

Autumn Newsletter 14th September 2020 - Issue 1

Message from Mrs Haston

Welcome back!

We would like to welcome everybody back and we hope that you all managed to enjoy the summer holidays despite the ongoing constraints of the pandemic. It has been wonderful having the whole school back and seeing how happy the children are to be with their friends again and have the school routine. So many children have told us how much they missed school during lockdown and are so keen to learn again!



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

Uniform

Thank you to all of you for ensuring your children returned in the full Goldfinch uniform. We are aware that Stitch Design the company who provides the uniform for Goldfinch are having real difficulty keeping up with orders. They have informed us that there is a large backlog of orders due to having staff who were furloughed during lockdown. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you are waiting for items to arrive, we are happy for you to bring your child in another jumper and not wear a tie if they don't have one until your order arrives.

Labelling uniform

Please can we remind and encourage you to label your child's uniform. Unnamed items are likely to get lost and will be sent to lost property. Children can misplace their jumpers and if it has their name in it, we can avoid losing jumpers.

PE Kits

Due to the pandemic, we are asking that the children come dressed in their correct PE kit on the two days they have PE. Please ensure that the children also have the correct PE kit. They must all wear the green t-shirt and black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings. Trainers are only permitted to be worn for PE and not as school shoes. Thank you

Water bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a named bottle of water to school. Currently children cannot access the water fountains around school or out in the playground. It is therefore essential your child has access to a water bottle every day.

Kitchen issue

Thank you to all of you with your patience over the last week with the kitchen not having any gas which meant the kitchen staff were unable to cook any hot meals for the children. This was not how we had hoped to start the new school year! We are pleased we can resume serving hot meals again.



Contact with staff members and the Office Team

We ask that you continue to keep the school staff and children safe but avoid entering the school building and school office whenever possible. We can be contacted by telephone and if needed, we are happy to set up an online meeting with you. In the event of a very serious matter or if you have no other choice but to come into school, then we will make an exception. Thank you for your support at this time. **Please do not try and give messages to the staff standing on the gates at the beginning or the end of the school day. Instead please call or email the school office.**

As all staff are back working in school, we ask that the school office number is used and not the mobile number that was given to families during lockdown. This mobile number is now used for families whose children attend The Aviary before and after school club. Mrs Mireku is unable to take messages from families on this number.

Staggered start and end of day

To reduce the number of children and families on site, we have introduced a staggered start and end to the school day. We ask families to drop their child at their allocated school gate in the morning. For pick up at the end of the day, we are allowing families to come on site to collect.

We do however ask that you reduce how many come on site to collect with you and if you have a very young member of the family with you, you keep hold of their hand at all times. We ask that once you have collected your child, you promptly leave the site.

The staggered start and finish times will continue for the foreseeable future and we thank you for your support at this time. If you have another child who starts and finishes at a different time, we are happy for you to bring all of the children in at the same time as the child who starts at the earlier time and collect all children at the same time as the child who finishes at the later time.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you to keep your distance from other families when collecting and dropping off children.

Social Distancing

We ask that you support us in keeping the children, staff and families safe by when you are waiting to drop off and collect children and when you come onto site at the end of the day, you adhere to social distancing. Please try and keep 2 metres apart where possible. We ask that you arrive to school on time and not earlier to avoid having lots of families and children congregating at the gates. Please arrive on time so that we can get the children into school quickly and safely. Thank you

Year Group	Start of the day	End of the day	Gates to use when coming in and out of the school premises
Nursery	8.55am	11.55pm - (15 hours provision) 3.30pm - (30 hours provision)	Blegborough Road
Reception	8.55am	3.30pm	Fernthorpe Road
Year 1	9.15am	3.45pm	Blegborough Road
Year 2	9.15am	3.45pm	Fernthorpe Road
Year 3	8.45am	3.15pm	Fernthorpe Road
Year 4	8.45am	3.15pm	Cunliffe Street
Year 5 (Saturn & Neptune classes)	9.15am	3.45pm	Cunliffe Street
Year 6	8.55am	3.30pm	Cunliffe Street

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.

Managing sickness during the pandemic at Goldfinch

Earlier this week I sent you a letter about what you need to do if your child develops a persistent cough, a temperature and/or loss of taste and smell. It is going to be a very challenging time in school over the next few months and as we go into winter. 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 and to tell 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. These decisions are not taken lightly and so we appreciate your support during this difficult and uncertain time for all of us. We want to keep the children, staff and families safe and well and we need your help to do this!!

Information about your child's Year Group and the Curriculum

You will shortly be receiving a presentation all about your child's year group, the expectations and the curriculum. This presentation replaces the curriculum meetings we would normally hold in the first couple of weeks of September. Please take the time to go through these slides with your child so that you know what to expect over the course of the year. If you have any questions about the information you receive, please do email or call the office who can help you.

Black Lives Matter

As a school, and in support of the principles behind the Black Lives Matter movement, we recognise we have a role to play in sending a message that racism in all its forms can never be tolerated. Overt and covert racism exists and persists in society and we intend to play our part as best we can in changing this. To stand against racism means that all members of our community must be confident and bold enough to challenge racism.

We ask all in our community to join us in challenging racism and holding ourselves and others to account.

This week we have begun to discuss recent events in a supportive way, led by the children's questions. We will continue to share the work that we are doing around Black Lives Matter and we welcome your support and input.

Communication at Goldfinch

School Gateway App

For the last two years we have been using the School gateway app to communicate with families. This is an app which you can download free on to any smart phone or tablet. This will be where you will receive communication from us via email.

Class Newsletters

We will continue to send out class newsletters every other week. These will be sent to you via the School gateway app and will be uploaded onto our website. Please do take a look to find out what is happening for your child.

Contacts

All schools are required to ask for two contacts for the contact sheet per child to ensure that we can reach a named responsible adult in an emergency.

Please ensure that all contact details are up to detail including telephone numbers, email addresses and change of home addresses.

Going paperless

We have significantly reduced the amount of paper correspondence that we send out. It is essential therefore that you give us a current email address so that you can receive letters and information from us.

Showcasing and Class Assemblies

Unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to offer showcasing afternoons or class assemblies as we have done before. We are looking at other ways in which we can share the children's achievements and learning and will be in touch once we have a plan.

Home Learning Expectations

Please support your children in completing any home learning given. We expect all children to read every day with you at home. All children in KS1 and KS2 will have weekly spellings to learn and will be given a maths challenge to complete. If you would like to refer to our Home Learning Policy, it can be found on our website.

Online Home Learning

Your children can also access Mathletics an online maths programme. Some of the weekly homework will be set on Google Classroom in the same way in which children accessed the learning during lockdown. Your child will be told about this in class and there will be a reminder in the class newsletter. Children will spend their ICT lessons practising accessing learning via Google Classroom and uploading learning in preparation for any further lockdowns.

Home Learning Takeaway Menus

We will also continue to send out our Home Learning Takeaway Menus half termly which has a variety of tasks the children can do linked to their topics

School Dinners

Universal free School Meals

School dinners for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to be free. We strongly encourage you to take up this free offer.

Cost of school dinners

Children in Nursery and KS2 will need to pay. It is currently £2.20 per meal per day. We ask that you inform us each half term, your child's choice of packed lunch or school dinner and on which days. We ask that you commit to the same arrangement for the whole half term. If you think you could be entitled to free school meals, please speak to the office.

Place2Be Coffee Mornings

Again due to the pandemic, we have made the difficult decision for the time being to cancel the weekly Place2Be Coffee Mornings held on Wednesdays from 9am. This is for safety reasons. We are keen to get this back up and running as soon as it is safe to do so.

Medical Needs

If your child has any medical needs, please ensure that you inform the school office and the class teacher. If your child has medication such as an asthma pump or Epi-Pen, we must have them at school. They must be in date and a medical form must be completed giving us consent to administer the medication. We cannot give your child any medication that has not been prescribed by your child's doctor.

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	
Half Term Week	Friday 23 October to Friday 30 October
Individual and siblings School Photos	5 November
Parents Evening Week	w/c 9 November tbc
Professional Day (School will be closed to all children)	13 November
Flu Vaccinations	24 November
Last day of term	Friday 18 December

POLITE NOTICE- WE ARE A NUT AND STRAWBERRY FREE SCHOOL

