



# Survival Guide for Year 4

## Meet the Team...

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



Mrs  
Town



Mrs  
Ellis

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

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 [year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

We are always here to help.

## Welcome to Year 4!

In year 4 we will promote a happy and calm environment to allow the children to grow and flourish with confidence. We expect them to be friendly, courteous and respectful to each other, staff and visitors.

Children will be expected to show a sensible and mature attitude to school life and their learning, participating in activities offered to them with a good level of effort at all times. We will encourage the children to use our 'Guiding Stars' to develop positive learning behaviors which will support their independent learning.

Children are responsible for wearing their PE kits to school on the correct days and collecting their own belongings, such as, jumpers, lunchboxes and water bottles at the end of each day.

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...

How does Wonka create his delicious delicacies and fruity flavours?

Ever wondered where a piece of chocolate goes after it has been chewed and swallowed?

What forces are needed for the Sling Shot spider to catch its prey?

Why did the first wave of city children move to the countryside in 1939?

Has the London Underground only been used for train travel?

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 three 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 Trails...

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 practicing their times tables. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any issues with accessing Mathletics from home.

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

### Keep Practising Those Times Tables / 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  $4 \times 6 = 24$ , 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 will be given a specific table / set of multiplication or division facts to practice at home. These will be tested in school as part of Mathematics lessons, usually on a Wednesday.

As of this year, the Government are introducing a statutory Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4, taking place in June 2021. The expectation is that children can quickly recall all multiplication facts up to  $12 \times 12$ . 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 discrete spelling lessons will be taught for an hour and a half per week in three half hour slots.

Spelling rules taught each week will also be embedded through separate Grammar, Punctuation and spelling lessons (GPS), and through their extended writing in Learning Adventure.

In addition to our spelling session, we will continue to use a coloured spelling test program (based on the Statutory Word lists from the National Curriculum). Your child will be sent home a word list to practice and learn, as part of their homework trail and will be tested each week.

Children will move through the coloured lists only when they have shown they can spell the words accurately in writing lessons.

## 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 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 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.

By the end of Key Stage 2 children are expected to write in full cursive (joined up handwriting). For Year 4 this means children should be working towards using cursive consistently in writing across all areas of the curriculum. Children that can show consistent and accurate presentation will receive a pen licence (blue ink, no biro).

## 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 stationery 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 stationery items.

The children will not be able to bring toys, including footballs to school. Neither will they need to bring hand sanitiser or hand cream.

# 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. Our PE days will be every Monday and every other Wednesday.

This year we will also be launching our 'Fitness in Fifteen' initiative to help promote physical well-being. At different points in the week, classes will walk at a brisk pace around the field, aiming to further the distance reached within 15 minutes.

## 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, Lunches 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 4 will eat their lunch in the 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.