



# Survival Guide for Year 1

## Meet the Team...



Mrs Jones



Miss Imbush



Mrs Clark



Miss Pile



Mrs McPhee

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

With Covid Restrictions in place, it means that we can't catch you in person at the end of the school day in the same way that we would have done previously. We will contact you by telephone if anything arises during the school day that you need to be made aware of. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school office on 01233 621616 or use the year group email address [year1parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year1parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

We are always here to help.

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Foxes class when Mrs Jones has PPA and our supply teacher will cover Otters class for Miss Imbush.

## 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, 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 kindness for each other.

We hope that your child has a wonderful year with us and we very much look forward to working with them and 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. This year will have an increased focus on maths and English in order to bolster these skills due to the amount of time the children have been away from school. Some elements of the curriculum may be slimmed down in order to accommodate this. We will however ensure that the children have a broad and balanced curriculum.

## 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 Homework Trail...

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

Maths homework will continue to be set as an online activity each week through Mathletics. We will remind the children of their login details before setting any homework.

In addition to the homework set, it may be beneficial for your child to explore the interactive games that Mathletics offer, including practising their times tables. Please contact your child's class teacher if there are any issues with accessing Mathletics at home.

Mathletics homework will be set on a **Friday** and be **due in the following Friday**.

### 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.

You will receive a sheet in your child's reading folder to share the high frequency words that your child will be 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. Children will be able to bring reading books to and from school, in line with current guidance and over the next few weeks we will be advising you as to how we will do this in a Covid secure way.

Reading 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.

## 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 showing how each letter is formed.

## Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources and may share these within their year group bubbles. Whilst restrictions are still in place, we would like the children to bring as few items to school as possible. They may bring a coat, hat, lunch box, their water bottle and a snack (fruit or vegetables) for morning break. The children can also bring either a book bag or a small draw string bag (like a school PE bag) to put their reading book in. Large rucksacks will not be allowed. We will be providing individual stationary packs for all children in the classroom. Children in Years 3 to 6 will need to bring in a small pack of colouring pencils which they will need to keep in school (no more than 12 pencils). They will not be able to bring a pencil case in or any other stationary items.

# Other useful things to know...

## P.E and Games...

The children may not have as many PE slots as they would normally due to restrictions, space and timetabling. On the days when children have their PE slots, the children should come to school dressed in their PE kits. They will stay in these clothes for the duration of the day and PE bags will not be allowed in school. Children should wear their PE t-shirt and school jumper. They can wear plain tracksuit bottoms and may want to wear shorts underneath.

**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.

**Year 1 PE days: Wednesday and Thursday**

## Out and About...

With Covid restrictions in place, we will be more limited this year in the off site opportunities that we are able to offer the children. We will keep this under review and respond accordingly to Government guidance. We hope that later in the year we will be able to offer some educational visits to the children.

## Assemblies...

We will be holding some year group assemblies in the hall each week, other assemblies will be conducted via video link between the classes and some assemblies will be held in classrooms and led by the class teachers.

## STAR Award and House Points...

Celebration Assembly is on a Thursday and will be held remotely via video. It will remain 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 special Covid-safe 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.

Due to restrictions on the timetabling and cleaning of the hall, Year X will eat their lunch in the hall / classroom. In Term 1 we will only be able to offer packed lunches from the school kitchen. If your child brings in a packed lunch from home, we 'd be grateful if it could include items that don't generate mess.