



Welcome to Year 2

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 2, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 2 Staff

Miss N Moss (class teacher in Butterfly class)

Mrs S Ellis (TA in Butterfly class)

Miss E Walker (class teacher in Ladybird class
and head of middle school)

Miss L Clark (TA in Ladybird class)

Release/PPA cover

Butterflies class will be covered by Miss King (HLTA) once a fortnight.

Ladybirds class will be covered by Mrs McGoldrick (HLTA) once a fortnight.

Year 2 Expectations

Now the children are at the end of Key stage 1 and in a SATs year, the children will be encouraged to become learners that are far more independent. They should enter the classroom on their own and start the first task of the day independently.

We expect them to be responsible for their belongings, making sure that they have the right equipment for their daily tasks. We also expect each child to be responsible for changing their reading books daily or once they have read them.

We are aware that the toilets are a place of fascination and wonder for young children! The children are able to go to the toilet when they need to, but we do ask that they try to remember to go at break time and lunchtime so that learning is not constantly disrupted.

We provide all equipment needed for learning, so discourage the children to bring in their own pencil cases. This will alleviate any unnecessary upset over lost or broken personal items.

We respect the children in our classes and expect them to show respect to all the adults and their peers that they encounter.

All we ask is that the children try their very best.

Year 2 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 we will be having a STAR week, 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

After the successful introduction of Maths Mastery approach in Years 1,3 & 4 last year, this will now be extended to Years 2 and 5. The children will now be taught maths in class groups rather than sets. With this approach, there is a greater emphasis on broadening our pupil's 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.

END OF KEY STAGE 1 ASSESSMENT (SATs)

End of Key Stage One assessment will take place in May and will assess reading, maths, science, spelling and grammar. Children's levels for writing will be based on classwork evidence throughout the year. Throughout the year we will also be using past papers and materials as part of lessons, in order to familiarise the children with the SATs routine. With regards to the testing conditions, we present a calm attitude to the children so that they are able to approach them in a relaxed and confident way. We would be grateful if you could adopt this attitude too as we do not want to put the children under any unnecessary stress.

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 two or three times a week) and write a comment when they have listened to their child in their reading record book. We expect the children to have both reading books and reading record books in school every day. We would like children to change their reading book regularly but this will depend on the size of the book they take home. 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

One piece of homework will be set each week and this will either be maths based or English/topic based. Homework will be set on Friday and should be completed and handed back in the following Wednesday. We do encourage children to complete the homework as independently as possible as this will support their learning in the classroom.

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.

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of maths. With speedy recall, children are able to make greater links between facts eg, If you know $4 \times 6 = 24$, you can quickly calculate $40 \times 6 = 240$ and $40 \times 60 = 2400$. Knowledge of these

facts also enables written calculations to be accurate and there are also many links to be made to fractions, decimals and percentages.

As part of weekly homework this year, we want to place a greater emphasis on the children practising these skills. Therefore, they will become the core element of homework. Children should be reading at home at least several times a week, practising spellings regularly and rehearsing number facts or times tables. There are many different online games and activities to help support these activities.

After the successful introduction of MyMaths last year, we will continue to use the MyMaths platform to set maths homework. All pupil logins will remain the same and reminders of log in details will be sent home shortly.

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 2 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 work is currently taught in ability groups for four 20 minute sessions per week. Please check the website to find out how to support your child further.

A list of commonly used words that the children should be able to spell independently and use in their daily written work are in the front of your child's homework book.

Times tables

Children are expected to learn their times tables at home. Children will be given a specific table / set of multiplication or division facts to practise at home each week. These will be tested in school as part of Mathematics lessons, usually on a Wednesday.

A sheet covering the times tables that the children should know by Year 4 are in the front of your child's homework book. By the end of Year 2, the children are expected to learn at least their 2x, 5x and 10x tables.

Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We will provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. There will not be any requirement for children to bring in their own.

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. PE sessions will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Ladybirds PE lessons take place on a Wednesday (Outdoor) and Thursday (Indoor)

Butterflies PE lessons take place on a Monday (outdoor) and Tuesday (Indoor)

School Trips

We look forward to enriching the children's learning experience this year through some school trips and are hoping to organise visits related to our topics- detailed information on these will be given nearer the time.

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

In Year 2, it is the expectation that children will come into the school building **on their own** 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. We escort the children onto the playground in the afternoon, this is a good time to catch us and many minor problems can be sorted out at this time. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office.

We hope that you find this information helpful and 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) where you will also find the latest copy of the Parent Handbook.