

June 2020



Dear Parents of Hedgehog Class 2020/2021,

As the class teacher, I wanted to personally welcome you and give you some extra information in the form of some useful documents and websites for you and your child to look at together.



Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the settling in process is going to be different to anything we have done before. However, let me reassure you that our aim remains the same as ever, to ensure that each and every child has a positive and enjoyable start to their school life.

On the **New Parents** tab where you found this letter, you will also find these documents:

- New Parents PowerPoint for School Closure
- Ready for school checklist
- Reception Photo Book for new children (of our classroom etc)
- 'All about me' document (for you to fill in both sides and return to us)
- Parent Handbook (Useful school information)
- Transition to Reception Booklet (full of ideas and activities for a smooth transition)
- 2020-2021 Term Dates
- A list of books about starting school you might like to read with your child
- Supporting Readers at Home Poster

Sharing poems and retelling well known stories support and encourage children to develop their language skills and most importantly foster a love of reading from the early years. We have collated some of our favourite and stories for you to share together before you start in September.

- <https://youtu.be/75NQK-Sm1YY> (The very Hungry Caterpillar)
- <https://youtu.be/s8sUPpPc8Ws> (The Gruffalo)
- <https://youtu.be/OgyI6ykDwds> (We're Going on a Bear Hunt)
- <https://youtu.be/YdiGEjz5b0Q> (The Very Quiet Cricket)

We all love to hear stories being read to us. The BBC has a selection of stories from popular picture books - including some 'classics' - and read by well-known voices: Paul Copley, Jane Horrocks, Josie Lawrence and Kerry Shale. Each story is richly illustrated with music and sound effects for children to enjoy.

Follow the link below to the BBC website to start enjoying the stories:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/eyfs-storytime/zdv4vk7>

Singing songs and Nursery Rhymes is another good listening skill and fun activity to do together. Follow the link for resources for you to help:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>

One more useful website for you to explore if you wish:

<https://www.eyfshome.com/>

Lastly, during our school closure I created my own YouTube channel, so I could carry on reading a daily story to my current class and give them the tiniest bit of normality in very strange and unusual times. These stories have proved very popular and to date I have had 1070 views! I have kept them topical to match Home Learning I provided, so the first half term were all Dinosaur stories and this half term they are all Farm related. You might like to let your child watch some of them, so they begin to recognise who I am. If the link does not work, search YouTube for: **Hedgehog Class in the Meadow**.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo23nKCxDIx19xN4L7V1MSA>

Myself and Mrs Henderson very much look forward to meeting you and your child on Monday 20th July (emails to follow soon with time slots).

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Mason