



Survival Guide for Year 4

Meet the Team...



Mrs Kelleher



Mrs Norman



Mrs Mechie



Mrs Spriggs

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

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Nightingales class when Mrs Norman has PPA and Miss King will cover Kingfishers class.

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

Welcome to Year 4!

In year 4 we hope that all children will be happy and always try their hardest in all subjects.

We expect them to be friendly and polite to each other and the adults in the year group.

Children will be expected to come into school sensibly and with an attitude ready to learn and fully take their part in activities that we have planned for them.

Children are responsible for having their PE kits in school on the correct days.

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

Our Exciting Year 4 Curriculum...

*Have you ever wondered what sort of things Harry Potter would have learnt at Hogwarts?
Do you know which materials are magnetic, how would Harry find this out?
Would you like to learn more about the magic of forces?
Can you make your pencil work like magic to create a portrait?
Are you able to master your wizardry skills to produce a spectacular print?*

Then join us at Hogwarts Godinton and 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 Times Tables / Number Bonds ...

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of mathematics. Children are expected to learn their times tables at home for their weekly test each Wednesday at the beginning of a maths lesson. Children will be given a specific set of multiplication facts to practice at home each week.

As of this year, the Government are introducing a statutory Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4, taking place in June 2020. The expectation is that children can quickly recall all multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. Further details of the Multiplication Tables Check will be sent to Year 4 parents nearer the time. Regular practice of times table facts will help your child feel confident in recalling facts at speed.

Spellings

In year 4 we have three spelling sessions per week. Your child will bring home a set of spellings to learn each week for a test on Friday. New spelling will be issued once your child has obtained full marks in their weekly test. Please make sure that your child brings in their spelling card every Friday for us to update.

We expect the children to be learning and applying their new words into their everyday writing. Discussion around the meaning of the new words and how they can be used in the correct context is extremely beneficial.

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.

Regular reading sessions will take place during the school week. This will be in the form of whole class reading sessions with activities or questions differentiated to match the children's ability. Throughout the year, children will also be heard read as part of a small group, on a 1-1 basis. Teachers 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.

Upper School children do not have 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.

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.

As in Year 3 children work toward their pen licence and these are awarded at the teacher's discretion. We expect children to use a joined up cursive script in all subjects.

Biros are not permitted.

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 be kept in their trays, and they must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it.

We would discourage the children to bring in any toys as this will alleviate any unnecessary upset over lost or broken personal items. Please therefore leave these at home.

Children should bring their own drinks bottle to school, however this must only contain **WATER** and again is the responsibility of the child to ensure it is kept safe and taken home daily.

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 bags.

PE lessons:

Kingfisher's: **Monday** (out) and **Wednesday** (in)

Nightingale's: **Monday** (in) and **Thursday** (out)

Out and About...

We have two exciting trips planned for year 4 this year.

In term 3/4 the children visit the Village of Chilham a part of our geographical studies.

In term 5/6 we take a trip back in time to visit Tenterden railway as an evacuee.

The two trips together will cost approximately £30.

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?

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.