



# Survival Guide for Year 4

## Meet the Team...



Miss Branson



Mrs Atkin



Mrs Martyn



Miss Walker



Miss Gurung



Mrs Holmes

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

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.

Mrs McGoldrick will cover Kingfishers class and Mrs Kelleher will cover Nightingales class on PPA days.

## 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

# Our Exciting Year 4 Curriculum...

How does Wonka create his delicious delicacies and fruity flavours? Where does he get his ideas from?

What animals live in the tropical Amazon Rainforest?

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

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. We also use a 'make it', 'draw it', 'write it' approach to ensure the children fully understand the concepts taught. Details of the curriculum, which follows the Power Maths scheme, 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.

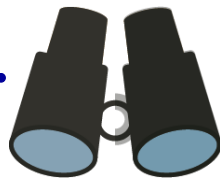
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' 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' 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 be set as an online activity each week through Mathletics. We will remind the children of their login details before setting any homework. Mathletics homework will be set on a Friday and will be live for a whole week. The homework set will be following the mathematical skills that Year 4 will be learning in class; tasks could be pre-learning a specific topic or revising an area covered in school. In addition to the homework set, it may be beneficial for your child to explore the interactive games, including practicing their times tables. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any issues with accessing Mathletics from home.

### 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. The Government's statutory Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4, will take place in June 2025. 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 Year 4 parents nearer the time. Regular practice of times table facts will help your child feel confident in recalling facts at speed. To aid the children's recall at school, every week the children will also be given a times tables test, which includes a range of timetables and some division facts.

## Spellings

At Godinton, we build on our children's early phonics journey by teaching a phonetic approach to spelling as they move up the school. 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 are carried out in short daily sessions, with dictation practice 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 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. 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, or on a 1-1 basis. 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.

## Content is important but so is presentation...

Across the school, 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. We are grateful for your ongoing support with this. 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 biro).

## 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.

In Year 4, the children are allowed to bring in pencil cases with simple stationery: pencils, sharpeners, rubbers and rulers. However, all stationery will be provided for the children if you do not wish for your child to bring in their own pencil case. The children will not be able to bring toys, including footballs.

# Other useful things to know...

## P.E and Games...

Nightingales have outdoor PE Friday and indoor PE Thursday. Kingfishers have outdoor PE 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.

## Forest School

The Year 4 block will take place in Term 5 and 6. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

## Out and About...

During this academic year, we have some exciting visits planned. We are hoping to organise a geographical field study to compare a local village to Ashford town. Additionally, we would like to take the children on a school trip 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.

## 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.

## 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. 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.