



Hedgehogs Class Newsletter Term 1

Welcome

Welcome to Hedgehogs class! It was lovely to meet you all at your 1:1 meeting last week. A quick reminder of who the adults in our class are; Mrs Donnell is in class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Ballantyne is in class Wednesdays, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Munn and Miss Harmon are the TA's for varying sessions across the week. Mrs Cook supports the class at lunch time. We are very excited to get this academic year started and getting to know our new class.

This Terms Topic

This term we will be getting to know your child in our topic 'Incredible Me!' Introducing basic skills and implementing rules and routines to ensure your children have the very best start to their Reception year. To support this, please encourage your child to start being as independent as possible at home. We will also be taking part in fun introductory activities which will follow the children's interests during their Get Busy Time.

Contact Diary

During your Teacher Parent Meeting we discussed your child's contact diary. Please take good care of these and **ensure it comes into school every day**. Whilst the children settle please write their lunch choice in each day including their pudding choice, we will let you know when the children are ready to choose their own lunch. Please use the book to communicate anything you feel we may need to know e.g. 'Grandparents are collecting today'.

Reading

The most important learning you and your child can do at home together is read! This may be you reading to them, them making up a story by looking at the pictures, or them reading to you when they practise their decoding skills and begin to read fluently. Your child will come home with a 'reading for pleasure' book once they are in school full time. We will assess the children once we have taught them the first 16 letter sounds and we will send a reading activity or book home based on their current assessment level.

Read Write Inc

At Higham we follow the Read Write Inc program to teach your child their phonic sounds. These sessions will be taught as a whole class until we have introduced the first 16 sounds. The children will then be split into smaller groups based on their ability with a set adult to further their reading and writing skills.

If you would like further information visit ruthmiskin.com and follow the links to 'find out more' then 'parents'. There are lots of useful videos to watch, we recommend starting with 'How to say the sounds' - [Parent video: How to say the sounds - YouTube](#)

Request for resources

We would appreciate it if you could collect and donate the following items for us to use in our continuous provision:

- Empty cardboard boxes e.g. cereal and tissue boxes
- Kitchen paper tubes (for hygienic reasons we cannot accept toilet roll tubes)
- Any spare string or ribbon
- Sellotape and masking tape
- Outdated pasta, rice and pulses
- Play dough ingredients – salt, gluten free plain flour, cream of tartar, baby oil.

Named clothing

Please make sure **all items of uniform are clearly named** so they can be returned to the rightful owner quickly. Show your child what their name label looks like in their jumper, snack pots and water bottles as this will help them be independent in identifying their own items.

Tapestry

We are hoping to have you all signed up to Tapestry by the end of their first week. You will receive an email from Tapestry requesting you to create an account. We will be uploading any WOW moments that we see to your child's journal. You can engage with these and upload your own WOW moments too.

Home Learning

Parents sometimes ask how they can support their child's learning at home. Below are some ideas for you to do with your child this term.

- Fine motor skills - it is essential for your child to develop their hand muscles for them to write and draw. These activities can be easy to do with everyday objects such as rolling and squeezing play dough, putting dry spaghetti through the holes in a colander, threading dry pasta onto a shoe lace etc.
- Counting objects – count everything! Stairs, number of cars that pass, chocolate buttons, grapes etc. Ask your child to collect a certain number of objects for you, make it into a game!
- Writing your name – copy it, paint it, trace it! Pinterest has great name writing ideas that are easy to do at home.

Look out for our optional Home Learning Bingo Challenge coming home next week!



Snacks and Drinks



Please make sure your child brings in a small snack in a **named** pot and that snacks are out of any wrappers to help keep our school grounds litter free. As part of our healthy school status children are **only allowed** to bring in a healthy snack to have at snack time (see pages 22-23 of our School Prospectus [HIGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS \(primarysite-product.sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-product.sorted.s3.amazonaws.com) for clarification). We will provide a fruit or vegetable snack each afternoon. **Please note that we are a Nut Free School.**

Please provide your child with a named bottle of water each day. **We politely remind you that juice, squash and flavoured water is not permitted and will be emptied out of bottles.**

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Any questions please do not hesitate to ask! We are available at the end of each day (once all children have been dismissed), via Tapestry or pop a note in your child's contact book.

Mrs Donnell, Mrs Ballantyne, Mrs Munn and Miss Harmon