



Survival Guide for Year 1

Meet the Team...



Miss Kirk Smith's

FOXES



Mrs Rea's

OTTERS



Miss Kirk Smith



Mrs Rea



Mrs Myers



Mrs Taylor



Miss Young

Mrs McGoldrick, Mrs Kelleher or Mr Wise will cover Foxes Class and Otters Class when Miss Kirk-Smith and Mrs Rea 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 year1parent@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 1!

It is a very exciting time as your child moves out of the Early Years and into Key Stage 1! To help build their independence as they enter Year 1, we ask that you say goodbye at the large green entrance gate by reception and allow children to walk into the playground and class themselves. They will take responsibility for putting their bags away and handing in any letters/homework/reading books. Reading books will be due in every Monday. Children are encouraged to try their best in their learning and to show respect and tolerance for one and other.

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

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

Our Exciting Year 1 Curriculum...

What would happen if we had no bones?

Do fish have fingers?

Have you ever wondered what life would be like out on the ocean waves?

What was it like to have a holiday at the seaside many years ago?

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 centers around our school values. Whilst we embed these values into everyday school life, we also want to highlight different aspects which is done during this focus week. During this week, the children will complete their RE and PSHE 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. In this section you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying. This section of the website will be updated at the start of each new Learning Adventure.

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.

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.

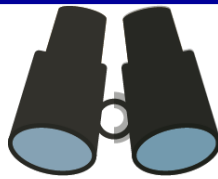
Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts. These tasks will form the 'Base Camp' activities which children are expected to complete on a weekly basis. 'Trail' 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. Starting on Friday 12th 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 in their homework books for this.

Two 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 1 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 Number Bonds/ Counting, Reading and Writing Numbers ...

Children should practice their number bonds every week and ensure that they have good number recognition of numbers up to 100. Give your children practical experience of recognising numbers when you are out and about.

Counting forwards and backwards in 1's to 100 will build a solid understanding of number and reinforce our learning in class.

You could also practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well, to support their journey towards multiplication facts in year 2.

Spellings and Phonics

Phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. We have continued to follow the 'Little Wandle'

phonics scheme into year 1, that your children began in Reception and will therefore be familiar with. The children will be taught Phonics on a daily basis and during these sessions will learn how to decode words such as, 'fresh' and 'spoil'. They will progress on to learning how to read longer words with a greater amount of syllables as the year moves on too.

In addition to using phonics for decodable words we will be reading the Year 1 list of common exception words, which are trickier to sound out. Words such as: said, the, are, some, because etc. It will help your child's writing if they can spell these words too.

At the end of each Phonics session, the children will practise spelling some of the newly learnt 'tricky words' (words that cannot be sounded out) and words containing a new sound they have learnt. E.g. in a lesson where they learn the 'ay' sound, they would practise writing 'play' and 'today'.

Read, Read, Read ...

This year we are looking forward to seeing your child grow and develop as a reader. As part of our 'Little Wandle' Phonics scheme your child will take part in a Reading Practice session three times a week. In these sessions the children will read the same book three times. Each session will take on a different focus: decoding (fluency), prosody (expression) and comprehension (understanding). After the third session your child will then bring this book home to share with you. This book will come home on a Thursday and must be returned to school on a Monday.

Your child will also bring home a 'reading for pleasure' book. This is a book that might be above or below the child's reading ability. The purpose of this book is for the child to develop a love of reading. Your child could talk about the pictures whilst you read the story. This could be a non-fiction information text about something that the child is particularly interested in or a fictional story book of their choice. This should also be returned to school on a Monday.

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.

Handwriting will be practised regularly in class. Extra practise at home is always encouraged to ensure all children can form lower and upper case letter correctly. A document will be shared at the start of the year showing how each letter is formed.

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.

We discourage the children to bring in their own pencil cases. This will alleviate any unnecessary upset over lost or broken personal items. We also discourage the children to bring in any toys for the same reason. Please therefore leave these at home.

We would ask that all children return both their decodable Little Wandle book and their reading for pleasure book on a Monday. The books will be given out again every Thursday.

Please ensure that any items of property brought into school are clearly named. Thank you.

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games...

Children in Year 1 have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays.

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.

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

Forest School

The Year 1 block will take place in terms 5 and 6. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

Out and About...

We hope to have many fun adventures outside of the classroom throughout the year and we endeavor to keep these costs to a minimum or free where possible!

Some of our excursions may include:

- A visit by Maidstone Museum
- A local trip to Godinton House
- A trip to a local seaside

The approximate cost to cover these trips will be £25 in total and a lunch will need to be provided.

Opal Play

Every lunchtime the children are able to take part in Opal Play. 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. 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.