmas period.

Finally we invited our neighbours from Loudon Court to school for carol singing and mince pies. We had a lovely afternoon, during which time our Year 6 children entertained our guests with a host of Christmas songs and carols.

Happy Christmas everyone.



Staff News

After Christmas, Mrs Burchett, teacher of Year 4 Nightingales class will be stepping down to part time teaching She will teach Nightingales on 3 days a week (Monday to Wednesday).

In January, a new teacher will job share with Mrs Burchett. Mrs Atkin will teach Nightingales on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Atkin is an experienced teacher who is very much looking forward to joining our team. Mrs Atkin has been into school to say hello to the children and will be working with Mrs Burchett to plan ahead for the new term.

I am sure that Mrs Burchett and Mrs Atkin are going to make a great team so that we can continue the positive start the children have made to Year 4.

We also welcome Mrs Diplock to the team in January. Mrs Diplock will be teaching across the school covering classes as needed.

Admissions Policy Consultation

Every 7 years, schools are asked to open consultation on their admissions policy even if no changes have been made during this time. Our Admissions policy is now open for consultation even though the policy remains unchanged. Consultation closes on Monday 6th January. Details of the policy can be found at: <https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/school-information/admissions/>

E-Scooters

Kent Police have asked all schools to share information with parents and children about the use of e-scooters.

There has been an increasing number of individuals riding e-scooters on the public highway, pavements and in public open spaces. Kent Police are advising the public to ensure they understand the laws around E-Scooters use before purchasing. E-Scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It is not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as pavements.

The police are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances, the police have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the E-Scooter being seized. If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected.

If you purchase an E-Scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's consent. E scooters cannot be used on the school site.

Further information can be found on the Kent Police website:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/>

Other News and Reminders...

- This term, we were delighted to have 120 children who received a certificate for 100% attendance in Term 2. The chance to gain a certificate re-sets in January with certificates being awarded at the end of Term 4 for 100% attendance in terms 3 and 4. The attendance pages on the school website give more information about attendance expectations at Godinton, this includes advise for parents on whether a child is well enough to attend school.
- Please remember that the gates shut at 8.50. I am very grateful to everyone for all their efforts in ensuring that the children arrive on time in line with our new daily timings but we still have a number of children who are late to school. It can be very disruptive for the children to walk into class late, so please can everyone do all they can to get the children to school on time.
- Just a reminder that all the children should have a warm waterproof coat with them in school. Don't forget that jewellery, other than stud earrings, is not allowed and neither is nail polish. Full details of our uniform policy can be found on the school website.
- If your child is due to start school in September 2024, don't forget that applications need to be made by Monday 15th January. If you already have a child at the school you will have a sibling link for any subsequent children who attend. However if you have moved more than 2 miles further away from the school since your last child started with us, then the sibling link will be broken. The school's admission policy is available on the school website and provides further details. The KCC admissions website, provides information on the application process for primary admissions in Kent: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>
- On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you for all the Christmas cards and gifts we have received. It's very thoughtful of you.
- Don't forget that we return to school on Tuesday 2nd January.

Caught on camera this month...

