

Autumn Term



Dear children and parents of Year 1,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. I am so excited to be a member of the Wickhambrook family and to be a part of your children's learning journey this year.

You will notice that the learning has moved up a step from Reception. We have a more formal curriculum and the children spend increasingly more time working independently at their desks. However, the classroom still has an element of the play-based learning they are familiar with from their time in Robin class, which will hopefully help the transition into Year 1, especially in this Autumn term.

I am passionate about your children's wellbeing and helping them to understand and start to regulate their feelings. We promote open discussion and the children know they can talk to me or another grown up in the class at any time, for any reason. We aim to remain in a calm state ready for learning and we do this with deep breathing, and a short meditation session after every lunch break. During these few minutes, we play relaxing music and I read a short child-appropriate visualisation, such as floating on a magic carpet, or walking through a woodland. This is a skill to learn in itself, but will really help the children to relax and be ready for learning after a busy lunchtime.

We will also be practicing some routines this term to promote positive behaviour in the classroom and in the school setting. This includes learning the appropriate speaking volume for different situations using a set of animal reminders. So, if you hear your children speaking about 'Silent Snail', 'Whispering Whale', 'Partner Parrot' or 'Loud and Proud Lion' – this is what they are referencing!

I look forward to keeping you updated with all your children's achievements and hopefully helping to create a warm, positive and hard-working classroom for the forthcoming year.

Below you will find some details on the learning we will be covering this term:

English

We have some lovely texts to base our English learning on this term, as listed below:

- Beegu
- Where the Wild Things Are.
- The Storm Whale.
- The Owl and the Pussycat – Edward Lear.
- Aesop's Fables – The Boy Who Cried Wolf.

Our deep dives into these texts will be the basis of our English reading and writing work this term, and they will also provide us with some new grammatical skills and rich new vocabulary to learn.

Reading






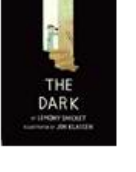
We encourage children to read as often as possible to develop their fluency, pace and love of reading. We will send a book home with the children each week, changing it on a Monday and/or a Friday when they have finished reading them. Please read at home as often as you can; repetition really does help your child's learning of tricky words and

fluency. Please use the reading record to record whatever and whenever your child reads at home. If you are able to send your child's book in each day we can also record when your child reads with an adult in school, as this takes place throughout the week. We aim to read with each child individually at least once a week.

We also have a daily 'Love of Reading' story time every afternoon. This year the children are able to vote for which story they would like to hear each day from a choice of two books.

Please see below some recommended books for you to read at home with your children in addition to the school books. These are all available to borrow from Kedington library, or purchase from Amazon. Please do record in your child's reading record if you read any of these books and I will add a special sticker for each book read, with a 'Love of Reading' certificate if you complete them all!

Recommended reading books for home

	<p>A Dark, Dark Tale by Ruth Brown</p> <p>A visually stunning story a black cat's journey through a spooky wood and a strange house. There's a gripping ending.</p>
	<p>I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen</p> <p>A bear has lost his hat. And he wants it back. Everyone he asks says they haven't seen it, except a deer who provides a hint of hope. Great illustrations and ideal for reading aloud. A great book for year 1 children to read aloud.</p>
	<p>King of the Classroom by Derrick Barnes and Vanessa Brantley-Newton</p> <p>An inspiring and confidence-building picture book that follows a boy going to school for the first time. Ideal for reading and sharing with children starting a new school, class, or activity. The artwork – with hints of Basquiat, is inclusive and could be a useful source for display ideas.</p>
	<p>Oof Makes an Ouch! by Duncan Beedle</p> <p>When Oof – who is still learning to talk – starts to make up new and interesting words, his best friend Pib gets jealous in this vibrantly illustrated picture book. Great for reluctant readers, mixed ability groups and performing with a class, with lots of impetus ideas for story writing, PSHE links and wall displays.</p>
	<p>Stanley's Stick by Neale Layton and John Hegley</p> <p>Stanley finds a stick. But it's not just any stick – with his stick, Stanley can do anything and go anywhere. Great for stimulating your child's imagination.</p>
	<p>The Dark by Lemony Snicket</p> <p>In this beautifully illustrated story about overcoming fears, Laszlo comes back from a journey never again afraid of the dark. A ideal year 1 book to help develop ideas for children's creative writing.</p>

Maths

We are continuing to follow Maths Mastery for our Maths learning this year. This is a great way of working; encouraging discussions and group work and using a range of equipment to support your child's learning. The lessons are practical and fast paced.

During the first half of the term we are focusing on numbers within 10, addition and subtraction within 10 and shapes and patterns. We then move on to numbers within 20 and addition and subtraction within 20 during the second half of the term. Within the number work the children will be counting, reading, writing, identifying, representing, doubling and halving numbers, and using comparative language. Within addition and subtraction, the children will be making combinations and partitioning, representing and using number bonds, reading, writing, interpreting, representing and solving one-step problems. Within shapes and patterns the children will learn to recognise common 2-D and 3-D shapes and describe their position, direction and movement.

Curriculum Subjects

In **Science** our topics for Autumn term are Seasons and Weather, Day to Night and Introduce Plants – evergreen and deciduous tree.

These are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

SEASONS AND WEATHER / DAY TO NIGHT / INTRODUCE PLANTS

1. What are the four seasons?
2. What is the weather link in Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer?
3. Why does day become night?
4. What makes a tree?
5. What trees live around my school?
6. What's the difference between trees

In **Geography** our topics for Autumn term are Continents, Oceans, UK Countries, Capital Cities and Surrounding Seas

These are the 5 main questions our study will focus on:

CONTINENTS / OCEANS / UK COUNTRIES / CAPITAL CITIES AND SURROUNDING SEAS

1. What are the 7 continents of the world?
2. What are the 5 oceans of the world?
3. What are the 4 countries of the United Kingdom?
4. What are the capital cities of the four countries of the United Kingdom?
5. What seas surround the United Kingdom

In **History** our topic for Autumn term is Changes within Living Memory

These are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

CHANGES WITHIN LIVING MEMORY

1. What are the stages of my life?
2. What did I play with when I was a baby?
3. What did I play with when I was 1 or 2 years old?
4. What did I play with when I was 3 or 4 years old?
5. What did I play with when I started school?
6. What changes have happened in my lifetime?

Other subject overview

In RE we will be learning about Christianity, specifically the creation story in the first half of the term, and Christmas following that. We have a lovely PSHE programme with the topics 'Being me in my World' and 'Celebrating Difference' for this term. In Computing, we start with 'What is a Computer?' before moving onto 'Word Processing'. And finally, in music we will be firstly be learning about pulse and rhythm with an 'All About Me' theme, and then classical music with an 'Animals' theme. As a music graduate myself there will also be lots of music in the classroom alongside this.

PE routines & PE kit expectations

For this term, Hedgehog class will have **double PE** on a Wednesday. One of these sessions will be outdoors with Premier Sport and the second session will be gymnastics in the school hall.

Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy. We recommend children have shorts and t-shirt for gymnastics, as they will get warm inside, then a tracksuit they can put on over the top as they move outdoors for their second session.

Playtimes

Where possible all playtimes will be on the field, we have a wide range of new equipment for them to enjoy and the space for them to run around and have fun. As the weather changes it is essential the children have an outdoor pair of trainers or wellies, which they can leave in school. A coat for wet weather and waterproof trousers or a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms they can slip over the top of their school clothes to avoid getting their uniform dirty. We have new welly racks for all classrooms, this will allow for us to store all outdoor shoes neatly.

Homework

The only homework we ask the children to do this term in Year 1 is reading. We encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school.

If you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. You can message me on class dojo or by email at khurst@wickhambrookschoo.co.uk. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Hedgehog Class and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Mrs Hurst