



Wednesday 18th September 2024

Hello and welcome to all families and children in Hedgehog Class! Please find below a bit of information about various things which happen here in the Infants at Eyam ☺

Welcome!

It is lovely to see you all again; we hope that you had a fun and restful summer break making memories together. A big "well done" to all our new Reception children. You have all settled in beautifully and together we have enjoyed a super first week in school filled with chatting, playing, building, painting, and of course making friends.

Welcome also to our new Teaching Assistants Mrs Solman and Mrs Cooper who will join Miss Wragg and Mrs Richardson in helping to support the teaching and learning of our pupils.

Reading and Homework

All children now have a book bag which should be brought into school each day and stored in their drawer. If they haven't already, each child will soon bring home a Reading Record and two reading books to look at with you at home. Reception start off with picture books which we encourage families to enjoy sharing and chatting about together, alongside picture cards with sets of 10 "high frequency" words like **I** and **the** which we'd like you to help your child to learn to read by sight. Y1 and 2 bring home one book linked to the current week's Phonics- so it should contain sounds that your child is already familiar with- plus a "reading for pleasure" book which is more story-based and which they may need a little more help with sounding out. We ask that you please write a supportive comment and sign your name in your child's Reading Record each time you share a book with them so that we can see when pupils are ready for something new. **Staff change books on Mondays and Fridays- please ask your child to tuck their book inside their Record and place it in the green box in the classroom on these mornings.** Looking at the same book several times is great for building confidence and reinforcing important skills.

Spelling and sound work will continue to be sent home on a termly basis- next week your child will bring home an exercise book and a sheet with all the spellings/ homework tasks for the term. **Please help your child to learn or complete these activities each week, then please send the book in at the end of term for us to have a look at.** Y2s will have an informal spelling test once a week to check understanding.

Topic

Our new Topic is "Tropical Rainforest". We will find out about the Amazon Rainforest and how the plants, wildlife and weather there are different to those we might find in the woods in Eyam. We will also explore seasonal changes, setting up a class Nature Table and getting ready for our Harvest Festival in church by learning a lovely new song with actions. Do send in any little bits of autumn treasure you find with your child (leaves, acorns, conkers etc).



"Reading Together" afternoons will begin on 1st of October. These take place from 2.45 pm until hometime on Tuesday afternoons; parents and carers are warmly invited to join us with a favourite book for a shared quiet reading session (smaller siblings welcome too!)

All parents are also warmly invited to our annual **Phonics workshop on Tuesday the 15th October at 2.30pm**. The session is a chance for you to see a Phonics lesson in action and to learn all about the key aspects of early reading and writing.

Talk, Listen and Ask

We are also looking forward to starting our wonderful "Talk, Listen and Ask" sessions which take place on Monday afternoons. This is a bit like Show & Tell; we encourage children to bring something into school that is linked to our Topic; for example, a book, special toy, model or piece of artwork. The chosen child shares what they have brought in with the rest of the class, and the other children are encouraged to look and listen carefully before asking questions. As well as being fun, it is a great activity for developing Speaking & Listening and oracy skills and increasing vocabulary. Below is a rota so that you know when it will be your child's turn to bring something in. You will see that we have split the children into twos, and please note that some pupils are not scheduled until after the half term holiday at the end of October, when our Topic will change to "China Then and Now":

Date	Children
Monday 23 rd September	Jesse and Louis
Monday 30 th September	Rex and Rose
Monday 7 th October	Jacob and Leo
Monday 14 th October	Mani and Joshua
Monday 21 st October	Serena Ivy and Mabel
Monday 28th October HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
Monday 11 th November	Bertie and Alex
Monday 18 th November	Elizabeth and Archer
Monday 25 th November	Walter and Ottie
Monday 2 nd December	Tommy and Connor
Monday 9 th December	Darcy and Isobel
Monday 16 th December	Johnathon and William

Water bottles are kept within the Hedgehog learning area and can easily be accessed at any time. If you have any questions or queries at all then please do not hesitate to come and speak to one of us- we are usually around the playground at the end of the school day 😊

With all best wishes,

Hannah McGuire, Georgia Butterworth, Chelsea Wragg and Rebecca Richardson

