



Dear parents and carers,

I would like to welcome you to the Goldfinches Autumn Term Newsletter. During this term we have a range of activities for students to learn about, explore and participate in before Christmas. We are hoping to

This year we will primarily be following the Independence Curriculum pathway which covers five areas of learning which are listed below. All students will take part in sessions such as Story Massage, Attention Autism and Sensory Story.

Our themes this term will be:

<p>Autumn Term 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Food Glorious Food</p> <p>We will be looking at what Harvest Festival is and how we can celebrate. We will also be looking at the type of food people ate within World War II and how rationing affected the recipes of some popular dishes.</p>
<p>Autumn Term 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ch ch changes</p> <p>We will be exploring various forms of change. In literacy, we will examine how characters evolve throughout a text. Additionally, we will study the progression through different historical periods, such as the Stone Age and Bronze Age. We also aim to explore changes of state as part of this theme.</p>

My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics

The Goldfinches will continue to follow the Ruth Miskin phonics programme over the Autumn Term. We will be following the order of sounds that are recommended and we will be completing a variety of activities linking to the focused individual sound. There will be opportunities to explore items that begin with each phoneme as well as practice letter formation and blending. For students within the Goldfinches that have progressed within phonics we will continue to recap gaps in phonics knowledge and extend to reading comprehension.

Autumn 1: During literacy the Goldfinches will be completing a poetry topic. We will be looking at a variety of poetry styles and creating our own poem about Harvest Festival. We will be exploring sensory stimuli to improve our ability to use adjectives within creative writing and ending with a completed poem about food and farming.

Autumn 2: During literacy the Goldfinches will be reading ‘A midsummer Night’s Dream’. We will be acting out parts of the text to understand what was happening around those characters. We will hopefully begin looking at how to empathise with a character and the decisions they made. The Goldfinches will move on to describing changes within those characters and comparing them. Finally, we will write a diary entry as the main character from the text to represent an understanding of the story.

There are opportunities throughout Autumn 1 and 2 to access sensory stories that link to the terms theme. These will focus on exploring each of the five senses with a variety of objects. Each Sensory Story will link to the Literacy topic and be explored throughout the lessons.

My Thinking - Maths and The World Around Me

Throughout Autumn 1 and 2, the Goldfinches will focus on developing their understanding of numbers. They will begin by counting objects up to 100 and comparing numbers. By the end of Autumn 1, they will be able to recognise and use the greater than and less than symbols to compare numbers. In addition, different methods of representing numbers, such as Numicon, tens frames, and base tens, will be introduced to help them explore partitioning and identifying tens and ones. Moving forward, the Goldfinches will shift their focus to addition and subtraction, starting with understanding "more" and "less." They will learn to identify one more or one less of a given number before recognising the addition and subtraction symbols. Using this foundation, they will work on simple addition and subtraction, gradually progressing to crossing the tens. For some Goldfinches, the goal is to advance towards recognising doubles and solving basic number problems.

The World Around Me will allow the Goldfinches to learn about Science, History, Geography and RE through practical, thematic learning.

Autumn 1: In The World Around Me topic, the Goldfinches will be diving into the themes of World War II and the concept of growth. A key focus will be on understanding how rationing during the war impacted the food people ate and how communities had to adapt to shortages. To bring this to life, the class will have the opportunity to taste some of the popular wartime recipes, gaining a hands-on experience of the kinds of meals people made with limited ingredients. This exploration will naturally lead into a broader study of how food is grown, including the different parts of plants that we eat, such as roots, stems, and leaves. Additionally, the Goldfinches will expand their geographical knowledge by identifying key countries involved in World War II, learning about the significant events that took place in those regions and how they shaped the course of history.

Autumn 2: The Goldfinches will be learning about various changes of state, exploring how materials and societies transform over time. To begin, we will examine historical periods such as the Bronze Age and Stone Age, investigating why these eras are named after specific materials and how early humans survived during these times. This will provide insights into the development of tools, technology, and human adaptation. In addition to history, we will focus on the concept of recycling, exploring what happens to materials when they are recycled and discussing the significance of recycling for both our local community and the wider environment. This will help students understand the impact of their actions on the planet and the importance of sustainability. Finally, we will explore the evolution of Christmas traditions, looking at how the celebration has changed throughout history and the reasons behind why people celebrate it today.

My Movement - PE

We will continue to have weekly PE sessions with James Collington to focus on PE targets and a variety of movement. Pupils are currently focused on developing their skills in team games, which includes learning the rules of various games, practicing cooperation and turn-taking with others, and applying physical skills acquired in PE to different activities. Later in the term, they will also explore aspects of outdoor adventurous activities, with a particular emphasis on enhancing their orienteering skills. Along with this, we hope to implement more physical learning into the other key areas by creating on experience opportunities in Literacy and Drama.

There will be opportunities to attend rebound therapy and other therapies, in line with students EHCPs.



Myself - PSHE

Autumn 1: In PSHE, we will explore the concept of identifying our Very Important People and learning different ways to show them that we care. We will also discuss strategies for resolving any disagreements or conflicts that might arise with friends and family. We will build on our PE learning to look at working together and practicing the de-escalation techniques to prevent conflicts arising.

Autumn 2: This term, we'll be discussing the differences between public and private settings, helping your child understand which places and situations are considered private and what behaviours are appropriate in public. By the end of Autumn 2, we aim for them to be able to recognise these differences and know how to act accordingly. We'll also practice polite ways to ask to borrow things from others.

My Enrichment

This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies, for example rebound therapy, music therapy, hydrotherapy and activities. We will take part in enrichment activities including rehearsing for assemblies, cooking and themed days.

Things you could do at home

My Communication: Continue to give opportunities to read and look at words within context such as cooking recipes or letters.

My Thinking: Help your child practice recycling at home by sorting materials like paper, plastic, and glass into the correct recycling bins, making it a fun way to learn about taking care of the environment.

My Movement: Encourage your child to play games that involve taking turns or working together as a team, helping them build cooperation and social skills in a fun way.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on palmerda@birchwoodschool.co.uk I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

I am very much looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing the progress the Goldfinches can make.

Daisy Palmer
Class Teacher