



# Hedgehogs Term 3 Newsletter



## Happy New Year!

**Happy New Year and welcome back to school, we hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Thank you for your generous cards, gifts and Christmas wishes 😊**

### **This Terms Topic**

This term, we're taking our learning international in our topic 'Amazing A's'. We will be travelling through stories to the Arctic and the Antarctic, to Asia and to Africa. Along the way we will be learning which animals live there, what the landscape and home may look like and what may be eaten there.

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of February we will be celebrating the Lunar New Year. This will be a fun packed day where we will have a food tasting session. The children are welcome to dress in red or party clothes for the day. Please ensure to still dress warmly and wear suitable footwear for the day. We politely ask for a £1 donation, payable on Bromcom, to cover the costs of the food.

### **Drawing Club**

We have seen wonderful progress from all children in Drawing Club. Our Drawing Club focusses this term will be planned around our 'Amazing A's' topic.

We are going to be working hard at developing our codes to be more than letters and aim to write labels, words and captions to accompany our drawing. We will recall our letter sounds to segment a word to write and then blend the sounds for us to read it back. All our writing in Hedgehogs will be phonetically plausible – this means a word or spelling attempt makes sense based on the sound-to-letter rules (phonics) that have been taught, even if it is not the conventional or correct spelling.

### **RWI**

We are gaining confidence with our Set 1 Sounds and have been trying very hard to segment and blend to read and write. We assessed all children at the end of Term 2 and we'll continue to be split across two ability groups.

Mrs Munn's group will be focussing on consolidating the Set 1 sounds, oral blending two and three letter words, blending to read Green Word cards and using magnetic letters to spell.

Mrs Cousins/Mrs Donnell's group will be focusing on consolidating the Set 1 Special Friends (sh, ch, th, qu, ng, nk, ck, ff, ll, ss) and using them to read and spell, reading Green Words more speedily, and then move onto reading Ditty sheets. This group will also begin writing captions and short sentences based on the Ditty story they have read.

### **Maths**

This term we are really focusing on a deeper understanding of the number system. We will be counting larger amounts including arrangements that cannot be moved. We will be looking at how numbers can be arranged on dice, number frames and on our fingers. This will lead on to further exploration of basic but practical addition in the form of the part, part, whole method.

We will use and play games on number tracks to develop our ability to count on or back from a range of numbers. We will also be looking at the relationship between numbers on a track. For example, 4 and 5 are next to each other because there is only one space between them however 2 and 10 are far apart because there are 8 spaces between them.

We will continue to revise simple shapes and we will also be looking at measuring weight, length and capacity through direct comparison. Lastly, we will look at simple measurements of time by looking at how days and weeks are divided into different parts by the activities we do.

## Request for Resources

To support our 'Amazing A's' learning environment we would love to receive any donations such as:

- Books to borrow (fiction and non-fiction) which may relate to the continent we are exploring.
- Large boxes / cardboard sheets to create role play areas.
- Donations that would support our continuous provision:
  - Kitchen roll tubes
  - Shaving foam
  - Sheets of polystyrene
  - Cornflour
  - Hair gel

Thank you for your support.

### Tapestry

Thank you for signing up to and engaging with Tapestry. If you have not yet logged in, please come in after to school for us to help you.

Many of you have now added observations of days out and learning moments you have seen at home. We would love to see more observations from you as and when your child does something to WOW you! That could be a video of them reading at home, a photo of them writing, counting, weighing, recognising shapes etc. Home observations are very useful in the Early Years as we often get told "but they do it at home" so this is the perfect opportunity for you to show us. If you would like some support in using Tapestry then please let us know.

### Snacks!

Snacks seemed to be getting bigger towards the end of last term, which took the children a long time to eat resulting in them missing valuable Get Busy Time with their friends. A polite reminder that every child should have **one small** healthy snack and a water bottle at school every day. Please also ensure that your child's snack is in line with our school Snack Policy.

The children have access to their water bottles all day and we encourage them to drink regularly, many children refill their empty bottles after lunch. They are also offered a cup of water or milk at lunchtime.

## Home Learning

Each term we are uploading to Tapestry an optional Home Learning Bingo Card, as well as that, please find some ideas below about things you can practise at home;

### Maths;

- Counting and number recognition to 20 – look for numbers around the village on doors, buses, number plates and phone numbers
- Ordering numbers 1-20

### Literacy;

- Writing our names – focussing on a capital letter to start and lowercase for the following letters
- Writing the sounds we have learnt so far. Play Quick Write at home, you say a sound and your child has to write it as quickly as possible
- Segmenting and blending words to read and write. To read or write words children need to Fred Talk / stretch it out e.g. sh-o-p. Sometimes it is tricky to blend a word back together, at school we segment the word back to a child which sometimes helps them to blend.
- Red Word Bingo – Using the Red Words we'll be sending home, children to select 4 and write them down. You write a Red Word down for your child to read and if they have it on their Bingo card they can cross it off.

### Managing Self;

- Practise putting on our own coats, hats and gloves.
- Going to the toilet independently, wiping ourselves and washing our hands.

Please continue to develop your child's fine motor skills at home. This can include picking items up with tweezers or salad prongs (we like picking up pom poms with tweezers in class), opening and closing Tupperware pots, pulling open the Velcro on our book bags. There are plenty of ideas online to support fine motor skills.

### **Reading Books**

We will continue sending home Reading for Pleasure books from our book corner every Monday and Thursday in your child's plastic wallet. These are books for you to read at home to your child to develop their love of reading.

On Thursdays this term, we will also be sending home either a reading activity, RWI Green Word Cards, a Ditty sheet or a levelled book for your child to complete at home. The activities and books are suitable for your child's current phonic knowledge based on how they did on their RWI assessment last term.

We'll continue to send home RWI video links via Tapestry to help support your child's reading at home. Watching these and going through the letter sounds (even if it's just a few letter sounds a day) can have a huge benefit.

**Thanks for taking the time to read our Newsletter – Any questions or queries please come and see either Mrs Cousins, Mrs Donnell, Mrs Munn or Mrs Cook.**