



# Survival Guide for Year 4

## Meet the Team...



Mrs Burchett's  
**NIGHTINGALES**



Miss Branson's  
**KINGFISHERS**

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



**Mrs  
Ellis**



**Mrs  
Pluckrose**

Mrs Kelleher will cover Nightingales class when Mrs Burchett has PPA and Mrs McGoldrick will cover Kingfishers class.

Our teaching team will be around on the playground at the end of every day. However, it may be easier to catch up with us via email using the year group email contact [year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year4parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk).

You can also contact us via the school office on 01233 621616.

We are always here to help and look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

## Welcome to Year 4!

We hope you had a wonderful break. Throughout this year, we will promote a happy and calm environment to allow the children to grow and flourish with confidence. We ask our children to be friendly, courteous and respectful to each other, staff and visitors.

As the children have now entered upper school, we value a sensible and mature attitude to school life and learning, where they participate in activities offered to them with enthusiasm and perseverance. We will encourage the children to use our 'Guiding Stars' to develop positive learning behaviors which will support their independent learning.

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? Where does he get his ideas from?

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

How similar is an egg and teeth? What can an egg's shell tell us about food damage to teeth?

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

Has the London Underground only been used for train travel?

These are all questions you will be answer by the end of year 4!

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 specific topics which are covered during each of these focus weeks. During STAR 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.

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.

## Maths...

Maths lessons will be taught in class groups, using the Mastery approach that is now embedded across the school. 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. To aid the children, we will use a 'make it', 'draw it', 'write it' approach to ensure they fully understand the concepts taught. 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 suitably pitched 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, across all areas of the curriculum.

# 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.

'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 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 each week on a Friday and for assessment on the following Friday.

## 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. Children will be given a specific set of multiplication or division facts to practice at home each week. These will be tested in school as part of Mathematics lessons, usually on a Tuesday.

The Government's statutory Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4, will take place in June 2023. 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 you 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 per week in two 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 this, 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 need to pass each set and show that they are using their spellings in their extended writing consistently to move on to a new set.

At the beginning of the year, all children in Year 4 will start on the yellow colour band that they achieved in Year 3 as a recap.

## 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 bring home reading books to read at home. Regular reading sessions will take place during the school week, in the form of whole class reading sessions. Activities or questions will be differentiated to suit children's needs. Throughout the year, children will also be heard read as part of a small group, or 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. 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 biros).

## Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. The children do not need to bring lots of items into school each day—our cloakrooms are only small so think carefully about the type of bag they bring in. Every day, the children should bring in their water bottle and a snack (fruit or vegetables) for morning break.

All stationery will be provided for the children so they do not need to bring in any stationery items.

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

# Other useful things to know...

## P.E and Games...

Nightingales have outdoor PE on Tuesday and indoor PE on Thursday, and Kingfishers have outdoor PE sessions on Wednesday and indoor sessions on a Thursday.

Your child will need to bring a PE kit into school which will stay in their PE bag on their peg. They will change into their kit for PE lessons.

We will be covering a variety of sports from gymnastics and dance to tennis and rugby, encouraging the children to apply and build on skills from year 3. Within our PE lessons, we encourage good sportsmanship and reward effort within a discipline so children will adopt a love of sporting activities throughout their lives.

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...

Now that school life has returned to normal, we are hoping to organise a geographical study to compare a local village to Ashford town.

Additionally, we would like to take the children on a to showcase what life in Britain during World War Two was really like.

With the cost of living as it is, we will keep costs to a minimum and are hoping to provide these two trips for no more than £25 per child.

## Forest School

This year, all year groups will have a block of Forest School sessions in our woodland. The Year 4 block will take place in term 5 for Nightingales and term 6 for Kingfishers. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

## 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 upheld our school values particularly well, 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 too. This may be a copy of a certificate or medal, or a photo of a special accomplishment.

## Healthy Snacks, Lunches 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 this includes things like peanut butter.

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. Water bottles must not contain juice or squash—it's water only.