



# Welcome to Year 4

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 4, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

## Year 4 Staff

Mrs Crowfoot (Class Teacher)

Mrs Kelleher (Class Teacher)

Miss King (Teaching Assistant)

PPA will be covered by Mrs Collins in the Nightingale Class and Mrs McGoldrick in the Kingfisher class.

## Year 4 Expectations

In Year 4 we expect children to be responsible for their belongings and for ensuring they have the correct equipment for school. This is especially important for items such as PE kit, reading books and reading records. Children should independently make their way to the cloakroom via the outside classroom door.

## Year 4 Curriculum

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 'Information for parents' section and then click on 'Curriculum'. 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 topic.

We endeavour to make as many links to our topic in our studies throughout the curriculum and our weekly timetable is flexible, taking into account various visits, celebrations, visiting speakers, etc.

As of September, we will be trialling a new approach to mathematics known as Maths Mastery. The children will now be taught maths in class groups rather than sets. With this approach, there is a greater emphasis on broadening our pupil's understanding and experiences of mathematics to provide them with deeper understanding of concepts as opposed to moving on to the next stage of a concept too quickly. Maths mastery also allows children to make greater connections to other areas of mathematics. We will continue work on maths fluency, written calculations methods and the recall of multiplication & division facts. Details of the year group curriculum for maths can be found on the school website.

We will continue to teach English lesson as a whole class as we believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography which are currently taught in whole class groups. Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be



differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class. The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. More cross curricular teaching may also take place where links will be made between English and other subjects. For example a unit on adventure story writing may be taught through a history topic or the development of spelling patterns may be explored through writing in science. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best writing skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

### **Reading**

Your child will have been given a Reading Record book in which we would like them to record any reading they have been doing. This can be for a school reading book or one from home. Whenever possible, we would encourage the children to read to an adult at home and the adult is then welcome to write a short comment in the reading record book if they wish, or simply sign and date in the appropriate boxes on the page. Teachers will then ask the children to bring their Reading Record book to each guided reading session. This will give us the opportunity to monitor the children's personal reading and give praise to those reading on a regular basis. Teachers will also record a short comment linked to the guided reading session at least once a month. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school. Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. It is our observation that children who read regularly at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling.

### **Homework**

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.

Younger children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words, 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.

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of maths. 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  $40 \times 60 = 2400$ . Knowledge of these facts also enables written calculation to be accurate and there are also many links to be made to fractions, decimals and percentages.

As part of weekly homework this year, we want to place a greater emphasis on the children practising these skills. Therefore, they will become the core element of homework. Children should be reading at home at least several times a week, practising spellings regularly and



rehearsing number facts or as they get older times tables. There are many different online games and activities to help support these activities.

The children in year 4 will begin the year with one piece of either Maths or English homework per week which is in addition to reading, practising spellings and multiplication and division facts which are sent home.

From the start of term 4, homework will increase to match the rest of Upper School (weekly maths homework plus English once a fortnight).

During the Autumn term, we are intending on subscribing to a new online system for Maths homework called, MyMaths which will enable all homework to be set and completed using either a computer or tablet. Further details regarding the launch of MyMaths and how to use the site will be sent in due course.

For further information about the school's homework policy, please see the 'How can I help my child' section on the school website.

### **Spellings**

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 4 all children will be focusing on exploring spelling rules and strategies. Children are expected to learn their spellings at home, they will be given a specific set of high frequency exception words to practise at home each week. They will have regular spelling tests and progress in these will be monitored.

### **Times tables**

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. They will have weekly times tables tests and progress in these will be monitored. These will be tested in school as part of Mathematics lessons, usually on a Monday.

### **Equipment and Resources**

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. 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.

### **P.E**

Children will have timetabled PE on Mondays (outdoor) and Wednesdays (indoors) for the Kingfisher Class and Tuesdays (outdoor) and Fridays (indoor) for Nightingale Class. Your child's PE kit should be in school every day. It is essential that PE kits consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols 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 not be allowed to participate in PE sessions.

### **School Trips**

We hope to enrich the children's learning experience this year through a couple of school trips. We are hoping to organise a visit to a local Kent village in term 3 or 4 and later in the year, a visit to the Tenterden Railway Station is planned to participate in an Evacuation Experience in order to enhance the children's understanding of the **Second World War**. We anticipate that the total cost of these visits will be no more than **£30-35**.

### **Celebration Assembly**

This will take place on a Thursday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Also every fortnight a child from each class is chosen as the **Godinton Star of the Week** and invited to a tea party with Miss Talbot.

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring fruit as a snack for morning break from Monday to Thursday and can bring in a healthy snack (cheese, yoghurt etc.) on Friday. Children are allowed **water** to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a '**Godinton Water Bottle**' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml which has their name on. All water bottles must have a sports cap to help reduce spillages.

### **Speaking to School Staff**

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is **not** an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. We will be available at our exterior classroom doors at the end of the school day, as the children leave, unless we are running an after school club, this is a good time to catch us and many minor problems can be sorted out at this time. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office.

### **Finally...**

We hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.