

# Hedgehog Class Newsletter

## Autumn 2024



Welcome to Year 1! We hope you have had a fabulous summer, and that your children are looking forward to entering Key Stage 1 for the first time. If any of them are feeling anxious about starting a new school year, please reassure them that we'll be there every step of the way to support them.

### Adults in Year 1 are as follows:

Miss Abbie Wilkinson – teacher, PPA Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning

Miss Faye Williams – teaching assistant and covering PPA Monday afternoon

Miss Holly Skeggs – teaching assistant Monday to Friday

Mrs Fairhall – covering PPA on a Tuesday morning

If you need to **contact us** about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Miss Wilkinson – [awilkinson@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:awilkinson@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk)

### Lunches and snack

Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home.

At snack time fruit is provided by the Government. However, children are welcome to bring in a home snack if they would like.

### Drop off and collection

Drop off – between **8.35am and 8.45am**, at the side gate. Children walk through the year 1 garden to their classroom. Please try to be on time, because we often do one to one reading during the first part of the day.  
Collection – at **3.15pm**, from year 1 classroom. Miss Wilkinson will open the gate to let you through.

### What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
- Book bag (no rucksacks)
- Reading folder (record and book)
- Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)

**Please label ALL clothing!**

### Home learning

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is **read, read, and read some more!**

We don't set any regular formal home learning activities at Tewin Cowper. Instead, we really want families to focus primarily on reading, because it underpins *everything* the children learn in school. Reading supports writing, imagination, vocabulary, empathy comprehension, communication...to name but a few things!

Please aim to do the following **every day**:

- **Listen to** your child read and **record this each time** in the reading record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- **Read to/with** your child every day and enjoy the experience together! This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Books will be changed every Wednesday and Friday. Please make sure children bring in their reading folders every day, so they can be read with.

### Library

Our class library slot is on Tuesday. Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. **Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each so they can swap it for a new book.** If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

### PE

PE in Year 1 will take place on **Wednesdays and Fridays** and will take place from the first week back. **Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper.** Children must come into school dressed in the new PE kit on those days.

# Autumn Term: learning overview

## English

We will be looking at four main types of texts: labels, lists and captions, narrative, recipes and traditional tales. We will begin by recapping skills they covered in Reception, and then will be introducing and practising some brand-new reading and writing skills!

Our first unit (labels, list and captions) will focus on the lovely book Jasper's Beanstalk, in which the children will be writing simple set of instructions on gardening.

Other texts we will be using this term include:

- Puffin Peter (narrative)
- Purple is (Poem)
- Fairy Tales (Narrative)
- Gruffalo Crumble (recipe)

## Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. We begin the term by repeating some of the learning from Reception. Although it might sound as if we are backtracking a lot, these skills help children develop fluency in working with whole numbers, counting and recognising the place value of each digit in a number.

You can **support your child** with their **maths fluency** by practising things like:

- **Number bonds** to 5 and 10
- **Count to and across 100**, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number
- **Identify and represent numbers** using objects and pictorial representation. (use objects around the house)

## PE

The class is taught by Premier Education for one lesson, and Miss Wilkinson for the other. This first half term, the children will be doing both gymnastics and PE Fundamentals. In Autumn 2, they will move onto team building and fitness.

## Music

We will be recognising and understanding the difference between pulse and rhythm. They will be listening to and repeating short, simple rhythmic patterns.

### **Science**

Our first unit is Seasonal Changes. We start by identifying how the weather changes across the four seasons. Later in the term, we will cover Everyday Materials. We will be recognising that objects are made from materials that suit their purpose.

### **History**

How am I making history? Children will develop an understanding of personal chronology. They will be placing events on a timeline, making a capsule and using vocabulary such as past, present and memory to help them describe how their life has changed from when they were a baby. If you have any photos of them as a baby, please send them to Miss Wilkinson.

### **Art**

In Autumn 2 the focus is drawing. They will be experimenting with a range of mark-making techniques.

### **Computing**

Online safety this term will look into using the internet safely and which information is appropriate to share and post online and which is not. Later this term, children will use a basic range of tools within graphic editing software.

### **Design and Technology**

Our first unit is Structures. We start by learning about windmills and making a stable structure. We will then cover Mechanisms by exploring slider mechanisms and the movement they output to design, make and evaluate a moving storybook.

### **Geography**

What is it like here? Children will be taught to recognise some physical features and human features in their locality. They will learn how to use atlas to locate the UK.

### **PSHE**

We start by thinking about our relationships with each other and others outside school. We move onto valuing difference: considering what makes us the same or different from other people.

### **RE**

In our Creation unit, we will look at the world and consider why it is wonderful, thinking about what God wanted for it. Children will use discussion, writing and reflection to share their thoughts and ideas.