

Autumn Newsletter 9th October 2020 - Issue 3

Message from Mrs Haston

We have been so proud how well your children are adjusting to being back in school. Watching the children learn across the school and looking at the children's books, it is a joy to see how resilient the children are being. Please keep supporting your children in completing homework tasks and especially keep reading and enjoying a variety of books together.

A child who reads is a child who will be an adult who thinks!

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

Update on Home Learning Offer while your child is self-isolating

If your child or one of your children develops a high temperature or a persistent cough and you have to self-isolate, home learning will be made available to you. This will be a pack of learning that your child/ren can complete over the 10 days if they are well enough to do so. There may also be some year groups who upload learning on to Google Classroom which many of you will be familiar with as this was what we used for most year groups during lockdown. We ask that you return the completed work when your child returns to school so that it can be marked. If you do not receive home learning in the post after a couple of days, please call the school office where we will check that the pack has been sent to you. You will also receive regular call from your child's class teacher and TA to find out how your child is getting on with the home learning.

Please also look out for useful links like Mathletics and Bitesize that your children can access while at home. These links will be on the class newsletters and updated accordingly.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal (this is not the same as universal free school meals), please let us know and we can arrange a weekly food bag while your child is absent from school.

Learning from home - additional school closure 21 and 22 October

You will have received a letter from the CEO of the DET Trust explaining that we will be closing the school and asking that children learn from home. This is so that we can ensure that if we do have to go into a second lockdown the children and staff are ready. A letter will go out early part of next week explaining the arrangements to you.



Parent's Evenings

Unfortunately, due to Covid we are not able to run parent's evenings as we normally would. Instead you will be asked to book a 10-minute telephone consultation with your child's class teacher. You will be asked to logon to the parents evening system that will be available to you soon, and sign up to a particular time to speak with your child's class teacher. A letter will be going home at the end of next week explaining how to do this.

Flu Jabs forms

Please do not forget to complete and return the flu jab forms if you wish for your child to have the nasal spray to protect them from flu over the winter season.

Paying for School Meals

If your child is in Nursery or 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 to the School gateway app to pay for the school meals, please call and speak to a member of the school office.

One Page Profiles

If your child is on the SEND register (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), they will have come home with a One Page profile that we ask that families complete with their child. These need to be signed by the parent/guardian and then returned to school. If you are unsure about this, please do arrange to speak with your child's class teacher.

Managing sickness during the pandemic at Goldfinch

Children are prone to coughs and colds and we are used to having children becoming unwell. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we have been asked to be extra vigilant and the guidance from the government is to send home any child showing possible symptoms of Covid (*a temperature of 37.8 or above, or a persistent dry cough and/or loss of taste and smell*) We ask families to get a test and not bring their child back until they have had a negative test result. All household members should also remain in isolation until the results are back. If the test results are positive, the child must self-isolate for 10 days and other household members must self-isolate for 14 days. We recognise over the last couple of weeks, it has been very difficult to get a test and so this is why you are being asked for your child to self-isolate for 10 days. Please be patient with us as none of us are medical practitioners and it is always best to seek advice from your GP.

Attendance and punctuality

The latest government guidelines state that all children are expected to return to school this term unless your child is deemed clinically vulnerable. We understand that for many families, they may be feeling very anxious about returning to school. We urge you to call the school office to discuss your concerns with a member of SLT.

If your child is absent, please call the school office to inform us. If your child is feeling unwell with symptoms that could be linked to Covid, please DO NOT bring your child to school. Please call the school office to inform us and take your child for a Covid test. We ask that you call us once you get the results of the test. If their results are negative and your child is feeling well enough to return to school, please bring them back. If the results are positive, you are required to keep your child at home for 10 days and inform the school.

Bad weather at the beginning of the school day

Unfortunately, as we head towards the colder and wet weather, we will not be able to open the gates into school earlier due to the need for a staggered start to keep the children apart from one another and so please don't arrive into school too early and make sure you have an umbrella handy!

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.

Dates for your Diary	
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	w/c 9 November
Professional Day (School will be closed to all children)	13 November
Flu Vaccinations	24 November
Last day of term	Friday 18 December