



Survival Guide for Year R

Meet the Team...



Our Parent handbook has been updated for 2026-27 and can be found on the school website.



Miss Kirk-Smith



Mrs Ischt



Miss O'Beirne



Miss Pumphrey



Miss Moody



Mrs Pullen

Mrs McGoldrick, Mrs Kelleher, Mrs Holmes or Mr Wise will cover Reception Classes when class teachers have PPA or are out for other school based tasks i.e. meetings etc.

Our teaching team will be around at the end of every day. However it may be easier to catch up with us via email using the year group email contact yearparent@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 R!

This is a very exciting time for you all as the children embark on their journey and begin school at Godinton. We have lots of exciting learning planned and we are looking forward to getting to know you all. The children are encouraged to be as independent as possible and we hope that you can support us with this at home. We are really looking forward to seeing the things you have gathered for your 'All About Me' bags. We can't wait for you to share them with us in September.

Our Exciting Year R Curriculum....

I wonder, how do rockets fly into space?

I wonder, how long does it take for caterpillars to change into butterflies?

I wonder, how do bees make honey?

These are just some of the questions we will be exploring in your learning adventures this year! In September, we begin with the topic 'Me and My World'.

Our Early Years curriculum is taught in a creative way which makes learning meaningful for the children. Each topic has a 'Sensational Start' and an 'Explosive Ending' to enthuse and excite the children and to celebrate their achievements.

STAR learning – 'Showing Tolerance and Respect' – is built into our curriculum each week and centres upon our school values. For the first few weeks, we will be adapting to the new daily routines and exploring our new learning environment. We will build upon the friendships that we have made and demonstrate that we can be caring and helpful through showing empathy and respect towards others. We will also be learning to work and play co-operatively whilst considering others' ideas and feelings. We will continue to understand the rules and routines in school and ensure that we are confident to shine in all areas of the curriculum. We will set simple goals for ourselves and persevere to achieve them. We will also continue to become independent in our learning by selecting resources, managing our own personal needs and knowing how to stay fit and healthy.

Further 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 are taught in class groups, using the Mastery approach which 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 deeper knowledge of concepts. This improves their ability to make mathematical links and connections and develops their reasoning and problem solving skills.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, focus is placed upon learning basic number facts such as subitising and recalling number bonds to 10.

Children are also encouraged to solve and explain mathematical problems using a range of equipment to support them i.e. Numicon/Unifix cubes.

Further details can be found on the school website.

English...

English lessons are taught as a whole class followed by small group work. To begin with, in the Autumn Term, we introduce our writing curriculum through stories and traditional tales. The children are given lots of opportunities to respond creatively to a text alongside responding through drawings and mark making.

As children progress throughout the year, this then evolves into a slightly more formal approach with children writing in sentences, across a range of different genres i.e. lists, letters etc.

Children are provided with daily written activities through a blend of teacher directed and child initiated tasks.

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 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 year 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

Once the children have settled, Maths homework will be set as an online activity each week. Within the first term, all children will be given log in details for their Mathletics accounts and we will provide parents with details on how to access pupil accounts. We hope that the children will enjoy this website and find the tasks set and educational games to be motivational and enjoyable to use.

Keep Practising Counting To 10!

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding – such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting – children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Phonics

Phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton where we follow the 'Little Wandle' programme. There will be an opportunity in the Autumn Term for parents to come into school to learn more about how they can support their child with phonics at home.

Phonics is taught daily, in 25 minute intervals. Children will be taught phase 2 and phase 3 phonemes and graphemes and how to use them to read and write words. The children will also be taught how to read tricky words. These are words that cannot be read phonetically.

The children will then progress onto reading polysyllabic words later on in the year once all phase 3 phonemes and graphemes have been taught. Children will have many opportunities to practice applying their phonic knowledge through reading and writing simple sentences as part of their whole class sessions.

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. Younger children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words and blending sounds together to develop fluency. Discussing the content of the story with the children is also important.

In school the children will take part in guided reading sessions each week, where they will work in a small group with the teacher or teaching assistant. This year we are looking forward to seeing your child grow 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.

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 children should only bring in their school book bag. Every day, the children should bring in their water bottle and a snack (fruit or vegetables) for morning break. Please make sure all water bottles and snack pots are labelled with your child name.

Don't forget to bring in labelled spare clothes in a drawstring bag to be left at school. We will also need wellington boots and waterproof clothing, please also remember to label them. Please remember leave all toys at home. If children need a comfort toy, they can bring their Godinton Bear.

Other Useful Things to Know...

P.E and Games...

Children in Year R have PE in Term 6, usually it will be every Friday. We will send out details closer to the time. When the children have PE, they will be expected to come into school 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 or shorts and they may wear trainers.

Keep an eye out for updates in the summer term.

Out and About...

In previous years we have completed trips such as a lovely visit to the Gulbenkian Theatre to watch a live production. We have also attended The Rare Breeds Centre and had Creepy Claws in to visit with a wide variety of creatures for us to see and even hold.

We endeavor to have two education visits, this could be off site or on site. We will give you more details of closer to the time. Approximate costs for these trips will be £20 per child for each trip.

Forest School

Year R forest sessions will take place in the Spring/Summer term. Further details will be provided ahead of your child's sessions.

Opal Play

In order to participate in 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 Time. We regularly celebrate children's achievements with special certificates or stickers. In Year R, we begin to introduce the children to the reward systems that will follow them as they go through school. Children will be able to earn house points for showing excellent listening skills, trying their best and for generally upholding our school values. When the children earn 25 points they will earn a badge that they can keep on their school jumper or book bag. After each 25 points they will earn a new badge to add to their collection. Some children may earn over 100 house points by the end of the year. In these cases the children will be able to celebrate their success further by taking part in a special treat at the end of the year.



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.

In Year R, lunchtime is between 11.30 and 12.40

Don't Forget the Importance of our Star Values...



Godinton's Star Values

We respect and listen to each other's views, opinions and ideas



We love how we are all different

We look for the best in each other and ourselves

We are kind, friendly and thoughtful



We are honest and take responsibility for our actions

We help and look after each other, ourselves and our environment

We attend school on time, every day and always try our best

We make sensible choices in our work and play

We show good manners



We are proud to be part of the Godinton family.

