September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Hedgehogs class! We are very much looking forward to teaching your children and

watching them flourish as the year progresses.

# Hedgehogs Class Team

As well as myself, we are joined in Hedgehogs this year by Mrs Murtagh, our class Teaching Assistant. On Wednesday mornings during my planning allowance, the class will have a lesson taught by Mrs Murtagh and also a PE lesson with a specialist coach.

# What is it like here?

Our Geography topic this term is ***‘What is it like here?’.*** We will be focussing on aerial maps and features of our area and school. Our learning will also include going on a village walk to the local church and mapping out the route we take. In English, we begin the term by looking at the book The Three Little Pigs, where we will be re-telling the story with actions and focussing on rehearsing our sentences orally before writing them down. We will then go on to read Martha Maps It Out, where our focus will be on using labels, lists and captions. In science we begin our learning about materials. We will look at the properties of different materials and investigate which material will be strong enough to stop the wolf blowing the little pigs’ house down.

# Reading

We will give your child a home reading pack. This will contain their reading record, a book to read at home which will be based on their reading level, following our Little Wandle phonics reading scheme and a library book chosen by your child. They will need to bring their reading folders to school with them **each day**. We will aim to change reading books on a **Monday** and library books on a **Tuesday**. We cannot replace library books if they are not brought back each week! Please encourage your child to read at home every day and make a note of the book they have read and any comments in their reading diary. We encourage you to read and re-read the books that children take home to increase their fluency as they begin to pick up any tricky words they found the first time reading. We are not able to look at your child’s reading record every day so please be aware that if you write a note to one of us in the diary we may not see this until we read with your child that week.

# Common Exception Word bookmarks

In Year 1 we have replaced the Key Word bookmarks used in Robins with a Common Exception Word bookmark. Common exception words are frequent words in reading and speaking that don't follow standard phonics rules and require learning by sight. These "tricky words" have unusual spellings or letter combinations, making them difficult to sound out. Every term we will add a book mark to the back of reading diaries for children to practise reading. These **will not be tested** on but it would be great if you could practise these with your child after they have read their reading book. Recognising these words by sight will help children to read more smoothly.

# Google Classroom

We are currently creating Google classroom log in accounts for Hedgehogs. There will be an additional letter about this coming over the next couple of weeks.

# Homework

Homework will be printed out and given to children every Friday. It will also be sent out via Google Classroom (once logins are created) and will begin on the 26th September.

The homework will include a summary of our maths learning that week and also a list of words related to our phonics learning. This homework is optional for Year 1 but we do advise that if you can support your child with this and help embed their weekly learning that would be great!

**Edshed**

After October half term we will create EdShed accounts for Hedgehogs. Each week, there will be a set of spelling words to learn uploaded onto SpellingShed. When this is finalised, we will send out instructions and your child’s login details will be stuck into your child’s reading record.

# PE

Your child will need to come dressed in their PE kit on a **Monday** and **Wednesday.** Please ensure that your child has shorts and a hat for warmer weather and for when it’s colder then tracksuit bottoms and a jumper will be required. Any earrings will need to be taken out or covered with medical tape which should be kept in their bags.

# Forest School

Forest School takes place on a Thursday 1-3pm. Children are in groups A or B and go alternative weeks. Children need to bring in a **named** plastic bag for their forest school session for any muddy / spare clothes to go into. **No snacks** are needed.

# Morning snacks

Fruit will be provided **every morning** for each child in Year 1. If your child would like to bring in an alternative/additional snack then this **must** be a healthy snack. For example, a piece of fruit, vegetables or crackers.

# Water bottles

Please could all children bring into school a **labelled** water bottle as it is important that they can access water throughout the school day. Please remember water bottles should only contain **water**.

# Bookbags

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide space for additional bags in our cloakrooms. This means your child should only bring their school bookbag and **no rucksacks.**

# Help and Support

If you would like to come in and help and support us it would be greatly appreciated! Reading with everyone each week is very difficult due to time restraints. If you are able to give an hour or two of your time, it really takes the pressure off and helps us to hear every child read each week. If you would like to help out with Forest School we are always in need of an extra pair of hands! If you are interested please contact the school office.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me or the school office.

Many thanks,

Miss Emily Faull

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