



Survival Guide for Year 1

Meet the Team...



Mrs Jones



Miss Causebrook

Don't forget that our Parent Handbook can be found on the school website.



Mrs Coles



Miss Evelyn



Mrs McPhee

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Otters class when Miss Causebrook has PPA and Miss King will cover Foxes class for Mrs Jones.

We are always here to help so please contact us if there is anything that you need to ask or are unsure about. It is difficult to catch us at the start of the day as we are busy settling the children into class but after school is much easier. At the end of each day, we ensure that each child is seen direct to the adult collecting them. If you need to speak to us after school, please do so once all children have been collected. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office.

Welcome to Year 1!

It is a very exciting time as your child moves out of the Early Years and into Key Stage 1! To help build their independence as they enter Year 1, we ask that you say goodbye at the gate and allow children to walk into the class themselves. They will take responsibility for putting their bags away and handing in any letters/homework/reading books.

We come into class each day with a smile on our face and ready to learn. Children are encouraged to try their best in their learning and to show respect and tolerance for one and other.

We hope that your child has a wonderful year with us and we very much look forward to working with you.

Our Exciting Year 1 Curriculum...

What would happen if we had no bones?

Do fish have fingers?

Have you ever wondered what life would be like out on the ocean waves?

What land would you find at the top of your beanstalk?

These questions and many more will be answered as your child makes their way through this year's Learning Adventures!

Our school curriculum is taught through our 'Learning Adventure' approach which creates cross curricular links over the course of 2 terms, making learning more meaningful for the children. Each topic will have a 'Sensational Start' and an 'Explosive Ending' to enthuse and excite the children and to celebrate their achievements.

STAR week – 'Showing Tolerance and Respect' – is built into every term and centres around our school values. Whilst we embed these values into everyday school life, we also want to highlight different aspects which is done during this 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.

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 Learning Adventure.

Maths...

Maths lessons will be taught in class groups, using the Mastery approach that the school has adopted over the past two years. Maths mastery places greater emphasis on broadening the children's understanding and experiences of mathematics and provides them with a deeper knowledge of concepts which improves their ability to make mathematical links and connections and develops their reasoning and problem solving skills. We will work on maths fluency, written calculations methods and the recall of multiplication and division facts. Details of the year group curriculum for maths can be found on the school website.

English...

English lessons are taught as a whole class. We believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography and are therefore mostly recorded in our Learning Adventure books. Work will be differentiated as appropriate for the varying ability groups within the class, with challenge and support provided for all. The children should aim to produce their best writing at all times, regardless of what particular area of the curriculum they are working on.

Our New Homework Trail...

This year brings about some exciting changes to our approach to homework across the school. At the start of each term, the year group will be set a 'Homework Trail' which will last for the duration of each term. This trail includes weekly 'Base Camp' tasks, a menu of 'Trail' tasks which are all linked to the Learning Adventure topic, and an 'Extra Mile' Challenge. All Homework Trails will also be available to view on the school website so don't worry if you forget what to do. The choice of homework tasks all relate to work being taught in class and provide further practice and reinforcement of our Learning Adventure themes. Children are strongly encouraged to complete the tasks set but homework is not compulsory.

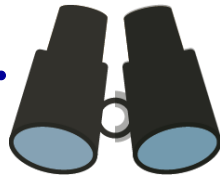
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' tasks are a set of 9 tasks that the children can choose from, ensuring that the centre task has been completed—they cover a broad range of subjects and interests. The minimum expectation is that 3 tasks will be completed over a term in the children's homework books. Our new homework system will replace 'creative homework' that has operated in the school in previous years.

'Extra Mile' task – Children who 'go the extra mile' and complete 6 squares will receive an 'Extra Mile Sticker'. Any children who complete 3 'Extra Mile challenges' during the academic year, will take part in an end of term treat.

At the end of each term, each class will hold a 'Trail End Showcase' where children can share their homework and celebrate their hard work. Children only need to bring their homework books back into school on Trail End day.



Base Camp Tasks...



Mathletics—New for 2019 ...

Maths homework will continue to be set as an online activity each week, however as of Term 1 'MATHLETICS' will replace 'My Maths'. Within the first few weeks of term, all children will be given new log in details for their Mathletics accounts and will provide parents with details on how to access pupil accounts. Within their Mathletics website there is also an interactive section to help children with the recall of multiplication facts. The children can play in this section as much as they like. We hope that the children will enjoy this new website and find the tasks set and educational games to be more motivational and enjoyable to use.

Keep Practising Those Number Bonds/ Counting, Reading and Writing Numbers ...

Children should practice number bonds every week and ensure that they have good number recognition of numbers up to 100. Give your children practical experience of recognising numbers when you are out and about.

Counting forwards and backwards in 1's to 100 will build a solid understanding of number and reinforce our learning in class.

You could also practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well to support their journey towards multiplication facts in year 2.

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 work is currently taught in whole class groups for five 20 minute sessions per week. Additional support is given in small group interventions during the afternoons.

Each Friday you will receive a sheet in your child's reading folder to share the sounds and new words that they have been learning. Support in learning these new words would be greatly beneficial. High frequency words will be shared at the start of the academic year and can be worked on progressively throughout the year.

Read, Read, Read ...

We want all our children to read as often as possible and to develop a life-long love of reading. Children who regularly read a wide range of texts at home, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling at school. So everything you do at home really can make a difference. Younger children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words and 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.

In school the children will take part in guided reading sessions each week, where they will work in a small group with the teacher or teaching assistant.

Content is important but so is presentation...

We expect all the children to take care with the presentation of their work and with their handwriting, both in their school books and in their homework books.

Handwriting will be practised daily in class. Extra practise at home is always encouraged to ensure all children can form lower and upper case letter correctly. A document will be shared at the start of the year show how each letter is formed.

Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. We discourage the children to bring in their own pencil cases. This will alleviate any unnecessary upset over lost or broken personal items. We also discourage the children to bring in any toys for the same reason. Please therefore leave these at home.

We would ask that all the children continue to bring their book bags into school.

Please ensure that any items of property brought into school are named. Thank you.

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games...

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. When the children are using gymnastic apparatus, they must be barefoot. Ideally, trainers should be worn for outdoor PE and 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. Children with long hair must be able to tie their hair back for P.E sessions – it is useful to leave a couple of hair bands in your child's PE bag.

Otters PE days: Thursday and Friday

Foxes PE days: Monday and Wednesday

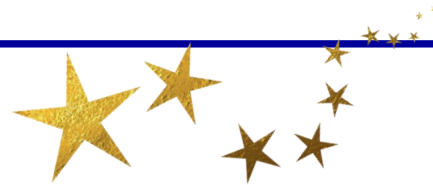
Out and About...

We hope to have many fun adventures outside of the classroom throughout the year and we endeavor to keep these costs to a minimum or free where possible!

Some of our excursions (or visitors) may include:

- A comic illustrator visit (approx. £3pp)
- A trip to the farm/zoo (approx £15pp)
- A trip to Godinton House (Free)
- A trip to a local church (Free)
- Map reading around the local area.

STAR Award and House Points...



Celebration Assembly is on a Thursday and is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded with special certificates. A child from each class, who has demonstrated one or more of the key values of our school, is selected to receive the STAR Award and 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. Work completed at home and regular reading can also contribute to these! 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 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.