



Survival Guide for Year 6

Meet the Team...



Mrs Crowfoot



Mrs Pemberton



Mrs Town

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

Mrs Clark



Mrs McGoldrick will cover Falcons class when Mrs Pemberton or Mrs Clark have PPA and Miss King will cover Eagles 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 are usually available in our classrooms in the after school (unless we are running an after school club), 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 6!

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.

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 two 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.

Year 1 child buddy – All Year 6's will have a buddy from a Year 1 class to help them to settle into their new classes. The children all gain valuable skills from this partnership.

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

Our Exciting Year 6 Curriculum...

Do you know what life was like in Medieval times?

Have you ever wondered what the inside of your body looks like?

Where did the theory of evolution come from?

Do you know how humans evolved over time?

How is your life different to that of children living in the Caribbean?

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...

As at the end of Year 5, Maths will be taught in 3 groups with Mrs Partridge/Mrs Stein teaching a specific focus group. For the remaining children, 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.

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.

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 ...

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 $4 \times 6 = 24$, you can quickly calculate $40 \times 6 = 240$ and $40 \times 60 = 2400$ or if $6+4 = 10$ then $60+40 = 100$. Knowledge of these facts also enables children to make links to fractions, decimals and percentages.

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.

Spellings

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In Year 6, following an initial class assessment, the children will be learning the spelling rules and strategies for year 6, using the new curriculum. A small number of children may work in a focus group to embed their phonics knowledge and earlier spelling rules.

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 continue to use the coloured spelling test 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, as part of their homework trail.

Spellings will be tested once a week, usually on a Tuesday or Friday.

Read, Read, Read ...

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.

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. 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 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.

In Year 6, all children will write in pen (blue ink, no biros) right from the start, whether they have achieved their pen licence or not. They will all be expected to use joined up handwriting, as this is a National Curriculum requirement for the end of Key Stage 2.

Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom.

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.

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games...

Falcons Class have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays, whilst Eagles Class have it on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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.

Out and About...

We will have a number of visitors in school this year– More details to follow later in the academic year.

In addition to this we are planning a visit to Canterbury in November / December (approximate cost £20).

Many of you will be aware that it is traditional for us to offer both a residential week and an activity week to the year 6 pupils. This year we are making some changes to what the children may opt to participate in. There will be a meeting on 14th October to provide parents and children with information regarding both residential and activity week options.

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.