



# Survival Guide for Year 2

## Meet the Team...



**Mrs Jones**



**Miss Coveney**



**Mrs Pile**



**Mrs Ellis**



**Mrs Gilbert**

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Butterflies class when the teachers have PPA and Mrs Kelleher will cover Ladybirds class.

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

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 [year2parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year2parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk)

## Welcome to Year 2!

Now the children are at the end of Key stage 1 and in a SATs year, the children will be encouraged to become learners that are far more independent. They should enter the classroom on their own and start the first task of the day independently. We expect them to be responsible for their belongings and for reading their books daily and to let us know when they have read them.

The children are able to go to the toilet when they need to, but we do ask that they try to remember to go at break time and lunchtime so that learning is not constantly disrupted.

We respect the children in our classes and expect them to show respect to all the adults and their peers that they encounter.

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

# Our Exciting Year 2 Curriculum...

*Have you ever wondered what aeroplanes were like in the past?*

*Can you name any famous pilots?*

*Do you know what London smelt like in 1666?*

*Does the past hold any secrets, disasters or miraculous events?*

*Do all animals and plants need the same things to survive?*

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/ Relationship Education work for the term and English work will relate directly to the term's STAR theme. Further details will be provided later in the term.

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. We will be continuing to focus heavily on maths and English skills this year however we will be returning to a far more 'normal' 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 few 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.

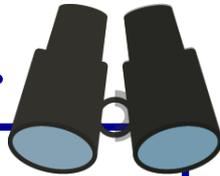
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' 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 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 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, with an expectation for the children to log in weekly to complete other quizzes and activities of their own choice on the platform. Within the first few weeks of term, all children will be reissued their log in details for their Mathletics accounts, this will provide parents with details on how to access pupil accounts.

## Keep Practising Those Times Tables and 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  $6+4=10$  then  $60+40=100$ . Knowledge of these facts also enables children to make links to fractions, decimals and percentages.

Children should practice number bonds to 10, 20 then 100 every week and ensure that they have good number recognition up to at least 100. Practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well. Give your children practical experience of recognising numbers when you are out and about. A sheet covering times tables are in the front of your child's homework book. By the end of Year 2, the children are expected to learn **at least** their 2x, 5x and 10x tables.

## Spellings

Spelling and phonics are an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 2 all children will initially 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 and spelling work is currently taught for five 20 minute sessions per week. Please check the website in order to support your child further with the phase they are working on. Children will be expected to use correct spellings at all times from the key word lists for Year R and 1. A list of commonly used words that the children should be able to spell independently and use in their daily written work can be found in your child's reading record and on the school website. We will be learning words from the Year 2 spelling list throughout the year and there is an expectation that these will be spelt correctly or amended independently using word mats and dictionaries. To track your child's progress we may test informally and send focus word lists home to practise.

**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, and will be expected to change them independently when needed.

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 text and consider why an author has used a particular word and the effect it has on the reader. Children expand their comprehension of texts, answering questions to develop 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 daily whole class guided reading sessions where they will work as a class, in pairs or independently on comprehension skills such as the ones listed above.

## 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.

Children will be writing using pencil, but will use purple pen to edit longer pieces of written work. The children will also be using blue or black ink pens to rewrite these key pieces in their best handwriting after the editing work is finished. We will expect the children to begin to use the simple joins used for cursive handwriting if they are not joining their handwriting already.

## Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. Children may bring their own pencil cases to use, however these need be small enough to fit in their trays, and they must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it.

Soft toys, precious items and swapping cards (such as Pokemon trading cards) from home are not permitted in school as we cannot police or protect them from damage and we would not like to see our children upset if an object was lost or broken.

In Year 2 any and all show and tell items should be related to our learning or a particular achievement from our children. Please ensure any items brought into school for show and tell are of relevant importance.

# Other useful things to know...

## P.E and Games...

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.

**Both Ladybirds and Butterflies PE lessons take place on a Tuesday (Indoor) and Wednesday (Outdoor)**

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.

We will be continuing with 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...

This year we are hoping to bring our learning to life by taking the children on some exciting excursions. In the Spring term we would like the children to experience some famous landmarks in London including a tour of Pudding Lane and the Great Fire monument, and a trip to a Kent castle in the summer term. Keep an eye out for Parent mail emails to confirm dates, details and costs.

**SATs...** The End of Key Stage One assessments will take place in May and will assess reading, maths, science, spelling and grammar. Children's levels for writing will be based on classwork evidence throughout the year. We will be using past papers and materials as part of some lessons, in order to familiarise the children with the SATs routine. With regards to the assessments, we present a calm attitude to the children so that they are able to approach them in a relaxed and confident way. We would be grateful if you could adopt this approach too.

## Assemblies...

We will be returning to more face to face assemblies this year but will be conducting some virtual assemblies as well. With building work taking place, we have less access points to the school hall so getting the whole school in via just one door might take some time!

**Celebrating Achievements...** 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.*