



Dear parents and carers,

I would like to welcome you to the Goldfinches Summer Term Newsletter. During this term we have a range of activities for students to learn about, explore and participate until the end of the year.

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>Summer Term 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shine</p> <p>This term, the Goldfinches will be exploring the theme of Shine through our Light and Drama topics. In Drama, the class will learn how to use movement to represent shining, such as stretching their bodies into star shapes or using twinkling hand movements. We will also be using a range of songs linked to the theme, including Let It Shine by Take That. In our The World Around Me sessions, the class will investigate light and shadow by making puppets, exploring how colour influences light, and learning about different light sources.</p>
<p>Summer Term 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Around the World</p> <p>This term, the Goldfinches will be exploring the theme of Around the World across a range of subjects. In Literacy, the class will be writing about and immersing themselves in the cultures of different countries, exploring traditional foods, customs, and music. Through our The World Around Me topic, the class will also investigate different forms of transport, comparing how people travel in other countries with the ways we travel here.</p>

The Independence Curriculum offers a similar level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths and 'The World Around Me' (Humanities).

<p style="text-align: center;">My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics</p>
<p>The Goldfinches will continue to follow the Ruth Miskin phonics programme over the Summer 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.</p> <p>Summer 1: In Literacy, the Goldfinches will be studying The BFG by Roald Dahl. Pupils will engage in a range of practical activities designed to deepen their understanding of the story's key themes and characters. These activities will support the development of important literacy skills, including reading</p>

comprehension, critical thinking, and written expression, while fostering a deeper appreciation of the text.

Summer 2: In Summer 2, the Goldfinches will be learning about Around the World in 80 Days. As part of our work, the children will be writing about different countries and exploring their unique cultures. We will immerse ourselves in a variety of countries through experiences such as tasting traditional foods, listening to music, and taking part in themed activities, helping to bring global learning to life in a meaningful and engaging way.

There are opportunities throughout Summer 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

Maths;

Summer 1: In Maths, the Goldfinches will be exploring the concept of measurement through a range of hands-on, child-led activities. As part of this, we will be visiting the park, where children will have the opportunity to compare and measure natural objects, such as finding big and small sticks in the forest area.

Summer 2: In Maths, the Goldfinches will be learning about statistics. As part of this, we will visit the country park to locate and collect a range of natural items. The children will then work together to create large, whole-group tables on the ground using the items they have gathered. These practical activities will support their understanding of how to collect, organise, and interpret data in a fun and engaging way.

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

Summer 1: In The World Around Me, the Goldfinches will be exploring the concepts of light and shade through practical, hands-on activities. The children will investigate how light behaves by creating shadow puppets, using torches, and experimenting with coloured sheets to observe changes to the light source. These activities will help develop their understanding of scientific concepts in an engaging and interactive way.

Summer 2: In this topic, the Goldfinches will be exploring the theme of transport. They will learn about how people travel in different countries and cultures, and will have the opportunity to experience a range of transport methods themselves. As part of this, the children will be travelling by bus, taking a train journey, and exploring other forms of transport, helping to bring their learning to life through real-world experiences.

My Movement - PE

We will continue to have weekly PE sessions with James Collington to focus on PE targets and a variety of movement. This term in PE, the Goldfinches will focus on Net Games (Tennis) and Functional Movement (Fitness and Athletics/Sports Day preparation). They will continue developing fundamental movement skills, particularly striking, jumping, throwing, balancing, and co-ordination. Sessions will also reinforce rules, routines, and co-operative competition, helping the children prepare for both gameplay and upcoming athletic events.

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



Myself - PSHE

Summer 1: In Summer 1, the Goldfinches will be focusing on appropriate touch and learning how to keep their bodies safe. We will be using a sensory story to sensitively explore the important themes of consent and privacy. These activities will help the children to develop an understanding of personal boundaries and the importance of respecting themselves and others in a safe and supportive environment.

Summer 2: In Summer 2, the Goldfinches will be exploring how to take care of our environment. They will be learning about the importance of recycling and the everyday choices we can make to help protect our planet. This learning will be supported through a sensory story, helping the children to engage with these important themes in an interactive and meaningful way.

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: Encourage your child to read at home by sharing books together or spotting and reading words in the community, such as signs, labels, and items in shops.

My Thinking: Head into your garden or local park and encourage your child to find and compare items of different sizes, such as sticks, leaves, or stones.

Myself: Support your child in taking care of the planet by helping with recycling, composting food waste, or reusing items creatively at home.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on palmerda@birchwoodschoo.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 final term and look forward to seeing the progress the Goldfinches can make.

Daisy Palmer
Class Teacher