



Hedgehog Class

Autumn 2023



Welcome to Hedgehog Class! We have had a super start to term and have enjoyed getting to know your children and settling in to the routines of Hedgehog Class. Just a few bits of info for you...

Mrs O'Briain will be teaching Hedgehogs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings; Wednesday afternoons will be Computing, taught by Mrs Bowen, and PE taught by Mr Cox. Mrs Woodman will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays.

PE Kits: PE days are **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**. Please can **named** PE kits be left on your child's peg in a **named** bag, ready for all PE lessons. We will send PE kits home at each half term, to be washed! At this time of year some PE lessons will be outdoors so trainers / plimsolls and long trousers / sweatshirts will also be needed. Please can long hair be tied back and earrings removed on these days. This half term, Tuesdays PE lessons will be swimming, so please can the children remember to bring their swimming kits.

Snack & Milk: The children in Hedgehog Class will continue to receive a fruit or vegetable snack mid-morning each day; if you would like your child to have a drink of milk too, please visit www.coolmilk.com to register and pay for this.

Water bottles: In class the children have a named cup which they can use to have a drink of water throughout the day. However, if your child could bring in a water bottle that would be amazing - it is particularly good on warmer days, when the children may want to take their bottle out to PE / Forest School. However, please make sure it is water only (no squash) and the bottle is named.

Reading: Please do read with your child every day and write a short comment in their reading diary. Year 1 is such an important year for reading skills to progress and your help with this is crucial. Your child will bring home a phonetically decodable reading book, which is closely matched to their phonics learning and their quick recall of the tricky words. They also have the choice of taking home a book they have chosen from our class library for you to enjoy together. Please can the children bring these reading books and their reading diary into class **every day**, as we aim to hear them read regularly in school. The children will be responsible (and reminded!) to change their reading books every day if they need to. We will also be sending home some tricky word cards; we will be learning to read these in class but your help at home too would make all the difference. Thank you.

Homework: As well as reading every day, the children will have a homework book. At the front of this book there will be a selection of different homework tasks listed. Your child can select one task from the choice each week and we ask that they complete 8 tasks over the term; they can therefore have several weeks when they do not have to do a homework task! They can do their homework in their homework book if appropriate, and we ask that you take a picture of their work and upload it to Seesaw each week, rather than sending their book into school. As a rule, we hope to be able to look at their homework on Seesaw on a Wednesday.

Rainbow: To move the children on from the free flow of continuous provision of activities in Ladybird Class, we set up a rainbow of activities each week in Hedgehog Class. Each of the 7 colours are allocated to a task that we expect the children to do each week and we explain them to the children on a Monday. On completion of each task, the children put a lolly stick of that colour into their pot. We hope that by a Friday afternoon, all the children have gained all 7 sticks in their pot. Please do ask your child how they are getting on with their rainbow throughout the week, giving them lots of encouragement and praise!

Forest School: We hope to visit Forest School these Thursday afternoons this term:

Thursday 28th September

Thursday 2nd November

Thursday 12th October

Thursday 16th November

Thursday 30th November

On these days the children can come to school wearing suitable (old) clothing appropriate for the weather on the day, with outer wear (coats/ hats/ waterproofs) in a large named bag.

They do NOT need to wear or bring school uniform to change into.

We will be looking for two volunteers each week to enable this to happen, so if you feel this might be something you can help with we would love to hear from you - please do sign the clipboard outside the classroom. Thank you so much in advance, for any support you may be able to offer.

Toys: Please can we ask that the children do not bring toys into school; we cannot guarantee they will remain intact or not get lost, so would prefer them to stay at home. Thank you for your support.

Wellies: It would be great if your child could keep a pair of **named** wellies in school all the time. This will mean they can use the field at playtimes as well as being available if we go on village walks etc... These wellies can also be what they wear for Forest School. Please put them on the welly rack outside the classroom.

Naming: A final request to make sure ***all*** items of clothing and shoes are named please. Lost jumpers/cardigans/ skirts /trousers /t-shirts/ PE kit... will always be returned if they are found with names in them!

We hope this isn't information overload! Thank you so much for all your support. We are really excited to be sharing your child's learning journey with them and with you. Please do not hesitate to chat to us if you have any questions or worries.

Kind regards,

Mrs O'Briain & Mrs Woodman