



Hedgehogs Term 4 Newsletter



Welcome to Term 4

We are now half way through the school year and we have a busy Term 4 ahead of us! We have many whole school Special events in this term such as Science Week (2nd – 5th March) World Book Day (6th March) where we dress as our favourite book character, Red Nose Day (20th March) and our Easter Church Service (1st April). More information on each event will be sent via the MCAS app.

This Terms Topic

Our topic this term is called 'Life Outside'. We will be completing lots of outside learning, planting seeds and bulbs, looking for minibeasts, and searching for signs of Spring. We will also be making jam sandwiches alongside one of our stories and learning about the importance of bees.

Keep an eye out on our weekly focuses shared on Tapestry every Monday.

RWI

We are very proud of the individual progress each child is making in RWI. This term we have been split into three new groups for RWI. Our groups are decided by the RWI assessment completed at the end of term and the children are grouped by their ability.

Our groups will be working on their Set 1 sound recall (especially the Special Friends), orally blending, Fred Talk to segment and blend, spelling using Fred Fingers and holding a sentence. Within a couple of weeks, we will have a Green Group who will be introduced to the Set 2 Sounds. We will be sending home QR codes with links to Special Friends teaching videos, please do use these at home to support your child.

Drawing Club

We have been blown away by the progress in the children's drawings and their code writing in Drawing Club. Our book focusses will be based around this term's topic.

We are going to really build on our confidence to write independently. At this stage in your child's writing we expect them to be able to sound out words to write using their phonetic knowledge. This means that we expect words to be spelt phonetically rather than correctly, for example 'the catpilu is grin' or 'he is hungri'. When completing any writing at home, please encourage your child to stretch out the word and write the sounds they can hear. We will also be working hard at trying to 'hold a sentence', an example of how to support this at home was uploaded to Tapestry at the end of last term.

Maths

This term we are continuing to build on their knowledge of numbers to 5 and beyond; what smaller numbers make 6,7,8,9 and 10. When subitising to 5, we are now putting the objects in an irregular arrangement and encourage the children to use their 'fast eyes' to tell you how many there are. We will also be looking at the word pattern within the number system, that numbers continue to go in a '1,2,3....'order as you count to 20, 30 and beyond

Towards the end of the term we will introduce doubles as a method of addition; as well as odds and evens as a method of sorting. Recognising 3D shapes will also form part of this terms work, focusing on recognising features such as curved faces and edges. We will not only look at 3D shapes in specific maths resources but also looking for 3D shapes in 'real life' objects.

Reading Sessions

This term we would like to invite you to our Reading Sessions. These will be either a morning session from 9-9:30am or an afternoon session from 2:45-3:15pm within our classroom and will start with you reading books that the children have chosen within a small group. After Easter, we will then begin having different activities for you to do with the children to develop their love of reading. If you are attending, please wait outside the main gates before being let in by a member of staff. This will ensure that all children are registered beforehand and not disturb the School Office staff.

Dates of these sessions will be:

- Friday 6th March AM (World Book Day)
- Wednesday 11th March AM
- Thursday 19th March PM
- Monday 23rd March AM
- Tuesday 31st March PM

We hope that by having sessions on different days of the week and at different times of the day means as many of you as possible can attend. They are of course not compulsory but please feel free to attend as many sessions as you wish. Unfortunately, younger siblings will not be able to attend these sessions.

Request for Resources

To support our '*Life Outside*' learning environment we would love to receive any donations such as:

Books (fiction and non-fiction) which relate to themes on seasons, bugs, bees and plants.

Donations that would support our continuous provision:

Paper plates
Kitchen roll tubes
Shaving foam

We have a large planter in our garden that we would like to use to plant herbs and vegetables. We have a lot of seeds but really need soil to fill the planter so any donations of soil would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Tapestry

Thank you for engaging with Tapestry, we really do love seeing any observations you add from home.

Some of you have now added observations of days out and learning moments you have seen at home. Here's some ideas of what you could add as an observation; a video of them reading their book at home, a photo of their independent writing, counting, weighing, recognising shapes etc, completing any of the Home Learning Bingo.

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!

A polite reminder that every child needs a **small** healthy snack and a water bottle at school every day please. Please refrain from sending in more than one or large snacks as the children end up missing valuable Get Busy Time with their friends.

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.

The children are offered water or milk with their lunch, rather than using their water bottle. We ensure that each child drinks at least one cup with their lunch.

Home Learning

Each term we are sending out an optional Home Learning Bingo Card, as well as that we would love for you to really focus on your child's fine motor skills at home. This could include...

- Toilet roll haircuts - Draw a face on some empty toilet roll tubes and ask your child to snip with scissors the ends to create hair!
- Play dough – squeeze it, roll it, poke it, squash it! YouTube search 'Dough Disco' for a range of videos to follow.
- Follow the Line – on strips of paper draw straight lines, curved lines, zig zags for your child to cut or place small objects along.
- Threading – thread beads, pasta tubes, baby food pouch lids etc onto string or a shoelace, thread Cheerios onto a skewer, thread dried spaghetti through the holes on a colander.
- Pavement art – chalk the pavements, the walls and the fences!
- Water painting - use a paint brush and water to mark makes on any surface outside. You could even go back over your chalk art to wash it away.
- Pegs – peg the washing on the line, place pegs around the edges of a paper plate, pots, or pans!

For more fine motor ideas type 'Fine Motor Activities for Children' into Google or Pinterest, or search the #finemotorskills on Instagram.

Reading Books

Each child will continue to bring home a 'Reading for Pleasure' book from our book corner every Monday and Thursday. Those that have been assessed as Red or Green level will also bring home a RWI Book Bag Book twice a week too.

However, levelled reading books will only be changed by staff if you have written a comment in your child's diary letting us know how well they have read – just like they do in Year 1 and 2.

On a Thursday, your child will also bring home phonics and maths based home learning as well as a Ditty (for those in Ditty group) and either the Red or Green book that they have been reading in RWI that week.

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.