

Autumn 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from you. After school is always the best time to catch me if you have any questions or concerns. I firmly believe teaching is a partnership between school and parents and I hope we will work together in the best interests of your children.

The children are settling into the new routines of the Hedgehog class and look very smart in the morning,

Staff

In the Hedgehog class we have three adults working with the children, Mrs Foster, Mrs Lovell and myself. All of us have much experience working in schools and particularly with young children.

Topic

We want happy children who feel valued and safe; making excellent progress. We will be learning through topics and there will be two each term. This half term our topic is:

'Why is it Great to be Me?' It's a good topic to get to know the children and for them to learn about their peers.

Reading

I want your child to make quick progress in their reading and with this in mind, we would like to listen to your child twice a week. I need your assistance in this by you listening to your child read at night or helping with learning their sounds or high frequency words. Each

child will get a wallet in their book bag; this will contain different things for you to help your child learn. There will also be numbers which they are learning to recognise and use in class. These wallets do need to be kept in their book bags as I will be adding or taking out things when I listen to your child read. They will each have a 'Phonic Folder' which will also support their learning of sounds. I tend to supply lots of things for you to do at home, as I am a firm believer it is important to teach children to learn to read quickly as then they can then read to learn! I offer these things in their bags as I know sometimes listening to a child read their reading book is something which may not happen for a variety of reasons, but you may have time to get through a few words or practise sounds. Young children need little but often, so don't plan to spend any longer than 10 minutes a day on this, you can lengthen this out if your child wants to, but only do so if they are enthusiastic. These are things which will support your child, it's entirely up to you if you use them.

Homework

I plan to have Show and Tell sessions, which will be related to the topic of the term. I will send details to you the week before I wish your child to bring something in. It's really important for you to talk to your child before they bring in their 'Show and Tell', so treat this as a homework job. For Year 1 children I will be sending a spelling word sheet home so that you can keep in touch with their learning.

Tapestry

This is a great way for parents to see how their child is progressing and what they've been enjoying doing at school. More importantly it is a communication system for you to let me know what interests your child and any 'wow' moments in their life - such as a swimming award,

riding a bike or reading words in different contexts. I need to sort out some technical glitches out and then we will be up and running with this. I'll send you out an alert so you know things are happening.

Equipment or Clothes

Children do need wellies in school and to bring a coat, we often go outside throughout the day, later please ensure they have a hat and gloves too; which they could store in their trays. A book bag is essential as we often give them things to take home, along with their books and wallet. Please try to empty the letters, work and other things which are in it (except the book, diary and wallet). They need some trainers for their morning run; these are stored in the outdoor classroom Hedgehog box. They also need a PE kit, we plan to do a PE session on Mondays. Please encourage your child to be in charge of their own things, storing them in their trays or finding their pegs independently.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Marie Marshall