



Survival Guide for Year 2

Meet the Team...



Mrs Walker



Miss Moss

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



Miss Walker



Mrs Brooker



Mrs Pluckrose



Mrs McPhee

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Ladybirds class when Mrs Walker has PPA and Miss King will

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. We escort the children onto the playground in the afternoon unless we are running an after school club so that is often a good time to speak to us. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office. office@godinton.kent.sch.uk or 01233

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Welcome to Year 2!

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 and for changing their reading books daily or once they have read them.

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 respect the children in our classes and expect them to show respect to all the adults and their peers that they encounter. Politeness costs nothing!

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

Our Exciting Year 2 Curriculum...

Have you ever wondered what a Masai home is made of?

Are children's lives the same around the world?

Do you know what London smelt like in 1666?

Does the past hold any secrets, disasters or miraculous events?

Do all animals and plants need the same things to survive?

How could you make a garden from recycled materials?

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 ...

We will continue to set maths homework as online activities fortnightly, with an expectation for the children to log in weekly to complete other quizzes and activities of their own choice on the platform. '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 Times Tables and Number Bonds ...

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of mathematics. With speedy recall, children are able to make greater links between facts e.g., If you know $6+4 = 10$ then $60+40 = 100$. Knowledge of these facts also enables children to make links to fractions, decimals and percentages.

Children should practice number bonds to 10, 20 then 100 every week and ensure that they have good number recognition up to at least 100.

Practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well. Give your children practical experience of recognising numbers when you are out and about. A sheet covering times tables 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.

Spellings

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 2 all children will initially 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 and spelling work is currently taught for five 20 minute sessions per week. Children will be expected to use correct spellings at all times from the key word lists for Year R and 1. 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.

We will be learning words from the Year 2 spelling list throughout the year and there is an expectation that these will be spelt correctly or amended independently using word mats and dictionaries. To track your child's progress we may test informally and send focus word lists home to practise.

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.

Children will be writing using pencil, but will use purple pen to edit longer pieces of written work. The children will also be using blue or black ink pens to rewrite these key pieces in their best handwriting after the editing work is finished. We will expect the children to begin to use the simple joins used for cursive handwriting if they are not joining their handwriting already.

Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom and 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 also discourage the children to bring in any toys for the same reason. Please therefore leave these at home.

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.

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.

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

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

Out and About...

Over the course of the year we will be having visiting workshops as part of our topics, at no extra costs.

We will be visiting a museum during Term 1 and 2, the approximate cost will be £20 per child.

During Terms 5 and 6 we will hopefully be visiting an environmental centre for the day, an approximate cost will again be £15 per child.

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. We will be using past papers and materials as part of some 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.

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. Perhaps they will be one of our gold house point badge winners by the end of the year?

Birthdays for the coming week will also be celebrated during this assembly.

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.