



Survival Guide for Year 1

Meet the Team...



Mrs Day



Miss Causebrook

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



Mrs Coles



Miss Evelyn



Mrs McPhee

Mrs McGoldrick and Mrs Kelleher will cover across both classes whilst Miss Causebrook and Mrs Day are on PPA.

Although Covid Restrictions have eased and the teaching team will be outside at the end of the day, we can't always catch you in person at the end of the school day. We will continue to 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

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, we ask that you say goodbye outside the mobiles and allow children to walk into the class themselves. They will take responsibility for putting their bags away and handing in any letters/homework/reading books. Children are encouraged to try their best in their learning and to show respect and tolerance for one and other.

We hope that your child has a wonderful year with us and we very much look forward to working with 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 was it like to have a holiday at the seaside many years ago?

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...

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 New 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 start of each term, each class will hold a 'Trail End Showcase' where children can share the homework they have completed over the previous term 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. Starting on Friday 10th September, maths homework will be set on a weekly basis on the Mathletics website. All children will be given a reminder of their log-in details for this.

Two 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 1 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, providing their homework is up-to-date.

Keep Practising Those Number Bonds/ Counting, Reading and Writing Numbers ...

Children should practice their 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 learning to spell using their phonics, 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.

Each Friday you will receive a sheet in your child's reading folder to share the sounds and new words that they have been 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. 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. 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, where they will work in a small group with the teacher or teaching assistant.

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 show how each letter is formed.

Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. We discourage the children to bring in their own pencil cases. This will alleviate any unnecessary upset over lost or broken personal items. We also discourage the children to bring in any toys for the same reason. Please therefore leave these at home.

We would ask that all the children continue to bring their book bags into school.

Please ensure that any items of property brought into school are named. Thank you.

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games...

Year 1 PE days: WEDNESDAY–INDOORS, FRIDAY– OUTDOORS

On the days when children have their PE slots, the children should come to school dressed in their PE kits and will stay in these clothes for the duration of the day. Children should wear their PE t-shirt and school jumper. They can wear plain tracksuit bottoms and may want to wear shorts underneath.

At Godinton we take part in a '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. This will be new to our Year 1 children and is completed in their school uniform.

If your child wears earrings these **must** be taken out PE days. 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 hope to have many fun adventures outside of the classroom throughout the year and we endeavor to keep these costs to a minimum or free where possible!

Some of our excursions may include:

- A trip to Godinton House
- A trip to a local church
- Map reading around the local area
- A trip to a local seaside

STAR Award and House Points...



Celebration Assembly is on a Thursday. 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 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?

Don't forget that the children can bring in something from home to hang on their proud peg so that we can all celebrate their achievements. This may be a copy of a certificate or medal, or a photo of a special accomplishment.

Healthy Snacks and Water...

Children should bring in a piece of fruit or vegetables for a mid morning snack–no other snacks are permitted. 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, with a 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. Water bottles must not contain juice or squash–it's water only.

All classes will be returning to eating their lunch in the school hall.