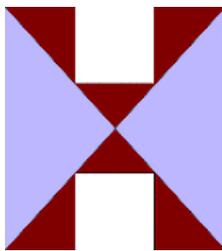


West
Sussex
County
Council



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Hedgehogs



I am writing to welcome you to Hedgehogs class! This letter will give you a bit more information about our weekly timetable and the work we will be covering this term. I hope that it will be informative, but if you have any additional questions then please speak to me at the start/end of the day.

The beginning of school – You will need to bring your child around the main building and enter the school through the Hedgehogs external classroom door. Please wait on the main playground until 8.45am to prevent your children from using the equipment that has been set up in the outdoor classroom. The activities have been carefully planned and sometimes need explaining before the children can access them in the intended way. Parents are requested to help their child in changing their reading book. The books are kept in the book corner and are arranged in reading bands. Your child will need to select a book from the **pink band** unless I have sent them home with a different coloured band. To help ease congestion, please could parents leave buggies outside.

After about a week, I would expect the children to be familiar with the routine of changing their reading books and settling into the classroom. From this time, please bring your child to the external classroom door and say goodbye there. Mrs Greany, Ms Wright and I will be at the door to assist the children. If you have any problems, I am always happy to see you after school, but if the problem is urgent you can give me a quick message.

Fruit time – As part of the Healthy School initiative all infant children are provided with a piece of fruit to have during morning playtime. All children under the age of five years are entitled to free milk: you will need to fill in the milk forms that have been sent home if you would like your child to have milk each day. The children are also encouraged to drink **water** throughout the school day. They will need a named water bottle to keep in the classroom.

Full-time/Part-time– All children will be in school full time from Thursday 13th September unless we have had an individual discussion regarding this.

Lunchtime - From 13th September, all full time reception children are entitled to a free hot meal. Please let the office know if you are planning to provide a packed lunch for your child. The children eat this in the school hall and I will be there, alongside the lunch time supervisors, to help assist the children.



NEARS

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Healthy Schools

Homework – Your child will bring home their reading diary each day. Please could you try to hear them read each school night and sign their diary. This is important to the children as they are rewarded for having **five entries** a week in their diaries. Reading daily will make a big difference to your child's progress. We want reading to be a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone. Towards the end of September your child will start to bring home the letter sounds we are learning in school. Please encourage your child to say the sound, name the pictures and have a go at forming the letter. In the first half term, you will be invited to a phonics workshop to find out more about how we teach phonics in school. Please check your child's book bag **daily** for school letters or other important information.

At the end of school – Hedgehogs will be dismissed from the external classroom door. Please wait on the main playground until 3.15pm. To ensure the safety of all children it is important that I have seen that parents have taken charge of their children before leaving the school grounds.

Part-time children will be collected from the office at 12.15pm.

Adventure playground – Due to health and safety guidelines the children are only allowed to use this equipment during school hours and they must be supervised by a member of the school staff. I would appreciate your support in explaining this to the children. No pre-school children are allowed to use the equipment or to go into the sheds/ houses in the outside classroom.

Outdoor classroom- We use our outdoor classroom on a daily basis as part of our curriculum and would like to continue this throughout the winter months. In order to protect their school uniform the children will need a waterproof coat.

Lost property – Lost property just accumulates in a lost property cupboard so we don't have one! Please **clearly label** all of your child's clothing and belongings. All lost property will be returned on the day it is lost if the clothing is labelled.

Celebration assembly – On Friday mornings at 9.00am there is a celebration assembly. All parents of children getting certificates are invited to attend and siblings are welcome too. We insist on silence in assemblies from the children, so if younger siblings make a noise please support us by taking them out. Every Thursday we will let you know which children will be receiving certificates or kindness leaves for that week, hopefully this will stop parents missing their child's 'special celebration'.

Parent helpers – We would love for parents and grandparents to come into school every week to listen to children read. If you enjoy reading and sharing stories with young children then you have all the skills needed! We will have a talk later in the term for volunteers where we can give you a few 'top tips' on how to help children learn to read. Our individual reading sessions are from 2.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This would be the perfect time for any parents/grandparents to help before they collect their children. Please come and see me if you think you can help.

Kind regards,

Miss Ralph