

## Autumn Newsletter 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - Issue 4

### Message from Mrs Haston

*An enormous thank you to all of you for your support during these unprecedented times. The children have really enjoyed being back in school and have worked hard to catch up on learning that was missed in the summer term. Thanks to a dedicated team of staff who go the extra mile every day, the children have had such a positive first half term back.*

*Please support your children by reading with them every day, choosing some of the activities from the TakeAway Homework, logging onto Bug Club, Mathematics and TTRockStars.*

***Follow us on Twitter @GoldfinchPrmry – Come and find out what we have been up to this term for yourselves and check out our website [www.goldfinchprimary.org.uk](http://www.goldfinchprimary.org.uk)***

### Learning from home - additional school closure 21 and 22 October

On Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October your children will be learning at home. Please make sure you log on with your child to either the Zoom meetings for EYFS and Year 1 or Google Meet for children in Year 2 to Year 6. Your child has been given a timetable to follow and a series of tasks and online lessons to watch and complete. If your child does not attend the Zoom or Google Meet, you will receive a phone call from a member of staff to follow this up. These short sessions will demonstrate you on how to access the learning tasks. The school office will remain open, so if you have any problems during the two remote learning days you can call the office or drop us an email on [info@goldfinchprimary.org.uk](mailto:info@goldfinchprimary.org.uk)

### Parents Evenings

Our Autumn Term Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 10 November 4.00pm - 6.00pm and Thursday 12 November 4.00pm-7.30pm. Unfortunately, due to the latest changes, we are not able to have families in school as normal. We have decided that we would instead contact families by telephone. These telephone consultations will give you the opportunity to hear about how your child has settled back into school and find out how they are getting on in class. We will be sharing with you how you can support your child with their learning.



We will continue to use the on-line appointments system for bookings. The website address is <https://goldfinch.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> If you are struggling to book your appointment online, please call the school office who will book an appointment for you.

### Signing Reading Records

One of the single most important ways in which you can support your child is to read with them every day. Your child has a Reading Record book and this is where we ask you to record what your child has read and how they got on. It is really important that parents sign to say they have read with their child.

### Bug Club

Our school has recently acquired a reading programme called Bug Club that we'd like to share with you. Bug Club is a finely-levelled online reading scheme, which ensures that all children can find books at exactly the right level for them. Your child will have a login and password that they need to use to access the website. Please take some time over the half term to logon to the website and allow your child to enjoy a variety of books at their level of reading.

## **8 Reasons Why Reading with Children is Important**

Reading with children, especially struggling readers, on a regular basis does take time but the benefits speak for themselves. Here are eight of the most important.

### **1. Improves Reading Skills**

First and foremost, exposure to books improves children's reading skills. Practice makes perfect!

### **2. Boosts Vocabulary and Literacy Skills**

Reading increases vocabulary, comprehension and communication skills. In addition sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and expression will improve.

### **3. Improves Writing Skills**

Exposure to new words, grammar and punctuation will improve children's writing.

### **4. Builds Confidence and Independence**

Reading every day builds independence, leading to greater confidence.

### **5. Broadens Minds and Develops Empathy**

Diverse literature opens children's minds to the lives of other people. Subsequently, helping children make sense of the world around them.

### **6. Academic Success**

Regular reading promotes academic achievement across the curriculum. Non-fiction books provide opportunities for children to increase their knowledge and interests.

### **7. Develops Imagination**

While reading children create new worlds. This develops their creativity and empathy as they immerse themselves in the lives of the characters.

### **8. Reading is Fun!**

When reading with a child, they can tell if the adult is enjoying themselves. Reinforce the message that reading is an enjoyable alternative to video games and TV by being a good reading role-model.



### School Footwear

Please can we politely remind you that children should only be coming to school wearing trainers on their PE days. Black school shoes should be worn at all other times.

### Paying for School Meals

If your child is in KS2 and you pay for them to have a school meal, can we politely remind you to keep your accounts in credit. If you are having difficulty signing into the School gateway app to pay for the school meals, please call and speak to a member of the school office.

### Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came dressed in green and paid the £1 donation. We raised £149.15 which will go towards our herb garden!

### The Aviary

We have vacancies in both our Breakfast and After School Club. If you need childcare before or after school, please let the office know and Ulain Mireku the Aviary manager will get in contact with you to organise a place for your child.

### New families looking for a Nursery or Reception place September 2021

If you know of anyone who is looking for a Nursery or Reception place in September 2021, please ask them to call the school office. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold weekly school tours at this time, but we can arrange other ways for families to learn about our wonderful school.



<b>Dates for your Diary</b>	
Learning from Home Days – school closed to all children	Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 October
Half Term Week	Friday 23 October to Friday 30 October
Individual and siblings School Photos	5 November
Parents Evening Week	10 November 4-6 pm 12 November 4.-7.30 pm
Professional Day (School will be closed to all children)	13 November
Flu Vaccinations	24 November
Last day of term	Friday 18 December