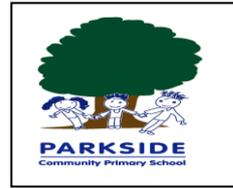


PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEDGEHOG CLASS LETTER



TERMS 5 & 6 

DATE: 26/04/2021

Dear Parents/Carers, **welcome back!** I hope you have had a relaxing Easter break and it has been wonderful to see EVERYONE attend. This Summer term we are really looking forward to an exciting and very busy term ahead of us. We shall be focusing on outdoor learning as much as possible and we will be **planting potatoes, herbs and flowers**. **Please support your child by reading together every day and discuss what you have read.** It would be wonderful if you could also make reading the focus of your bedtime routines by reading a bedtime story. Parents are the best reading role-models so please encourage your child to read at every opportunity; **reading is a window into a world full of glorious imagination!** Research proves children who read have better life experiences. We are focussing on plant and animal related books this term.

Term 5. This term in Topic and English we will be focussing on **Plants and Animals including Humans**.

Towards the end of last term the children got a taste for things to come when we went on a 'Spring Watch' walk around school. They spotted lots of new growth, including blossoms on trees, new leaves and flowers. We even had a visit from a pair of frogs inside our classroom and we rescued an exhausted bumblebee by giving it sweet fruit. This term we will look even more closely at plants including types of trees and their roots. We will then move on to animal groupings; according to diet and how they have their babies. We'll also look at the human body and learn about our five senses. We have lots of beautiful engaging books to enjoy.

Curriculum focus:

Phonics: Recapping Phase 3 sounds and learning some new phase 4/5 sounds. Please ask your child to highlight digraphs (2 letter 1 sound e.g. 'th', 'ai', 'oo', 'ow' etc) in text to help them make vital links between phonics and real reading.

Maths: Number and place value within 50, Addition and subtraction within 20 and some measurement including height, length, weight and volume. It is important that the children accurately count forwards and backwards to 20 or higher, please practice at home. They are also consolidating their knowledge of number bonds to 10 and learning them to 20; counting in 2s, 5s and 10s

Term 6. The children have become super scientists over the past few terms. From doing 'Everyday Materials' in Terms 3 and 4 then Plants and Animals (including humans) in Term 5, to Seasonal Change in Term 6. In this term the children will get the chance to become Historians as well! We will look at the history of toys hopefully starting with a visit to the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge in Canterbury. Then we will look at the invention of popular toys such as the Teddy bear and finally the modern toys and technology that many children are familiar with today. Books such as 'Toys in Space' and 'Tree' are by authors that the children have encountered in previous topics.

Curriculum focus:

Phonics: Consolidating Phase 3 concentrating on blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling and consolidating Phase 4 (Phase 4 focuses on reading and writing words containing two adjacent consonants). As many children as possible will move on to Phase 5.

Maths: In Term 6 we will have our first encounter with multiplication and division.

We will do more work on measurement, including starting to tell the time and we will be learning about money. We will cover fractions and shape and the Number and Place Value focus will expand to within 100.

To support your child/ren's progress in school it is vital that you talk to them about what they have been learning so that they can recap and explain their understanding. You may notice misconceptions which you can pass on to me.

PE takes place twice a week and is on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with either Miss Aitken or Miss Hoare and Mr Groombridge. Your child should **come to school dressed in their P.E. Kit including their house colour top. Jewellery must be removed (especially earrings).**



We would like to achieve the 100% Attendance Certificate for the next two academic terms and in order to achieve this **all children need to be in school every day**. Not just for the certificate and rewards but **for their learning and overall involvement with the class including friends**. It really is essential that children are regular attenders as **low attendance has a huge impact on a child's learning**. Given the huge disruption the children have already faced since last year, please ensure that your child is in school at 8.40am to start promptly at 8.50am each day. **Late arrivals really do have an impact on your child and the rest of the class and often means they have missed the first teacher lead input of the day**. Thank you. 😊

We take PRIDE in our school and uniform so please ensure that your child comes to school each day wearing a clean uniform. Your child should arrive each day wearing appropriate weather proof shoes. **Until it is actually Summer, please send your child to school with a coat**, it's sunny but still chilly out there and the children **go out for morning play and lunchtime; come rain or shine!** Sun-cream should be applied at home before they come to school as we are not able to apply it. I would also like to remind parents that children should not be wearing nail varnish to school or be bringing in toys unless previously agreed with the class teacher.

Golden Rules GREAT

Gentle hands and feet.

Really listen carefully without interrupting.

Expect to work hard.

Always tell the truth and be a good friend.

Treat resources with respect and tidy away.

Dates for diary: TBC

Please check Hedgehog mail regularly and your child's book bag in case they have been given school letters.

Please read with your child each night to help them build their phonic knowledge and skills. We will NOT move children onto a new book until they can read their current one fluently so it is essential that you practise with them at home. **This means daily practise of the sounds until they can read the whole word and sentence fluently**. Just saying the sounds in order is not reading so please keep practising until they can read with confidence.

Talk about the story and characters and use 'book talk' as much as possible (e.g. "What just happened? Why do you think they said/did that?") Play phonic spotter games with your child using their reading book or other favourite books at home to help them spot sounds in words and find tricky words embedded in text.

REACH for the Stars



Resilience



Effort



Aspiration



Courtesy



Honesty



Children in Hedgehog Class are given fruit at snack time so there is no need to send in additional snacks unless they have a specific dietary requirement that the school is aware of.

Packed lunches should be **healthy** & consist of a sandwich (or the like), **low sugar** yoghurt or pudding and at least **two pieces of fruit (please cut grapes in half to avoid choking)**. No biscuits, sweets or chocolate as the sugar content can impact mood & behaviour.

Parkside is a 'No Nuts' school; we have pupils and staff members who are allergic.

REMINDERS: If you have arranged for another person to collect your child from school then please remember to let us know.

We will **NOT** release a child to an adult unless we have your permission to do so!

Water bottles can be sent in **daily** but they must only **contain WATER** and be **taken home each evening** to be **thoroughly washed** and returned.