



Survival Guide for Year 6

Meet the Team...



Mrs
Gandon



Mrs
Smith

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

Mrs Crowfoot



Mrs Pemberton



Mrs Clark



Mrs Smith will cover Falcons class when Mrs Pemberton or Mrs Clark have PPA and Mrs McGoldrick will cover Eagles class.

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 year6parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk

We are always here to help.

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 various responsibilities such as **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.

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 Mesoamerica?

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 centers 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 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 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.

This is of particular importance in Year 6 as the End of Key Stage 2 assessments next summer will draw on all different forms of written work, regardless of subject area.

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.

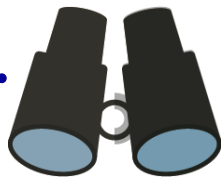
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' 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 on the Mathletics website. All children will be given a reminder of their log-in details.

Tasks will be set on a Friday afternoon and will be live for a week, closing on a Thursday evening. The homework set will be following the mathematical skills that Year 6 will be learning in class; tasks could be pre-learning a specific topic or revising an area covered in school.

Within the 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.

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 and in Year 6 we expect children to take ownership of this task. They will have a specific 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 Friday.

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 in two half hour sessions, as well as embedded into the 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 Thursday.

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.

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.

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 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 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.

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.

Falcons Class will have outside PE every Thursday and Eagles Class every Friday. Both classes have inside PE on alternate Mondays; children should wear their PE kits to school every Monday even though they may not have PE that day.

This year we will also be launching our 'Fitness in 15' initiative to promote physical wellbeing. At different points in the week, classes will walk at a brisk pace around the field, aiming to increase the distance reached in 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 6 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.