



Survival Guide for Year 5

Meet the Team...



Miss King



Miss Maisto



Miss Pile



Miss Walker

Our Parent Handbook has been updated for 2025–2026 and can be found on the school

Mrs McGoldrick, Mrs Kelleher or Mr Wise will cover the year 5 classes when Miss King and Miss Maisto have PPA.

Welcome to Year 5

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 year5parent@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.

We are all excited for this new school year. As your child moves up to year 5 we will expect them to have a good level of organisation and independence – remembering their PE day, forest school clothing and to independently change their reading book. Taking responsibility for their behaviour and accountability of their own actions, ensures positive learning attitudes and respect for all members of our school community. Most of all, children will be expected to try their best, closely matching to their ability, and to challenge themselves when they can.

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

Our Exciting Year 5 Curriculum...

If you travelled back in time to the Victorian era, what would Britain and Ashford be like?

Why was it called the Victorian era?

What Victorian inventions do we still use today?

Do you know what life was like for Victorian children?

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.

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 5 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 practice at home each week. The children are expected to collect a practice sheet (if they wish) independently.

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 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 5 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.

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.

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. Coming into Year 5, we expect children to use joined, neat handwriting and would expect most to have earned their pen licenses by the end of the year. Children are expected to use a handwriting pen (or pencil) for all written work and a sharpened pencil for maths. If presentation is not at a standard appropriate to them, then they may be expected to redo the piece of work again.

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. Your child will be provided with all of the stationery that they will require for everyday lessons. If your child would like to bring in their own equipment from home, we would ask that they do so in a small pencil case that will be able to be fit in their trays when not in use. They will also be responsible for any of their own equipment that they choose to bring in from home.

Other useful things to know...

P.E and Games...

Both classes will have outdoor PE on Monday. Magpies will have indoor PE on Friday; Cuckoos will have indoor PE on Wednesday. In the terms where we have Forest School, this will replace outdoor PE.

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.

Out and About...

During this year, we are hoping that we will be able to provide the following trips for the children's enjoyment and educational value.

The PGL Residential Trip (information already provided) will be in March.

Term 6 – children to complete some fieldwork when we are looking at rivers at Brockhill Park—approx. £20

Early Lunch

Each week, Year 5 will have lunch at 11:30am so they have the opportunity to socialise with our younger children.

Forest School

The Year 5 block will take place in term 1 and 2. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

Opal Play

Every lunchtime the children are able to take part in Opal Play and will need to have a pair of wellies which stay in school. 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.