



# Survival Guide for Year R

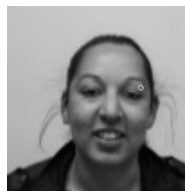
## Meet the Team...



Mrs Pullen



Miss Clark



Miss Evelyn

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



Mrs Day



Miss Marsh



Mrs Christopher

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

We are always here to help.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and teach children the knowledge and skills they need to meet the expectations set out in the Early Learning Goals. Each term we will be having a STAR week – 'Showing Tolerance and Respect' which is based on our school values. Whilst we embed these values into everyday school life, we also want to highlight different aspects during a focus week. During this week, the children will complete their RE and PSHE work. The theme for Term 1 and 2 is 'Personal Achievement'

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 'Information for parents' section and then click on 'Foundation Stage – Starting School'. In this section you will find details about our daily routine and how you can help at home.

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

# Our Exciting Year R Curriculum...

## Big Brave Me!

Do you know what it is like to go on a bear hunt?

Have you seen caterpillars turn into butterflies?

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 each term, 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 RE and PSHE work for the term and topic 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. 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, counting and simple calculations and the recall of simple number 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 mostly recorded in our writing books or 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.

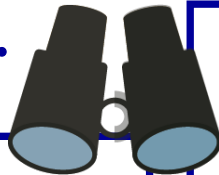
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' 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. This will begin in term 2 for yr R.

'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

Once the children have settled, Maths homework will be set as an online activity each week. Within the first term, all children will be given log in details for their Mathletics accounts and we will provide parents with details on how to access pupil accounts. We hope that the children will enjoy this new website and find the tasks set and educational games to be motivational and enjoyable to use. In reception we will begin this in term 2.

### Keep Practising Numbers and Those Number Facts...

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of mathematics. In reception, recall of 1 more, 1 less, doubles to 10+10 and other simple additions such as number bonds to 10 are taught and practiced in reception. Additional regular practice at home will help the retention of these number facts.

Accurate counting and number recognition to 20 is important and forms part of the early learning goal for number. Give your children practical experience of counting and recognising numbers when you are out and about. For example counting stairs, recognising numbers on doors etc.

## Spellings

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. Phonics is the method of teaching reading and writing by correlating sounds (phonemes) with letters or groups of letters (graphemes). We do not use letter names when teaching phonics, just the pure sounds that can be blended for reading and segmented for spelling. There are 44 sounds in the English language which we put together to form words. Some sounds are represented by one letter like the 't' in tin, whilst other sounds are represented by two or more letters like 'ck' in duck or 'igh' in night (digraphs/trigraphs). Children are taught the sounds, how to match them to letters and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling.

### Letters and Sounds and Jolly Phonics

The schemes used at Godinton to teach phonics are called 'Letters and Sounds', produced by the Department for Education along with another scheme called Jolly Phonics. Jolly phonics provides actions and songs to be taught alongside phonemes. When your child moves to a different phase in the Letters and Sound scheme, a sticker will be placed in their reading record book. Please check the website in able to support your child further with the phase they are working on.

### 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.

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. Children also need to develop their inference and deduction skills; considering the mood of a character or his/her personality based on the evidence or clues within a text.

In school the children will take part in guided reading sessions each week after Christmas, where they will work in a small group with the teacher or teaching assistant.

We would ask parents to hear their child read as often as possible (ideally every day), and write a comment when the book is finished in their reading record book. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school. We expect the children to have both reading books and reading record books in school every day. We will usually change their reading book twice a week but this will depend on the size of the book they take home. During the first term we will be sharing information for parents about how you can support your child with Reading and Phonics at home.

## 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.

In reception, we teach the children how to form lower case letters correctly before learning capital letters with the exception of the capital letter for their name. At Godinton we aim for all children to use cursive handwriting but in reception many children are not ready for this and cursive formation is taught later on when the children are ready.

## 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 their book bag to put their reading book in. Large rucksacks will not be allowed. A clearly labelled spare set of clothes is needed to be kept on their peg. You also need to provide your child with a set of waterproofs consisting of a waterproof coat, trousers and wellington boots.

The children will not be able to bring toys, including footballs to school. Neither will they need to bring hand sanitiser or hand cream. We do allow children to bring in items that they may have made at home, certificates, medals etc to show and tell. Children are encouraged to use and bring in their 'Look what I've been up to' books to share news with the class and adults. These can contain drawings, writing, photographs, tickets, leaflets etc. and your annotations. Children gain lots of confidence and speaking and listening skills from sharing these.

# Other useful things to know...

Physical development is part of the Early Years curriculum and is included in our daily activities. A range of physical development opportunities may include non contact games, balance bikes and cycling skills, gross motor and hand eye co-ordination activities such as throwing, catching and balancing. The trim trail and slide will also be accessible daily, and form part of our child initiated time.

In Term 4, teacher directed PE activities will commence which will focus on ball and athletic skills in readiness for year one and sports day. A PE kit is **not** required until the summer term. You will find out your child's house colour at the end of term 5 or beginning of term 6.

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. Yr R will join in with these after term 1.

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 R 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 you could include items that don't generate mess.



