Hedgehog Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Hedgehog Class!

We hope you had a lovely summer. The children are settling into class and learning their new routines. Hedgehog Class is part of **Key-Stage 1** and our teacher is **Miss Jones** supported by three teaching assistants. We look forward to working with you to support your child's education.

English	In Hedgehog Class, our learners will be supported through lots of repetition, visual prompts , and hands-on activities to help them access stories such as Ten in a Bed, Stanleys Toy Box, Where's My Teddy?, The Blue Balloon and Kipper's Toybox. We are focusing on Level 2 and 3 phonemes and graphemes through daily phonics, songs and actions. Some will learn the tricky words 'in, to, no and go'. We share a new class book every fortnight and read with the children each day. Please share the reading book sent home daily. Stories, songs, visual symbols and mark making help children develop communication, pencil grip and early writing while the children will develop at their own pace we will go over these skills daily.
Maths	The children will be consolidating and learning numbers to 3 and 5. They will have lots of opportunities to explore these numbers in practical and engaging ways, such as making sets of related amounts, sorting, and matching. To make learning fun and memorable, the children will join in with number rhymes, counting songs, and interactive games daily that help to build their understanding. We will also be exploring shape, space and measure as well as developing our using and applying skills that will promote our life long skills linked to maths.
Communication	During these lessons this term, the children will be working on their individual speech, language and communication targets. We use a total communication approach to make sure every child is supported in our environment to be able to express themselves and be understood. The children will continue to develop their language through the use of ALDs, Makaton and symbols around the classroom. ALDs are a bank of words to support the topics being taught, enabling the children to recall and engage with their learning in a more meaningful way. Makaton is a type of sign language that we use alongside verbal communication.
Science	Through scientific activities we will be learning about different materials and forces. These will be linked to different toys. We will also be doing lots of hands-on scientific exploration and having fun doing experiments.





This term our topic is 'A Toy Story'

We will be reading and investigating various stories and texts together that link to toys. Some of these will include: Ten in a Bed, Stanleys Toy Box, Where's My Teddy?, The Blue Balloon and Kipper's Toybox.

History	We will investigate the differences between old and new including exploring and comparing toys of the past and modern day.
Geography	We will identify and recognise familiar key places in our environment. We will go on a school tour to familiarise ourselves with important places and match physical features.
PSHE Jigsaw	Through our Jigsaw themes 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Differences', we will explore feelings, kindness and what makes us unique. In PSHE this term, the children will be learning all about feelings, kind hands, and celebrating our differences. We will be exploring different emotions and helping the children to recognise how they and others might be feeling.
Art	In Art we will be painting self portraits and our favourite toys as well as making artwork inspired by the class book this will involve using a range of mediums. Children will be exploring colours and learning how to mix, match, and choose colours to express ideas.
Music	This term in Music, the children will be exploring rhythm and beat. They will have the opportunity to copy and respond to the beat of music using a range of instruments, such as drums, tambourines, and shakers. We will also be having weekly sessions from Dudley Performing Arts.
Computing	In these lessons we will be developing our understanding of how to use a range of electronical devices for a purpose. We will explore programmable toys by giving simple instructions.
RE	During this term, our focus is special people to us; supported by our key enquiry question: 'What makes people special to me and others?' The children will be learning to identify people who are special to them in their family, school, and wider community. Through stories, discussions, and practical activities, they will explore the roles these special people play in their lives and how they show care and support.
PE	Our PE days are **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**. This term we are learning and developing their throwing and catching skills. Through fun, hands-on activities and games, they will have the chance to practise coordination, timing, and control.
Life Skills	We will be looking at 'kind hands and kind feet' in relation to personal space. We will be discussing appropriate ways of touching and communicating with others. The children will be learning to interact in positive ways with their peers and adults. Through guided activities, role play, and daily routines, they will practise taking turns, sharing, and responding appropriately.