



Welcome to Year 6

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 6, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 6 Staff

Mrs Lisa Crowfoot (Eagle Class teacher & Head of Upper School)

Mrs Saskia Pemberton (Falcon Class teacher Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)

Mrs Lisa Collins (Falcon Class teacher Thursday & Friday)

Mrs Angie Ades (Year 6 TA)

Mrs Nikki Town (Year 6 TA)

Miss Lisa King (Eagle PPA HLTA)

Mrs Anne McGoldrick (Falcon PPA HLTA)

Year 6 Expectations

The children are always encouraged to take pride in their work and their work ethic. We expect the children to give their best effort in class and to take care with the content and presentation of their work. We want them to be proud of themselves. The pace of work will be challenging. We have a lot to do! Work, as always, will be matched to your child's ability; extra challenge and support will be given where needed.

A big part of Year 6 is preparing children for the transition to Secondary School. The children need to ensure that they have the necessary equipment for each day and try their very best to complete homework on the correct day.

However, when things don't go so well, appropriate sanctions will be given.

In Year 6, the children will have the opportunity to take on responsibilities. Throughout the year, the children may be elected or selected to take on different roles throughout the school. These may include:

- Being a **Prefect** (being an exemplary role model to the younger children).
- **House & Vice Captains** – Two boys and 2 girls from each house will be elected during the first STAR Week to be the House & Vice Captains for the year.
- **Playground Buddies** – Supporting the younger children in the playground.
- **Eco Reps** – Responsible for raising the profile of environmental issues around the school.
- **Digital Leaders** – Responsible for supporting e-safety within the school community and inspiring computing excellence in the school curriculum

- **Reception child buddy** – All Year 6's will have a buddy from Reception class to help them to settle into school life. The children all gain valuable skills from this partnership.

Year 6 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

As in Year 5, Maths will be taught in ability groups. However this year, we will be splitting into 3 groups with Miss Collins/Mrs Stein teaching one of these groups. Maths will always be taught in the morning and details of the coverage for each set 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

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 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 in yrs 5 & 6 will be set weekly maths homework in addition to reading, practising spellings and multiplication / division facts which are sent home. Children will continue to have weekly tests and progress will be monitored. On alternate weeks, children will be set one piece of English based homework which may also link to the topic being studied. For children in year 4, the homework will begin the year with one piece of either Maths or English homework per week which is in addition to reading, practising spellings and multiplication and division facts which are sent home. From the start of term 5, homework will increase to match the rest of Upper School.

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 6, following an initial class assessment, the children will either focus on revision of phonics work from the Letters and Sounds scheme in Terms 1 & 2 or they may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies using the new curriculum. Spelling work is currently taught discretely for one hour each week, as well as embedded into the new curriculum. In addition to our spelling sessions, we will be using a spelling program based on the Statutory Word lists from the National Curriculum. Your child will be sent home a word list to practise and learn on a weekly basis.

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 Thursday.

Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom; this includes pencils, pens, rulers and scissors. **However we encourage children to use their own pencil case of essential equipment: writing pencil, pen (blue ink and not biro), coloured pencils, ruler and rubber. These should be named and need to be small enough to fit into their trays.** We feel that this is excellent practice prior to your child starting Secondary School, where they will be expected to have and be responsible for their own equipment for each and every lesson of the school day.

P.E

The children in Eagles will have timetabled PE on a Monday (Inside) and Wednesday (Outside) and the Falcons children will have PE on a Wednesday (Inside) and Thursday (Outside.) Your child's PE kit should be in school every day; PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday morning and taken home on a Friday. 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.

School Trips

Visit to Canterbury – December (approximate cost £20).

Activity Week – w/b 10th June 2018 (approximate cost £40). More details of activities to follow later in the academic year.

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 star 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.