



Welcome to Year 3

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 3, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 3 Staff

Miss L Coveney (class teacher in Bumblebee class)
Miss L Jones (class teacher in Dragonfly class)
Mrs. C Brooker (Year 3 teaching assistant)
Mrs C Mechie (Year 3 teaching assistant)
Mrs A McGoldrick (HLTA covering PPA for Miss Coveney)
Mrs L King (HLTA covering PPA for Miss Jones)

Year 3 Expectations

Having now entered Key Stage 2 the children will be treated as 'juniors' and as such will be expected to become far more independent learners. We expect them to be responsible for their belongings, making sure that they have the right equipment for their daily tasks. 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 3 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

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 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.

Writing

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 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. A comment about each child's reading will be written in the contact book by school staff following their reading sessions. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school. 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.

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 as they get older times tables. There are many different online games and activities to help support these activities.

Children will be set one piece of homework per week which may be Maths, English or topic based in addition to regular reading and the development of number facts as appropriate to age and ability The homework will be usually set on a **Friday** to be handed in by the following **Wednesday**.

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 3 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 other spelling rules and strategies whilst others might continue to develop their phonetic knowledge. Spellings may be sent home as part of the weekly homework and the children will be tested on these in school. Further information about spelling and phonics is available on the school website.

Times Tables

Children are expected to practice their times tables at home. Children will be given a specific table / set of tables to practice at home each week. These will be tested in school as part of mathematics lessons and a reward chart will be kept in class to record which set the children are working on.

Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. Children may bring their own pencil cases to use in some afternoon sessions, however these must be small enough to fit in their trays, and they must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it.

P.E

Bumblebee class will have PE on Tuesday (Outdoor) and Thursday (Indoor) Dragonfly class will have PE on Tuesday (Indoor) and Wednesday (Outdoor). 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, plimsolls 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. Year 3 children will also have the opportunity to take a course of swimming lessons in place of indoor PE in terms 1 and 2. Details to follow.

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. During July we will be visiting Godinton House as part of a DT and Art project, which will be free.

Celebration Assembly

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 each week.

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. 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.

Speaking to School Staff

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is a busy time for staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. We escort the children onto the playground in the afternoon, unless we are running an after school club, 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 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) where you will also find the latest copy of the Parent Handbook.