



Survival Guide for Year R

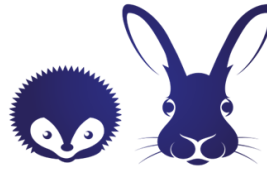
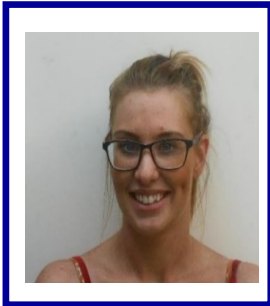
Meet the Team...



Miss Ward



Mrs Taylor



Mrs Varnaseri



Miss Moody



Mrs Pullen



Miss Marsh



Miss Scanlan



Mrs McGoldrick will cover Rabbits and Hedgehogs and Miss Kelleher will cover Moles and Badgers class when the class teachers have PPA.

Our teaching team will be around on the playground at the beginning and end of every day.

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

You will also be able to contact the Reception team via the Tapestry App—Please see attached letter for how to set this up.

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

Welcome to Year R!

This is a very exciting time for you all as the children embark on their journey and begin school at Godinton. We have lots of exciting learning planned and we are looking forward to getting to know you all. The children are encouraged to be as independent as possible and we hope that you can support us with this at home. If you have been to anything exciting over the summer, please feel free to use your 'Look at What I Have Been Up To!' books and bring these in to share with us.

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

Our Exciting Year 4 Curriculum...

What makes me special and unique?

Who is in my family?

How do I feel about starting school?

How do I keep my body healthy?

How can I be a good friend?

Who can help us in our community?

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. Details of the year group curriculum for maths can be found on the school website. In Reception, we will follow the Mastering Number programme which develops firm foundations of good number sense.

English...

English lessons are taught as a whole class and interwoven into all aspects of our learning environment, both inside and outside. We believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into all areas of our EYFS curriculum such as Understanding of the World, 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.

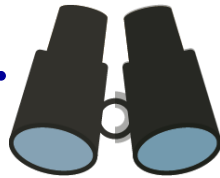
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail'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

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 website and find the tasks set and educational games to be motivational and enjoyable to use.

Keep Practising Those Number Bonds ...

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.

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. This year we are launching a new phonics scheme: Monster Phonics which will replace Letters and Sounds. The articulation of the sounds remains the same it's just the way in which the sounds are taught that will be slightly different. We will provide further details of our new scheme during this term.

Read, Read, Read ...

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. These texts will be matched to their phonic ability using the Monster Phonics scheme and will be sent home to share with parents.

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 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 in Year 1.

Equipment and Resources...

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources and may share these within their year group. 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. They should 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. We are also starting a weekly Forest School day, where the children will need come into school wearing old clothes. We will send out details about this, nearer the time.

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games...

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.

Out and About...

Throughout the year, the children will be given a range of opportunities to increase their knowledge of the local community they live in. This will include lots of activities such as walks around the local area, to a forest school session in our beautiful woodland area. We will also invite important members of society, such as police officers, nurses and firefighters into school to expand their experiences of the world around them. In the summer term, our Learning Adventure work will focus upon a visit to somewhere further afield, details to follow!

Forest School

This year all year groups will have a block of Forest School sessions in our woodland. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

Celebrating Achievements...

Celebration Assembly is on a Thursday which the children will attend later on in the year once they are settled. 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?

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.