



# Welcome to Year 1

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 1, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

## Year 1 Staff

Foxes Class Teacher: Miss B Johns

Otters Class Teacher: Miss J Causebrook

Year 1 Teaching Assistants: Mrs P Coles, Miss C Moore, Miss H Stanton

Foxes PPA Cover: Mrs A McGoldrick (HLTA)

Otters PPA Cover: Miss L King (HLTA)

## Year 1 Expectations

We aim to make the transition from Reception to Year One as smooth as possible. The children will be expected to come into the Year One classrooms independently in September. They will also be expected to be responsible for their own belongings making sure that they organise themselves at the beginning and end of the school day.

## Year 1 Curriculum

This year we see the launch of some new Curriculum topics across all year groups in the school. We have made some changes to our curriculum to able us to provide greater cross curricular links and teach topics which we hope will ignite the children's enthusiasm. The children may come home talking about their 'Learning Adventure' books as this is where the majority of their work will now be recorded. The majority of English lessons will be linked to the topic of the term. Each term will be having a STAR week – 'Showing Tolerance and Respect' which is based on our school values. Whilst we embed these values into everyday school life, we also want to highlight different aspects during a focus week. During this week, the children will complete their RE and PSHE work for the term and English work will relate directly to the term's STAR theme. The theme for Term 1 and 2 is 'Personal Achievement'

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the 'Curriculum' section and then select the relevant area. In this section you will find details about our topics and

the areas that the children will be studying. This section of the website will be updated at the start of each new topic.

### **Maths**

We will continue with the Maths Mastery approach this year. The children will continue to be taught maths in class groups. With the mastery approach, there is a greater emphasis on broadening pupil understanding and experiences of mathematics to provide them with deeper understanding of concepts as opposed to moving on to the next stage of a concept too quickly. Maths mastery also allows children to make greater connections to other areas of mathematics. We will continue work on maths fluency, written calculations methods and the recall of multiplication & division facts. Details of the year group curriculum for maths can be found on the school website.

### **English**

We will continue to teach English lesson as a whole class as we believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography which are currently taught in whole class groups. With our new curriculum this year, our English lessons will be firmly embedded into our topic work and recorded in our 'Learning Adventure Books. Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class. The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best writing skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

### **Reading**

Reading in the classroom will take place daily through a variety of reading activities. These may take the form of class, group or individual work. We would ask parents to hear their child read regularly (ideally at least 5 times a week). Short regular bursts of reading and discussion are hugely beneficial. Parents should then write a comment or initial in their reading record book, when they have listened to their child read. We expect the children to have both reading books and reading record books in school every day. In Year 1 we will be sending home 2-3 reading books on a Friday which will be kept for the week and returned to school on a Thursday to be swapped. This allows children the time to read, discuss and respond to the text. Re-reading the text will also allow children to improve their pace, fluency and expression. However, in addition to these school books any further reading at home is always beneficial.

Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. It is our observation that children who read regularly

at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling.

### **Homework**

Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts.

Younger children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words, blending sounds together to develop fluency. Discussing the content of the story with the children is also important. As children become fluent readers, it is still important to read regularly and discuss events in the story, the vocabulary used in the story and consider why an author has used a particular word and the effect it has on the reader. Children also need to develop their inference and deduction skills; considering the mood of a character or his/her personality based on the evidence or clues within a text.

Term 1 homework will consist of regular reading and practising of number bonds/facts and spellings. From term 2, children will be set one piece of homework per week which may be Maths, English, Phonics or topic based in addition to regular reading and the development of number facts as appropriate to age and ability.

After the successful introduction of MyMaths last year, we will continue to use the MyMaths platform to set maths homework. Children in Yr 1 will be set up with usernames and passwords in due course.

For further information about the school's homework policy, please see the 'How can I help my child' section on the school website.

### **Spellings**

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 1 all children will be focusing on phonics work, this will be a suitable phase from the Letters and Sounds scheme matched to the children's ability. As the year progresses some children may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies whilst others might continue to develop their phonetic knowledge. Phonics will be taught daily as a whole class session for 20 minutes. Please check the website in able to support your child further with the phase they are working on.

In Year 1 we assess high frequency spellings. A list will be sent home for your information and can be practiced to further support your child's learning. As the year progresses we will introduce phonic specific spellings relevant to the sounds we are learning in class.

## Times tables

Although we do not explicitly teach times tables in year 1 it is always beneficial to count in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's with your child to further support their number skills.

## Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide all learning equipment for all children in the classroom there is no need to supply any additional items.

We would also like parents to provide a waterproof coat and would ask that parents also put some spare clothes such as pants/knickers and socks in their child's PE bag (in case of accidents).

In an effort to ease congestion and maximize our cloakroom space we strongly recommend that children only bring their belongings in their school book bag, including reading books/reading record book, a water bottle, snack pot. Packed lunches can be placed onto the trolley and coats on their pegs.

We are sure you are well practiced at this now but **please name everything clearly**; it is amazing what they can lose.

## P.E

Your child's PE kit should be in school every day. It is essential that PE kits consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is useful for outdoor PE in colder weather as we will only miss these sessions if the conditions are extreme. **All items should be fully named.** If your child wears earrings these **must** be taken out for PE. Any child, who cannot remove them, will not be allowed to participate in PE sessions.

Please ensure you check the sizing of your child's PE footwear regularly as they almost always grow out of them during term time.

P.E sessions are timetabled as follows. However, please ensure your child's kit is in everyday as these sessions may vary.

Otters PE- Thursday / Friday

Foxes PE – Monday / Wednesday

**We will send the P.E kits home at the end of each term to be washed.**

### **School Trips**

Due to the exciting changes in our curriculum this year we currently have a variety of possible activities and visitors in mind for our new topics. These will be confirmed once booked with further details.

### **Star Award Assembly and House Points**

This will take place on a Thursday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Also, a child from each class, who has demonstrated one or more of the key values of our school, will be invited to a tea party with Miss Talbot.

We will be encouraging your child to earn as many house points as they can this year. Perhaps they will be one of our gold house point badge winners by the end of the year?

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring fruit as a snack for morning break from Monday to Thursday and can bring in a healthy snack (cheese, yoghurt etc) on Friday. Please remember that **no nut-based** products are allowed in school.

Children are allowed **water** to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml which has their name on. All water bottles must have a sports cap to help reduce spillages. Children are encouraged to access their water bottles throughout the day.

### **Speaking to School Staff**

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. It is required that parents leave their child at the playground gate rather than accompanying them to the classroom door. This is to encourage their independence for Year 1 as well as avoiding congestion on the door in the morning. First thing in the morning is not an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. If you need to speak to the class teacher in the morning, please go via the office or after school when all children have been seen safely to their adults. For more important matters an appointment can be made via the school office.

**We hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.**

**For further information, please see the school website ([www.godinton.kent.sch.uk](http://www.godinton.kent.sch.uk)) where you will also find the latest copy of the Parent Handbook.**

