



Friday 8th September 2023

Hello and welcome to all families and children in Hedgehog Class! Please find below a bit of information about various things which happen in Hedgehogs ☺

Welcome

It is lovely to see you all again; we hope that you had a fun and sunshine-filled summer holiday. A big "well done" to our new Reception children and to the new pupils we have welcomed in Years 1 and 2 also. You have all settled in beautifully and together we have enjoyed a great first week of school filled with chatting, playing, reading, counting and painting.

Welcome also to our new Teaching Assistant Miss Wragg who joins us in Hedgehog Class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, working alongside Mrs McGuire and Miss Butterworth to support the teaching and learning of our pupils. Miss Wragg has little ones of her own and is particularly looking forward to helping our new Receptions to settle in. Mrs P Ridgeway, Mrs Hix and Mrs Richardson will continue to support Hedgehogs too, providing continuity for our pupils.

Reading and Homework

All children have a book bag which should be brought into school each day and stored in their drawer. If they haven't already, each child will soon bring home a Reading Record and two reading books to look at with you at home. Reception start off with picture books which we encourage families to enjoy sharing and chatting about together, alongside picture cards with sets of 10 "high frequency" words which we'd like you to help your child to learn to read by sight. Y1 and 2 bring home one book linked to the current week's Phonics- so it should contain sounds that your child is already familiar with- plus a "reading for pleasure" book which is more story-based and which they may need a little more help with sounding out. We ask that you please write a supportive comment and sign your name in your child's Reading Record each time you share a book with them so that we can see when pupils are ready for something new.

Staff change books on Mondays and Thursdays- please ask your child to tuck their book inside their Record and place it in the green box in the classroom on these mornings. Looking at the same book several times can be great for building confidence and reinforcing important skills.

Spelling and sound work will continue to be sent home on a termly basis- next week your child will bring home an exercise book and a sheet with all the spellings/ homework tasks for the term. **Please help your child to learn or complete these activities each week, then please send the book in at the end of term for us to have a look at.** Y2s will have an informal spelling test once a week to check understanding.

Topic

Our new Topic is "My Family History", and we will enjoy learning all about life in the past, exploring the differences between life now and life for our grandparents when we compare



homes, gardens, toys, books and games. We have a fab new Home Corner and outdoor "Garden Centre" role play area to enjoy too. As part of our Topic we will learn about chronological timelines, so **please send in 3 photographs of your child if you are able to- one of them as a baby, one as a toddler, and one which is recent.** We are going to talk about these and put them in the right order ☺ We will also explore seasonal changes, setting up a class Nature Table and getting ready for our Harvest Festival in church by learning a lovely song with actions. Do send in any little bits of autumn treasure you find with your child (leaves, acorns, conkers etc). A Topic Web with more information about our Topic will be sent home soon.

"Reading Together" afternoons will begin next week in class. These take place from 2.45 pm until hometime every Tuesday afternoon; parents and carers are warmly invited to join us with a favourite book for a shared quiet reading session (smaller siblings welcome too!)

Talk, Listen and Ask

We are also looking forward to starting our wonderful "Talk, Listen and Ask" sessions which have been moved back to Monday afternoons. This is a bit like Show & Tell; we encourage children to bring something into school that is linked to our Topic; for example, a book, special toy, model or piece of artwork. The chosen child shares what they have brought in with the rest of the class, and the other children are encouraged to look and listen carefully before asking questions. As well as being fun, it is a great activity for developing Speaking & Listening skills and increasing vocabulary. Below is a rota so that you know when it will be your child's turn to bring something in. You will see that we have split the children into twos and threes, and please note that some pupils are not scheduled until after the half term holiday at the end of October, when our Topic will change to "Pole to Pole":

Date	Children
Monday 18 th September	Jesse and Louis
Monday 25 th September	Charlie, Eli and Ted
Monday 2 nd October	Jacob and Leo
Monday 9 th October	Grace, Harry and Thora
Monday 16 th October	Phoebe, Tiggy and Eva
Monday 23 rd October	Bertie and Alex
Monday 30th October	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 6 th November	Elizabeth and Millie
Monday 13 th November	Mani and Gus
Monday 20 th November	Ella and Woody
Monday 27 th November	Rex and Rose
Monday 4 th December	Lily, Lucy and Joshua
Monday 11 th December	Freddie and Ace

If you have any questions or queries at all then please do not hesitate to come and speak to one of us- we are usually around the playground at the end of the school day ☺

With all best wishes, Hannah McGuire, Georgia Butterworth and Chelsea Wragg

