



Survival Guide for Year 3

Meet the Team...

 Mrs Walker's
BUMBLEBEES

 Miss Attenborough and
Mrs Fagg's
DRAGONFLIES

Our Parent
Handbook has been
updated for 2025–26
and can be found on
the school website



Mrs Walker



Miss Attenborough



Mrs Fagg



Miss Smith



Mrs Pope



Mrs Hubbard



Mrs Spain

Miss Attenborough will teach Dragonflies Monday–Wednesday and Mrs Fagg will teach Thursday–Friday. Mrs McGoldrick, Mrs Kelleher or Mr Wise will cover Bumblebees Class and Dragonflies Class when Mrs Walker and Miss Attenborough have PPA.

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 year3parent@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 3!

Having now entered Key Stage 2 the children will be treated as ‘juniors’ and as such will be expected to become far more independent learners. We expect them to be responsible for their belongings, making sure that they have the right equipment for their daily tasks. Work, as always, will be matched to your child’s ability; extra challenge and support will be given where needed. We respect the children in our classes and expect them to show respect to all the adults and their peers that they encounter. All we ask is that the children try their very best.

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

*Which monsters would you face if you were a **Greek Hero**?*

Did you ever want to see a volcano erupt?

Why should we be grateful that the Romans invaded Britain?

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 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. It is important that the children begin to learn their time tables in Year 3, to support their mental and written calculations.

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

Starting on Friday 12th September, maths homework will continue to 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 Sunday evening. The homework set will be following the mathematical skills that Year 3 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 / 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. 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 Wednesday. The expectation is that children can quickly recall all multiplication facts up to 12 x 12 and regular practice of times table facts will help your child feel confident in recalling facts at speed. This is also essential preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check in Year 4, therefore children in Year 3 will be expected to have quick recall by the end of the year. Further details of the Multiplication Tables Check will be sent to Year 4 parents nearer the time.

Spellings

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 3 all children will be focusing on spellings. A list of commonly used words that the children should be able to spell independently and use in their daily written work are in the back of your child's homework book. We will be learning words from Years 1-4 spelling lists throughout the year and there is an expectation that these will be spelt correctly or amended independently using word mats and dictionaries. In Year 3, 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 3 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. 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. 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. 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.

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 expect the children to continue to develop the use of joined cursive handwriting if they are not joining their handwriting already.

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.

We will be providing all stationery items needed for the children in the classroom. All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. Children are not encouraged to bring their own personal pencil cases and stationery into school. If any is brought in, this must be left in their bag. The children must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it .

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games... In Terms 1 and 2, Forest

School will take the place of PE lessons. There will be a time when swimming will also take place of Indoor PE, but the terms are yet to be confirmed. Further details will follow.

Children in Year 3 have PE on Tuesday (Outdoor) and Thursday/ Friday (Indoor).

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. It is essential that PE kits consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsolls for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is useful for outdoor PE in colder weather as we will only miss these sessions if the conditions are extreme. All items should be fully named. If your child wears earrings these must be taken out for PE. Any child, who cannot remove them, will have these covered using a low adhesive micropore tape.

Forest School

The Year 3 block will take place in term 1 and 2. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

Out and About...

Some of our excursions may include...

A trip to Godinton House and gardens (free)

Swimming (approx. £60)

A trip to Maidstone Museum (approx. £20)

Opal Play

For 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.