

HEDGEHOG CLASS NEWSLETTER

Term 1 - September 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting new school year in Hedgehog Class. We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and are ready for a year full of learning and fun! We will be sending out a 'Hedgehog Class Newsletter' every term to outline what we are doing and to keep you up to date with your child's learning. We have a lot to look forward to this year with plenty of engaging learning experiences to stimulate and inspire your child's imagination. This term our topic is called:



Superheroes



'It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me.' – Batman

This term we are taking all our young superheroes on an adventure they will never forget! Whilst saving Shorne from evil villains such as Professor Slime, we will be transforming ourselves into the most incredible superheroes, designing our own superhero outfits and describing our special super powers by writing descriptive sentences. Children will have the opportunity to talk about their special qualities and will be learning all about the human body and the five senses, as well as why they are so important and how they help us. We will be identifying mystery items using our senses and also looking at different foods that superheroes eat to keep their senses and special powers sharp! This will include making our own super food recipe!

Not only will we be studying fantasy superheroes but we will be learning about real life heroes such as firemen, policemen, doctors and nurses. We will be looking carefully at how they help us and what makes them heroes, as well as learning about heroes from the past such as Florence Nightingale.

Throughout this topic, we will be completing a variety of writing tasks such as fact files, fantasy stories and comic strips. This will allow children to practise writing short sentences in a range of contexts whilst focussing on neat handwriting, using finger spaces and capital letters and full stops. We will also be introducing children to nouns, verbs and adjectives to ensure our writing is as exciting and interesting as it can be.



Other areas of the Curriculum



In **Maths** we are going to be working on numbers and place value, number bonds to 10, and addition and subtraction. We will be using a variety of resources to support our counting and number work as well as developing and improving our mental arithmetic strategies.

In **Phonics** we will be recapping all Phase 2 and 3 sounds and tricky words. We will be developing our understanding of the Phase 5 sounds by reading and writing them in a variety of contexts. Phase 5 tricky words will be displayed around the classroom and we will read these daily. Phonics will be taught to your child in many different ways; songs, games, written activities, reading activities and practical activities.

PE will be on a **Thursday** afternoon this term and will be taught by Mrs. Hunt. **Please be aware that on your child's PE day they must come to school dressed in their PE kit.** They will remain in their kit throughout the day and return home in them. This term we will be learning a variety of superhero dance movements to space music and choreographing our own sequences and dances in groups.

Adults in Hedgehog Class

- I, Miss Carter, will be teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Mrs. Pitcher will be teaching on Friday. Mrs Pitcher is our Higher Level Teaching Assistant and will also cover my PPA time on a Wednesday morning.
- Mrs Hunt will also be our Teaching Assistant on a Wednesday.
 - Mrs South will be working with us on a Friday.



Home Learning and Spellings



Home Learning will now be completed online via Google Classrooms rather than the folders we have used in the past. I will be setting **English/Topic** and **Maths** on a Thursday and they will both be due the following Thursday.

Your child's first pieces of Home Learning will set on Thursday 17th September.

Due to the current situation, we are spending some time making detailed assessments of your child's phonics, reading, writing and maths abilities. We will be setting spellings to learn at home after half term. I will send out some further information about spellings during Term 2.



Reading

Reading is incredibly important throughout Key Stage 1. Reading at home every day, even for 5 or 10 minutes will have such a positive impact on your child's reading progress. In Hedgehog class we do lots of work on reading during daily phonics lessons, English and 1:1 reading with every child at least once a week.

How will reading books be set and monitored in Year 1?

We will be continuing to set your child's reading books via Rising Stars the online reading scheme. Due to the current situation, I will be assessing the children throughout the first term, so it may be a couple of weeks before your child is assessed. In the meantime, you will see that your child been assigned a **new set** of five reading books. This has been done using their Rabbit Class username. Please note, I am in the process of updating their usernames and transferring them over to 'Hedgehog Class'.

Next week, your child will receive their **Reading Record** book and you will find a sticker on the inside stating their **new username**. When your child reads at home with you please write this in their Reading Record book. When your child comes into school they will show their reading record book to an adult, **every morning**, and if they have read they will receive **3 Monster Points**. Monster Points are given to the children throughout the school day to reward many forms of good and outstanding behaviour. I will explain this in more detail during the Welcome Meeting video.

When transferred over to Hedgehog Class, with their new username, your child will be **set five new books**. Once **ALL** five books have been read, please write in their Reading Record book '**all five books complete**', or something similar, so Mrs Pitcher and I can set the next five books online.

It is also very important that children get to choose what they would like to read so that they sustain an interest in reading. Encouraging your child to read other texts at home or whilst you are out can be a fun way to enjoy reading with your child.

Information about Year 1

- Your child will continue to have their own tray at the side of the classroom where they can keep their school book bag.
- Your child is allowed to bring in a named water bottle containing water, which they will keep in the classroom. They are also allowed to bring in a mid-morning healthy snack. Please provide this in a bag or box, clearly, labelled with their name.
- The drinks trays and morning snack tray will be kept by the back door. We will remind children to remove their drinks and snacks from their book bags on a daily basis.
- As our topic is 'Superheroes', we will be having a 'Superhero of the Week' every Friday, beginning Friday 11th, for outstanding behaviour, effort and achievements. That child will receive a special prize and have their name displayed on the 'Superhero of the Week' display, along with a piece of their work we think is exceptionally special.
- I will be posting a '**Hedgehog Class - Welcome Meeting**' video for parents to Google Classroom on **Tuesday 15th September** - so please look out for that!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the mental wellbeing of all of the children is our top priority. There are lots of changes happening at the moment and your child may feel nervous or anxious. However, it is key that we remain positive and continue to work together to ensure that their transition back into school is a happy and enjoyable experience. We are thoroughly looking forward to enjoying our first term together in Hedgehog Class!

Miss Carter and Mrs Pitcher

