

Hedgehog Class Learning Overview – Term 1



Welcome to Hedgehog Class!

I hope you all had a fantastic summer and are feeling refreshed and excited for the year ahead; we have lots of fun activities planned for Term 1!

This term we will have forest school on a Wednesday morning. For this, the children are welcome to come into school wearing their forest school clothes (long trousers and sleeves and waterproofs, plus wellies/outdoor shoes and layers if cold) but must bring their full school uniform ready to change in to afterwards.

We will be swimming at Kemsing on a Thursday morning (starting 11th September) so please make sure your child has their swimming costume/shorts, hat, towel and goggles.

This term, we are focusing on uniform, as we place great importance on presenting a smart and unified school image. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform each day and that all items brought to school are clearly labelled with their name. A reminder for year 1 parents, that in KS1 children will wear a button up shirt instead of a polo, along with an elasticated school tie.

I am always happy to chat, so please feel free to catch me on the playground at the end of the school day if you have any questions or concerns. I'm really looking forward to a great term ahead!

English:

We will be exploring two wonderful stories this term. The first is 'Cave Baby' by Julia Donaldson and Emily Gravett. Through this story, the children will have the chance to talk about their own experiences, make predictions about what might happen next, and write simple captions. They will also take part in some acting to bring the characters to life, practise describing scenes and characters, create sentences of their own, and even develop their own version of the story. Alongside this, they will produce artwork inspired by the illustrations in the book.

Our second text will be 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston-Gannon. Using this story, the children will learn about how to build more detailed noun phrases and practise developing their sentence construction. They will explore different sentence types, such as questions, commands, and exclamations, and learn how these change the meaning of what is written. They will also investigate the difference between fact and fiction, and look closely at verbs, tenses, and adjectives to help them write with greater precision. These skills will support the children in planning and writing their own imaginative narrative linked to the story.

All of these activities will be carefully adapted to suit a range of abilities. Every child will be able to access the learning at an appropriate level for them, meaning that while the outcomes may look different, they will all be working towards the same learning objectives and celebrating individual successes.

Maths:

In maths this term, we will begin by counting and representing numbers within 10, before moving on to counting forwards and backwards within 20. The children will develop their understanding of numbers up to 20, focusing on 10, then 11–15, and finally 16–20, as well as exploring the concepts of one more and one less.

We will also be working with number lines, learning how to use them to estimate and to explore the ideas of greater than, less than and equal to. The children will compare and order numbers to help secure their understanding of place value.

As the term continues, we will explore parts and wholes, systematic number bonds within 10, number bonds to 10 and number bonds to 20. The children will then apply this knowledge in addition, learning to add together, add more, work with doubles and near doubles, and add three one-digit numbers. They will also begin to explore how to find a missing part.

Later in the term, we will look at fact families and the eight related facts, subtraction as take away ("how many left?"), finding the difference, and solving missing number problems.

All of these skills will be taught in a practical and engaging way, giving the children opportunities to use concrete resources, pictorial representations and mental strategies. Each child will be supported to access the learning at the right level for them, ensuring that everyone makes progress and develops confidence in their mathematical understanding.

The Wider Curriculum:

Science - In science this term, we will be learning about the weather and the seasons. The children will look at how the weather changes, what happens to trees, and how daylight hours are different through the year. They will spend time watching these changes over the term and talking about what they notice. To end, the children will have a go at being weather reporters and share what they have learned. **RE** - In RE this term, we will be learning about what Christians believe about the world. The children will think about who Christians say made the world and how they might describe the creator. We will explore what Christians believe about looking after the world, and the reasons they might want to say thank you for it, and when Christians give thanks to God for what he has made and given them. **Geography** - We will learn about where in the world we are, look at what we can see in our classroom, explore what we can find in our school grounds, learn where the different places in our school are, talk about how we feel about our playground and think about how we could make it even better.

Art - This term in art we will be learning that artists are collectors and explorers. The children will have the chance to explore and collect, take part in two drawing exercises, try out 'feely' drawings and then complete a chosen project. **Computing** - In computing we will be learning about technology in our classroom, using computer technology, developing mouse skills, using a computer keyboard, improving our keyboard skills and learning how to use a computer responsibly. **Music** - We will be focusing on two songs, improvise a percussion accompaniment and prepare for a dramatic performance! **PSHE** - This term in PSHE we will be learning about what is the same and different about us and what makes a good friend, exploring these ideas across three parts. **PE** - Our PE sessions this term will be swimming at Kemsing and taking part in Forest School.

Homework:

Reading at home plays a vital role in your child's learning, and I encourage you to read to your child, listen to them read, and fill in their reading record to keep me updated. The minimum requirement for this is three times a week, but the more, the better! Please send your children into school with their reading book and reading record every day, so that I can see how they are getting on and count their reads at home, to allow them to earn their reading gem awards. All the children will be also be on Lexia (an online programme to improve reading and spelling) – I will send login details home via their reading records.