

Hedgehogs Classroom News



Spring 2021



Happy New Year!

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas holiday and are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead. I'm looking forward to the days getting longer and the weather getting warmer and dryer, and the field drying up and being less muddy!

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely and very generous cards and gifts you gave me for Christmas. I was very grateful for your generosity and kind thoughts. Thank you.

This term we are going to welcome Miss Byford to our class, a trainee teacher in her final placement. I am very much looking forward to working with her over the next two terms. I am sure you and the children will join me in giving her a big Wickhambrook welcome!

At the time of writing this newsletter we were planning to be back in school together on Wednesday. Obviously, things have changed since then, and we are in another lockdown. Schools have been closed to children except for those from key worker families. However, our overall plan for learning will remain the same, with a timetable of weekly lessons being given that cover all the elements outlined below.

Hopefully it will be safe enough for us to be together again after half term, but until then please refer to Showbie for work, videos and support.

What will this term look like?

In terms of plans for this term we will continue with the national curriculum and our schools long term plan of teaching so that your child's learning is not halted. I will use videos and PowerPoints to explain the subject knowledge and the children will be expected to complete some independent work, just like they would if they were in school.

Zoom

There will be a zoom drop-in session for maths and English every day so that we can provide daily support. The children can come on and work with us online, ask for help with a specific question and then log off, log on and say hello so we can see how they're doing, or work independently at home. Please don't sit at home and worry, we're here to help.

Subject coverage

English

This term, as a school, we are going to start using the Unity Trust's English curriculum (CLUSP). We will focus on reading, writing and oracy skills through recounting from personal experiences, shape poems and calligrams, informal letters, poetry on the theme of nature, instructional



writing and stories with familiar settings. Where possible, our English work will help support the rest of the curriculum, for example we will be learning about poems about nature when we revisit our learning in Science about plants, and instructional writing when we are learning about food technology in DT. This joined up, cross curricular approach will have a huge benefit to the children's engagement and retention of information.

In Grammar, we will be focusing on composing sentences and punctuation, including full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, speech marks and ellipse. We will also focus on nouns, verbs, adjectives and alliteration.

In Year 1, our marking criteria focuses on the correct use of capital letters and full stops, letter formation, use of finger spaces between words and using phonics to work out tricky words. The children will be encouraged to focus on these elements in every piece of writing they do, and the marking will reflect this.

Reading

Children will receive a phone call each week from an adult at school and they will be asked to read a book from Oxford Owl at the same level they were reading in school. Please read at home as often as you can, repetition really does help your child's learning of tricky words. There will be a new fluency read sent home for Spring term. This term is a nonfiction text called 'Grow It Back'. I was very pleased to see such good progress in how many words a minute were being accurately read over time last term.



Maths

In Year 1 we will continue to follow maths mastery. This term we are focusing on time, exploring calculation strategies within 20 and numbers to 50 during the first half of the term and addition and subtraction within 20, fractions and measures: length and mass for the second half of the term.

Within these the children will be reading, writing and telling the time to o'clock and half past on an analogue clock, sequencing daily activities, modelling, explaining and choosing addition and subtraction strategies, representing, sequencing, exploring and comparing 2-digit numbers, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, describing and completing number patterns, illustrating, explaining and linking addition and subtraction equations, applying the 'make ten' strategy, using language to quantify and compare difference, identify $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a shape or object and quantity, comparing and measuring lengths and mass using cm and kg, doubling and halving.

This term we are also going to start using Times Table Rockstars. Look out for a letter explaining this, with your child's personal login details on – I'll add your individual letters and login details to a folder on Showbie. This is a great website that allows the children to practise and become fluent with their times tables. It is free to use and linked to the school account (it works in a similar way to Spelling Shed and allows me to log on and see how you are getting on). This will also be set for homework each week, moving from the 10 times tables to the 2s and 5s, and then combining them within a game.



Foundation Subjects

Science: Our focus this term is on 'Animals including humans'. Within this we will be focusing on 6 main questions: what an animal is, what types of animals



on the musical elements of listening and appraising, learning to sing, playing instruments, improvising, composing and performing. Look out on Showbie for your login to our home learning package on Charanga called YUMU – this will allow you to access the lessons we would use in school.

P.S.H.E: The children will be thinking about what helps them to stay healthy and what they can do with money this term. Each week the children will have time to think about key questions and do some writing, drawing and labelling of their ideas. We will also incorporate some online assemblies to this time – one will be an assembly from Mrs Tyzack, and one will be an online music assembly from Sing Up. All the links to these will be put on Showbie.



P.E: P.E. is on a Wednesday. This term we will concentrate on Dance and Gymnastics. It would also be great if you use your daily exercise time to get up and moving – go on a walk, play in the garden, have a dance session with Oti on CBeebies, do some yoga with cosmic yoga, go on a bike ride or a run. Whatever you do, moving about and getting your heart beating is the key!



Remember:

- Please check Showbie on a regular basis for information, work, videos and stories.
- There will be daily zooms for maths and English support. Have a look at the work set and if you feel like you would like some help or support, drop in during the session.

Here's to another fabulous – if slightly different - term!

Thank you

Mrs Hager 😊