



Welcome to Year 4

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 4, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 4 Staff

Year 4 Kingfishers will be taught by Mrs Kelleher and Miss King as PPA cover.

Year 4 Nightingales will be taught by Miss Brooker and Mrs McGoldrick PPA cover.

Our year group TA is Mrs McPhee.

Year 4 Expectations

In year 4 children are expected to come in ready to learn. They need to take care of their belongings and make sure they are ready for each lesson to begin. We expect them to be polite to members of staff and their peers and always try their best.

Year 4 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.

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

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.

Regular reading sessions will take place during the school week. This will be in the form of some whole class reading sessions with activities then differentiated to match the children's ability. Throughout the year, children will also be heard read as part of a small group or on a 1-1 basis. Teachers will continue to keep internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems in relation to the reading activities with the children. Attainment and effort in reading will continue to be shared with parents in reports.

This year, we will not be issuing Upper school children with a reading record. However, we still strongly encourage the children to read to an adult at home. Older children can still benefit hugely from reading and sharing a book with an adult. Having read a chapter of a book together, discussions relating to events, the behaviour or thoughts and feelings of a character can be shared. It is also useful to discuss the meaning of new vocabulary discovered and why the author has chosen to use it.

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 e.g., 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.

Year 4 children will be set Maths (online) homework and English homework on alternate weeks during terms 1 to 4. This will then increase to Maths homework every week and English every other week for terms 5 and 6. Homework will be set on a Thursday and due back the following Tuesday.

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 is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 4 all children will have spelling lessons 5 times a fortnight and be sent home with a list of spellings to learn for a weekly test. Spelling tests will not be on the same day each week as children should always be prepared. A sheet of the school spelling scheme will be sent home with your children.

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.

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, however these need be small enough to fit in their trays as they are only allowed on the tables on occasions, they must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it.

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.

Kingfisher's indoor PE lesson is on a Wednesday and their outdoor lesson is on a Friday.
Nightingale's indoor PE lesson is on a Monday and their outdoor lesson is on a Thursday.

School Trips

We will aim to have two trips within the school year and will sent out costing and dates as soon as possible.

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 each week.

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. 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 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.