



# Survival Guide for Year 2

## Meet the Team...



Ms Moss'

**LADYBIRDS**



Ms Moss



Mrs Maher's

**BUTTERFLIES**



Mrs Maher



Miss Clark



Miss Rossiter



Miss Eaton



Mrs Prior



Miss Brenchley

Our Parent Handbook has been updated for 2024-25 and can be found on the school website

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Ladybirds Class when the teachers have PPA and Mrs Kelleher will cover Butterflies 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 [year2parent@godinton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:year2parent@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 2!

Now the children are at the end of Key stage 1, 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 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 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 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.

## 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 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.

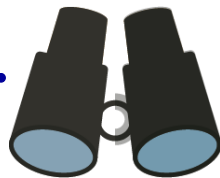
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail'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

Maths homework will continue to be set as online activities 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 number bonds. Please contact your child's class teacher if there are any issues with accessing Mathletics at home. Mathletics homework will be set on a weekly basis, 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 (these can be found in the front of their reading records) for their Mathletics accounts, this will provide parents with details on how to access pupil accounts.

### Keep Practising Those Times Tables / 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 you know  $60+40=100$ . Knowledge of these facts also enables children to make links to fractions, decimals and percentages later on in their learning.

Children should practice number bonds every week and ensure that they have good number recognition up to 100. Practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well. Give your children practical experience of recognising numbers when you are out and about, such as counting the items when shopping, or calculating change.

By the end of Year 2, the children are expected to learn **at least** their 2x, 5x and 10x tables at home. Once they have completed the multiplication and division units in school, we will send out details of how to access TTRockstars (a fun online maths programme) for further practise.

## Phonics/ Spellings

Spelling and phonics are an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In Year 2 phonics is currently taught for five 30 minute sessions per week. We teach phonics for the first term and the children will be expected to use correct spellings at all times from the high frequency and common exception 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.

From Term 2, most of the children will move on to the Spelling by phoneme approach which is used in KS2. 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 2 are comprehensively covered using this system. The statutory word lists will remain on the website for your reference. It would be useful to practice these words regularly at home.

### **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.

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 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.

In Year 2, the children are expected to read daily at home (even if it is just for a few minutes) and to change their own reading books at school when they have finished them. Parents are to make a note in the reading record when they have been sharing books at home. Reading books and reading records are to be brought in to school every day and parents should let us know if your child is not changing their reading book regularly.

In school, regular assessments are undertaken to check the children's fluency and comprehension levels- the reading bands are then adjusted where appropriate.

### **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. 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 healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) for morning break.

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. Please do not allow your child to bring in any toys or precious items into school.

In Year 2, there may be some opportunities to share achievements, awards and experiences (linked to their learning and hobbies only) so some items can be brought in to share with the rest of the class. The parent email is a useful tool to send photographs of these, if preferred.

# Other useful things to know...

## P.E and Games...

Our PE Lessons are on:

**Ladybirds: Tuesday (Indoor) and Wednesday (Outdoor)**

**Butterflies: Monday (Indoor) and Wednesday (Outdoor)**

On these days, 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. They may wear trainers.

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.

During the term the children have Forest School, they will only have one PE lesson each week instead of two.

## Forest School

The Year 2 block will take place in terms 3 and 4. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

## 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 a trip to a local church, to learn more about sacred texts. We would also like to offer the children an end of year trip to a Kent castle in the Summer term. Keep an eye out for Parent mail emails to confirm dates and details. The approximate cost of the Castle trip will be £20.

## Opal Play

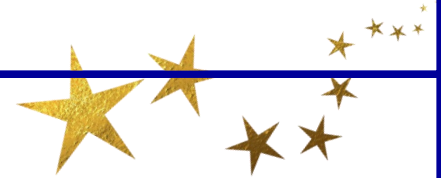
In order to get ready for our exciting move to Opal Play lunchtimes, the children will need to have a pair of wellies which stay in school every day. They must also have a waterproof jacket and may bring waterproof trousers or a puddle suit as they will be out in all weathers. (Please ensure all clothing and footwear is named.)

## 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 so. 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, ideally be provided in a named, clear bottle and must be no larger than 500ml. 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.