Year 2 Newsletter
Autumn Term 1 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back! We are very excited to be starting the school year with Goldfinch and Chaffinch class. This half term the children will consolidate and build upon many of the skills they developed in Year 1. In Maths, the children will be focusing on place value and in English, the fundamentals of writing. In Science, the children's first topic is entitled 'Growing and Changing' and this links to the national curriculum area of 'Animals Including Humans'.

Our theme for Autumn 1 is '**Who am I and Who am I becoming?**' Our foundation subjects will cover areas related to this theme. Please see more information below.

As readers and writers…

In English lessons we will be looking at Sandra Dieckmann text '*Leaf*'. The children will engage and empathise with the story and they will explore themes and issues from the text. The children will explore the events from different viewpoints, and they will write in role; exploring and developing empathy for a character.

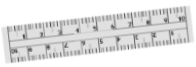
The teaching of reading continues with daily work focusing on VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, predictions, explanation, retrieval and summary). As part of our first unit, we will be reading the non-fiction text, 'Why are oceans important?' and the poem, 'Clouds'.

As theologians…

This year the children will be learning about Judaism. Our unit title is 'Creation' and our big question is 'Who am I? Who am I becoming?'

As part of our first unit, the children will understand that everyone is entitled to different beliefs, and they will spend time discovering who they are becoming and who they want to be. How do different Abrahamic religions explain the beginning of the world and what we learn about them?

As mathematicians…



Place value

In our first Maths unit of the year, the children will explore numbers to 20, count objects by making 10s, recognise tens and ones and use place value charts. To develop a deeper understanding of numbers, the children will partition, position, order and compare numbers to 100.

Addition and subtraction

The children will begin the addition and subtraction unit exploring number bonds up to 10. It is essential the children learn number bonds as this will ensure mathematical fluency when solving equations. They will then explore fact families and related facts. The children will add and subtract from and across 10.

It is vital that your child learns their 2, 5 and 10 times tables off by heart by the end of year 2.

As scientists…

This half term, the children will take part in our 'Growing and Changing' unit. To begin with, the children will explore the basic needs for survival. Then, they will understand that animals produce offspring through eggs or live young. Together, we will look at the human life cycle and we will understand the importance of exercise and healthy, balanced diets on growth, repair and development.

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As linguists…
We are starting the learn the words and symbols for the animals of the Chinese calendar as well as refreshing our memory of what we learnt in Mandarin last year.

As artists…
In our discrete art lessons, the children will be drawing and exploring dry materials with which they can draw. The children will apply their learning in their thematic lessons in the study of Picasso.

As musicians…
The children will show pulse through physical movement (walking, clapping, nodding etc.) and they will repeat and perform short rhythmic patterns, keeping in time with a steady pulse/beat. The children will listen to a variety of both live and recorded music for the purpose of enjoyment and development of understanding of musical concept and they will learn the meaning of dynamics and tempo. Finally, the children will recognise how graphic notation can represent sound.

As geologists…
Our Geography lessons will cover: 'Where is my academy?' First, the children will learn key facts about the area where our academy is located and then they will use maps to find and plot Oasis Ryelands. Children mainly focus on the core concept of location and place. Looking at where an area is and what this means. Children will start locally and build on this study to cover areas less familiar to them studying regions across England, the UK, Europe and the world.

As good citizens…
In PSHE, the children will explore our half term theme, 'Who am I and who am I becoming?' They will identify groups they belong to, and they will learn about bullying, feelings and online safety. We will also ensure we are respecting different viewpoints.

As historians…
The children will be exploring Oasis Academy Ryeland's history, The children will recount changes that have occurred in their own lives, they will place events and artefacts on a timeline and they will label timelines with appropriate words and phrases. They will also recognise similarities and differences, observe or handle evidence, orally explain the passing of time and explore the idea of significance in relation to places locally.

As athletes…
Fitness and healthy lifestyles
In our fitness lessons, the children will explore cardiovascular endurance, upper and lower body fitness and speed and agility.
Object control
Children will explore the key concepts of object control independently and they will repeat object control concepts with some consistency. They will begin to develop a basic understanding of tactics and they will be encouraged to select appropriate skills and actions linked to their activity.

As computer whizzes…
Computing will cover E-safety and computer science. Our E-safety unit will focus on online reputation and in computer science, the children will be creating and debugging algorithms. They will also experiment with block-based programming on www.code.org.

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Notices and reminders

- Please ensure that your child is reading daily and recording this in their reading records.
- Please encourage the use of Sumdog and ED/Maths shed at home. This resource will help to develop your child's mathematical fluency.
- Homework will be set every Friday and needs to be handed in by the following Wednesday at the latest.
- Please ensure that your child is learning the weekly spellings. Spellings will include Year 2 common exception words and spellings that include specific spelling rules, taught as part of the Year 2 curriculum.
- PE is on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Goldfinch, and Tuesdays and Thursdays for Chaffinch. The children need to **wear their PE kits to school** on the appropriate days.
- This year we will be continuing Soft Starts on Monday-Thursday where the classroom doors will be open from 8:40am for the children to come in.
- On Fridays the doors will open at 08:50 due to staff briefing.

Thank you so much for your support!

Year 2 Team

Y2 Chaffinch Class Teacher: Miss Turner (Phase Leader)
Y2 Goldfinch Class Teacher: Miss Bailey
Y2 Support and cover: Miss Brown, Mrs Brooks, Miss Champion & Mr Kabeya

Attendance:

It is important that your child's attendance remain above 97% so that they do not fall behind in their learning.