



# Survival Guide for Year 6

## Meet the Team...



Mrs Gandon



Mrs Jury



Mrs Hubbard



Mrs Crowfoot



Miss Almond



Mrs Pemberton

Mrs Kelleher will cover Eagles class when Mrs Crowfoot has PPA and Miss Almond will cover Falcons 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 [year6parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year6parent@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 6!

The children are always encouraged to take pride in their work and their work ethic. We expect the children to give their best effort in class and to take care with the content and presentation of their work. We want them to be proud of themselves. The pace of the work will be challenging. We have a lot to do! Work, as always, will be matched to your child's ability; extra challenge and support will be given where needed.

A big part of Year 6 is preparing children for the transition to Secondary School. The children need to ensure that they have the necessary equipment for each day and try their very best to complete homework on the correct day.

In Year 6, the children will have the opportunity to take on various responsibilities such as House & Vice Captains; two boys and two girls from each house will be elected for these roles during the first STAR week.

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

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

# Our Exciting Year 4 Curriculum...

Do you know what life was like in Medieval times?

Have you every wondered what the inside of your body looks like?

Where did the theory of evolution come from?

Do you know how humans evolved over time?

These questions and more will be answered as your child makes their way through this year's learning adventure.

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 initially be split into groups, with our Teaching Assistants working with specific focus groups (this may change as the year progresses). All groups will be taught in using the Mastery approach that the school has adopted. 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 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.

This is of particular importance in Year 6 as the End of Key Stage assessments next summer will draw on all different forms of written work, regardless of the subject area.

# 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.

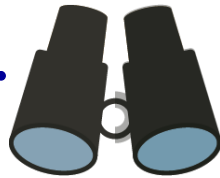
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' 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' in terms 1–5, 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

Starting on Friday 8th 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 or three 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 6 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 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 table / set of multiplication or division facts to practise at home each week. These will be tested in school as part of Mathematics lessons, usually on a Friday.

## Spellings

Spelling is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. As such, this year we are introducing an exciting new method of teaching our children how to spell, following a phonetic system. Each week we will have a focus phoneme; we will explore and learn a set of words that contain different graphemes that represent that phoneme. Spelling lessons will now be carried out in short daily sessions, with an assessment at the end of the week, and all learning of the words of the week will take place in school. A list of words will also be available for children to take home, should they wish to extend their learning. The specific spelling elements required for Year 6 are comprehensively covered using this system. The coloured spelling levels will remain on the website for your reference, as they are the statutory spellings for Key Stage 1 and 2.

## 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. This will be in the form of whole class reading sessions with activities or questions differentiated to match the children's ability. Throughout the year, children will also be heard read as part of a small group, 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. Older children can still benefit hugely from reading and sharing a book with an adult. 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.

In Year 6 all children write in pen (blue ink, no biros) right from the start, whether they have achieved their pen licence or not. They will all be expected to use joined up handwriting, as this is a National Curriculum requirement for the end of Key Stage 2.

## 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. Every day, the children should bring in their water bottle and a snack (fruit or vegetables) for morning break.

Although we will provide the children with all of the stationary items that they need, we do encourage Year 6 pupils to bring in their own pencil cases with equipment as it begins to prepare them for secondary school. If your child chooses to bring in their own pencil case, it must be small enough to fit into their school tray. Pens must be blue ink and be classic handwriting pens, **NOT** biros, fountain pens or erasable pens. Many children also like to have their own gel pens or felt tips to enhance their presentation.

# Other useful things to know...

## P.E and Games...

Year 6 will have Indoor PE on a Monday and Outdoor PE on a Thursday each week.

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 in school, boys and girls will be separated for changing.

Although we have set PE days, it would be ideal for their kit to be in school from Monday to Friday, as this provides us with the flexibility to change our timetable if weather or other events impact on our usual days.

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...

We are planning to offer a range of off-site opportunities to the children this year:

Wednesday 1st November 2024 – A geographical field trip to Canterbury by train, which will include a visit to the Cathedral and a workshop. Approx. cost £13.

- 11th June 2024 – Chessington World of Adventure
- 10th–14th June 2024 – **ACTIVITY Week!** Including optional residential stay at Bewl Water.
- TBC June/July 2024 – **Safety in Action**
- Further details and the cost of the 2024 Activity week will be shared at a scheduled meeting, later on in term 1.

## Forest School

This year all year groups will have a block of Forest School sessions in our woodland. The Year 6 blocks will take place in term 3 and 4. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

## Celebrating Achievements...

Celebration Assembly is on a Tuesday. 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.