



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

Well Lane Danbury Chelmsford CM3 4AB

Telephone: 01245 224994 Fax: 01245 224673

Email: [admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs C Gooding BA (Hons), PGCE, MA (Ed), NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

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Dear Parents,

## Learning in Goldfinch Class Autumn Term 2021

Welcome to Class Goldfinch. I hope you all had a restful summer break. Mrs Rush is our class LSA and is in every morning and on a Thursday afternoon.

As the children return to a 'new normal' the first few days have been spent establishing new routines and settling the children in.

We have discussed what helps us to feel safe, happy and able to learn well at school and we have put our ideas into a Class Code of conduct.

During this term our topic is titled 'Remember Me' and we will be learning about significant individuals from the past. The question we will be looking to answer is, 'Why are they famous?' and 'What impact did their achievements have? The children have recorded their thoughts on this already and we shall be revisiting the question throughout the topic to see if their opinions have changed! We shall also be looking at how life has changed over different periods of time and in the second half of the term, the children will learn about Remembrance Day.

In English, we shall look at stories that are in familiar settings, traditional tales and stories by significant authors. The poetry we study will also have a theme of rhyme and repetition. Non-fiction writing this term will begin with reports when the children will have the opportunity to write about a marvellous machine. I am sure they will be very inventive and creative! Later in the term, we shall look at persuasive writing, which will involve some invitations and posters linked to our study of traditional tales and our history topic.

### Reading

I would also like to encourage all children to read to someone at home, every night for about 10 minutes, as this is invaluable and vital to your child's learning. If you could initial their home-school link book or write a comment to show your child has read this will help us to praise your child in school. Each time you record that your child has read to an adult at home, your child's diary is stamped. If your child reads 3 or more times a week they receive a reading sticker. The stickers are awarded on Fridays. At the end of the term, those children that have received a sticker every week will receive a special reading certificate to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work.

For those children in Year Two, it is important to discuss the text with your child when hearing them read. This will help develop their comprehension skills.

The children will be given dedicated time to change their books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This term we are focusing on the correct letter formation. This will enable children in Year Two to begin following our school handwriting scheme set of joined letter patterns.



## Maths

Maths this term will focus on place value, number, addition and subtraction. These foundations will then be embedded throughout the year. The children will develop their understanding of number and explore different ways to represent the numbers that they are working with. An Infant Maths booklet will be shared with you this term so you are able to see ways of recording that your child will be taught and this will then enable you to support them at home too.

## History

Our history learning will focus on the lives of significant people who contributed to national and international achievements. This will include the first aeroplane flight!

## Geography

This will be linked to our History topic and the children will be looking at maps, atlases and globes.

## Science

We shall be investigating materials in Science. The children will learn the names of different materials and their properties and then identify the uses of these materials in everyday objects and the properties that make them suitable. We will also look at how materials used to make different machines have changed as technology has developed.

## Design Technology

The children will investigate how to join materials and create a moving picture. They will also use junk modelling materials to design and build a model, which they will then evaluate.

## Art

We will be experimenting with a variety of media: pencils, crayons, pastels, charcoal and chalk. The children enjoy doing this! We will be doing some sketching, silhouettes, looking at colour, shade and tone. We will be weaving using different materials to create a design for a hot air balloon.

## Computing

We will be looking at how to stay safe online, understanding the dangers and that children should seek help if necessary. From this, we will compose our own set of online safety rules for the class. We will also be looking at algorithms to program a floor turtle and discuss ways in which we use technology in our world.

## RE

This term we will be looking at Special People and Special places. We will incorporate learning about specific celebrations including their birthdays and Christmas. We will also be looking at places that are special to us; our homes, our school and the town we live in. We will look at Christianity and, how homes are a special place for families. Additional foci will be Judaism: Shabbat, Sikh naming ceremonies, Hinduism: Puja, Divali and Buddhism: Buddha in the home. These lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons with Ms Middleton.

## PSHE & C

We will be looking at the following headings over this term.

### Relationships

**Families and Friendships** - Making friends; feeling lonely and getting help.

**Safe Relationships** - Managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour.

**Respecting ourselves and others** - Recognising things in common and differences; playing and working cooperatively, sharing opinions.

### Music

Mrs Long teaches Music every Thursday morning. In the first half of the Autumn term the children will be creating rhythm patterns and composing music inspired by inventions. They will also learn about the composers Firsova and Ginastera.

After the half term, they will respond to music by the composers, Desplat and Anderson. Finally, they will learn traditional and new songs for Christmas.



## French

This is taught on a Thursday morning. This term the themes are 'Tell me a story' and 'Sporting Life'.

## Class Routines

Our PE days are **Mondays and Thursdays**, so children will need to bring their shorts, jogging trousers, PE sweatshirt, a t-shirt and trainers on these days. PE kits should be in a drawstring bag. Please remember earrings must be removed for PE lessons and that long hair needs to be tied back every day please. Children will need their outdoor PE kit for their Thursday lessons. It is helpful if your child has a separate bag inside their PE bag to put their shoes in. **Please ensure your child has a spare pair of socks kept in their PE bag and that all PE kit is clearly named.**

Can I also remind you that their book bag and PE kit needs to be in school every day.

The children have the opportunity and are encouraged to have a drink of water in class after each playtime. Please check that your child's water bottle is clearly named.

Let's presents will take place on Wednesday afternoons. Your child's allocated dates for this term were given in a separate letter. Any resources, e.g. PowerPoints for these can be e-mailed to the Class G e-mail. [classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk)

**All children** will have their spellings tested on **Fridays**. Spelling books are sent home on Fridays and need to be returned to school on a Monday morning. Common exception words will be tested before the end of each half term but these will not be tested on the same day as the weekly spelling test.

This term, once every three weeks the following tasks/challenges will be set. A Athletics challenge will be set for your child, this will focus on consolidating and extending your child's current learning. Phonics task/challenge on Bug Club. Maths game - the children will take home a maths game which will reinforce different areas of the maths curriculum. Please look out for details in your child's reading diary. If you are unable to access the internet at home please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

The children in Year Two have been given login details so they can access Times Table Rock Stars. These will be set to encourage your child to learn the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times-tables.

Mathletics Challenge
Phonics challenge on Bug Club
Maths Game

If you have any concerns, queries or information to share, please leave a message at the school office and I will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. Alternatively, you can use our Class G e-mail, which is checked every day or, include a note in your child's reading diary as these are checked daily by staff.

Next week, letters will be sent home containing the information that we would have usually shared at our Welcome to Year One and Welcome to Year Two meetings. These would normally have occurred in the Summer Term. I hope you will find these helpful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss D Johnston  
Class teacher

