



Welcome to Year 5

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 5, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 5 Staff

Mrs S Fisher (Class teacher Cuckoos)

Miss L Mills (Class teacher Magpies)

Mrs L Collins (PPA Teacher Cuckoos)

Mrs A McGoldrick (PPA Teacher Magpies)

Mrs S Ellis (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs J Atkins (Teaching Assistant)

Year 5 Expectations

We aim to help the children develop good work habits in preparation for the academic demands of year 6 such as an ability to work independently and demonstrate initiative.

Year 5 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.

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 or Teaching Assistants 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.

As children become fluent readers, it is 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 calculations 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 several times a week, practising spellings regularly and rehearsing times table and division facts. There are many different online games and activities to help support these activities.



Maths Homework

During the Autumn term, we are intending on subscribing to a new online system for Maths homework called, MyMaths which will enable all Maths 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. In the meantime, children will be set weekly Maths homework by their Maths teacher which will be sent home on a Friday and should be handed in by the following Tuesday.

Timetables

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.

English Homework

On alternate weeks, children will be set one piece of English based homework which may also link to the topic being studied. This will also be set on a Friday every other week and to be handed in by the following Tuesday.

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 5 all children will be focusing on spelling patterns. Spelling work is currently taught as a whole class for 2 x 30 minute sessions per week. The children will all be working on the coloured spelling scheme. Following an initial assessment at the beginning of the year, they will be provided with a coloured list of spellings matched to their ability. They should practise these at home and will be tested regularly at school. Please check the website in able to support your child further with the phase they are working on.

Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom at the beginning of the year; this includes a pencil, a pen (once they achieve their pen licence), use of rubbers, rulers and scissors. 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

Magpie Class: Wednesday (Indoor PE)
Friday (Outdoor PE)

Cuckoo Class: Tuesday (Indoor PE)
Thursday (Outdoor PE)

We ask that 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 will have a local river trip where the children will sketch the River Stour and the local environment. Also this term we will visit Horton Kirby where the children will have the opportunity to get into a river, conduct experiments to measure depth and flow, as well as learn about the river features and a river's impact on the environment first hand. A letter containing further details of this trip will be sent home in due course. We estimate the total cost of all of the trip to be approximately £16. We also have the extra-curricular residential trip to Kingswood in March 2017 – a separate letter has been sent out with details of a meeting relating to this trip.

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, who has demonstrated one or more of the key values of our school, will be 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 escort the children onto the playground



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

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and we hope the children have an enjoyable Year 5!

Mrs Fisher and Miss Mills