

Contents

Escape into Reading.....	2
Christmas Fair.....	3
Coffee Hub.....	3
School Uniform	3
Other News and Reminders.....	4
Sports Report.....	4



Message from Miss Talbot

Spreading a little Kindness

October was our Kindness month at Godinton and it was lovely to see so many children joining in with our Kindness Challenge and showing acts of thoughtfulness to friends and families. Over 150 children took part and were rewarded for their efforts in playing with younger siblings, helping granny and grandpa with jobs or helping mummy and daddy at home, with prizes and certificates. Well done to everyone who took part, it was a pleasure to see all the amazing things you did for others.

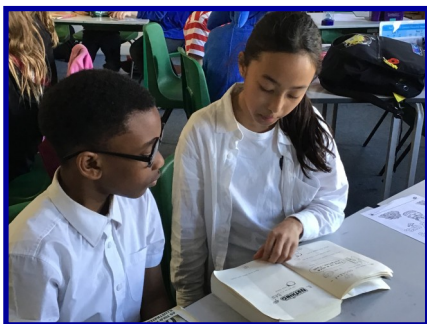
Godinton's generosity and kindness to others was very evident when we went wild for a wonderful cause last month –raising £569 for Children in Need. Children and staff showed off their most creative, colourful, and wildly wonderful hairstyles to raise money for the charity. From rainbow spikes to glittery braids, ice-cream buns to towering hair cones—it was fantastic to see everyone's creativity—thank you so much.

And as we start the countdown to Christmas we will be turning our attention to spreading a little kindness within the Ashford community. The children have been busy creating festive pictures to decorate the Bartholomew Cardiac Ward at the William Harvey Hospital and will be raising money for Pilgrim's Hospice by carol singing in the County Square shopping centre after school on Friday 12th December. Our choir will also be entertaining our neighbours from Loudon Court in the coming weeks too. We hope that by doing these things we will be able to spread a little Christmas cheer to others.



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

Escape into Reading!



In today's world of screens and technology, it's easy for books to take a back seat. Yet, reading remains one of the most powerful tools for learning, imagination, and success. Regular reading at home doesn't just improve vocabulary and comprehension—it builds confidence, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning.

We know that many children are drawn to games and apps, but sharing a book with an adult can create special moments which have a significant impact on a child's interest in reading. Whether it's a bedtime story, a chapter before dinner, a visit to Ashford library or simply talking about a favourite character, these moments matter. They show children that reading is not a chore—it's an adventure you can enjoy together.

Developing our children's enjoyment of books and of reading for pleasure is a key development action for us at Godinton this year. As part of this, we are embarking on an exciting project led by the Kingsnorth Reading Hub, a Department for Education funded project, based at Kingsnorth Primary School which develops initiatives for reading and phonics in schools across the South East. The hub is running a programme this academic year in which they are encouraging all schools in the Ashford area to engage with an audit process to gain a Reading Charter bronze award. The process to gaining the award, encourages schools to be reflective on the practices in place to create a whole school reading culture where reading is prioritised, celebrated and accessible to all, ensuring that every child becomes a confident, fluent and passionate reader.

Over the course of the year we will be facilitating activities and events to promote reading for pleasure and develop our children's reading skills further. We very much value the opportunity to do this in partnership with parents and have already, this year, offered activities to help parents understand more about phonics at Godinton, such as the sessions for our Year 1 parents in which they saw a phonics lesson being taught to the class by our Year 1 teachers.

Our challenge to our families over the coming months is to make time for reading every day. Even 10 minutes can make a huge difference.

Why Reading at Home Matters – And How You Can Make It Fun!

Children who read regularly develop stronger vocabulary, improved oracy, better comprehension, and a love of stories that lasts a lifetime.

Reading doesn't have to be a solo activity – sharing books with an adult at home can make a significant difference to a child's love of reading. When children see that reading is valued and enjoyed both at school and by their family, they are far more likely to embrace it themselves.

Why is reading at home so important?

- It builds language skills and strengthens school learning.
- It sparks creativity and imagination.
- It improves focus and empathy.
- It creates special moments of connection between children and adults.

There are some lovely Christmas picture books, short stories and chapter books available so as we head towards the Christmas holiday, why not pick a story, snuggle up on the sofa and enjoy the magic between the pages.

We look forward to being able to share more information about our journey with this project over the coming months.

All the fun of the Fair!

Our PTFA Christmas Fair is always a highlight of our school calendar and this year was no exception. The school was filled with festive cheer as families, children, and staff came together to celebrate the season and raise funds for our school.

As always, the fair provided an afternoon of fun with tombolas, face painting, raffles and games for the children to enjoy. This year we had a number of external stalls, including craft stalls and gift tables which offered plenty of opportunities to find unique Christmas presents. We were delighted that Father Christmas took time out of his busy schedule to meet children in his magical grotto and hear what they wanted for Christmas. And Jo, our cook, served up some delicious sausage rolls—thank you Jo, for keeping everyone warm and fed!

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our amazing PTFA. From planning and decorating to running stalls and clearing away, they truly made this event special. A huge thank you to every volunteer and supporter who helped make the fair such a success. The fair raised £2679 which will go towards Forest School resources and a new sound system for the hall.

Events like this remind us what a strong and caring school community we have. We hope to see more of you at our Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday.



Join us for a Coffee

If you would like the opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee, and connect with other parents in our school community, then why not join us at the Wednesday morning Coffee Hub.

The Coffee Hub is a space to **share parenting experiences**, exchange ideas, and build supportive friendships. From time to time, outside agencies will also join the group, most recently this has included the **School Nursing Team**, who were available to offer advice on health and wellbeing.

Our **Family Liaison Officer, Jacqui McGibney**, will be on hand to provide guidance and support on a wide range of issues, including:

- Behaviour and routines at home
- Accessing local services and resources
- Attendance and punctuality
- Emotional wellbeing and family challenges

Whether you have questions, need advice, or simply want to meet other parents, the Coffee Hub is here for you. No booking required—just pop in and join us after drop off on Wednesday mornings.

School Uniform

Following on from concerns raised by parents regarding delays with the supply of uniform from our supplier at the start of the year, I met with the owner to talk through the issues and to seek clarity as to the way forward. The company have outlined some developments they will be making as we move into 2026. This includes increasing stock levels within the shop, developing a new website solely for school uniform and increasing visits to school to discuss uniform needs.

I will be monitoring these developments to see whether this does lead to an improvement in efficiency and service and would be grateful for feedback from parents, positive or negative regarding how things are going.

Other News and Reminders...

- We always love hearing about our children's achievements outside of school—whether that's a sporting accomplishment, an achievement at brownies or scouts or a musical award for example. So if your child has been awarded a trophy, has gained a certificate or has tried something for the first time, we'd love them to bring in a photo which they can proudly display on their proud peg in their classroom for everyone to see.
- We look forward to welcoming Lower and Middle School parents to our Christmas performances next week and Upper School parents to the carol service at St Mary's Church in Great Chart on Thursday 18th. We have lots of Christmas celebrations taking place over the next few weeks so don't forget the Christmas booklet which was emailed out and contains all the dates and information that you need to know. Please remember that this term finishes on Friday 19th December.

Caught on camera this month...



Sports Report

Let's get Cycling!

Our Year 4 and Year 6 pupils successfully completed their **Bikeability cycling training** this month, developing essential skills for safe and confident cycling.

Year 4 focused on mastering the basics in the safety of the school playground. They learned how to start and stop with control, and practiced balance and steering. These skills are the foundation for becoming responsible cyclists.

Year 6 took their training to the next level by heading out onto local roads. Under the guidance of qualified instructors, they learned how to signal, navigate junctions, and ride safely in real traffic conditions. This experience is invaluable in preparing them for independent cycling and promoting road safety.

We are incredibly proud of all our children for their enthusiasm and determination. A big thank you to the **Cycle Circle** team for delivering such valuable training. Cycling is not only a great way to stay active but also an important life skill—and now our children are ready to ride with increased confidence.