

Hedgehog Class January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term at Teynham Primary School. We hope you have had a great Christmas and New Year and were able to have a restful break. We are very much looking forward to building on the successes of Terms 1&2 as we begin the year 2026!

Topic – Misty Mountain, Winding River

During Term 3, the focus will be on learning about rivers. Your child will explore the journey of a river and its features, learning specific vocabulary linked to rivers throughout the term. They will focus on the River Trent in particular and learn about the human and physical characteristics. In addition, they will learn about rivers around the world and the changing landscapes of various rivers and their uses.

In Term 4, your child will learn about mountains, both in the UK and around the world. They will learn about different types of mountains, learning subject specific vocabulary. In addition, they will learn about the water cycle and comparing habitats where mountains and rivers are present.

English

In English, your child will be reading the class book, 'This Morning I Met A Whale' by Michael Morpurgo and answering comprehension questions linked to this. Your child will consider the journey of the River Rhine and write a diary entry as somebody travelling down a river, focusing on descriptive writing and selecting the correct tenses. They will then use their knowledge of rivers to create information leaflets about them. When learning about grammar and punctuation, this term will focus on prepositions to express time and cause, apostrophes and commas. Your child will also have daily spelling/ phonics lessons.

Maths

In Maths, your child will move on to learning facts about multiplication and division. Throughout the term your child will learn how to multiply and divide their tables from 3times up to 12times. In addition to this, they will learn how to divide a number by 1 and itself and then to multiply 3 numbers together.

Your child will continue to learn their times tables and improve upon the speed of their recall- if you are unsure which times tables your child is currently learning, please speak to Miss Donoghue.

Science

In Science during term 3, in the States of Matter project, your child will identify and classify solids, liquids and gases. They will learn the properties of solids, liquids and gases and discover that some materials have properties of more than one state. They will learn that particles make up all matter and how their arrangement determines whether the material is a solid, liquid or gas. They will find that materials can change from one state to another and learn about how materials can change state. They will use thermometers to measure the temperature of water and observe what happens when water changes state. They will investigate melting ice and record their data on graphs. They will also learn about melting and boiling points, researching various materials' melting and boiling points.

In term 4, in the Grouping and Classifying project, your child will learn why we sort and group things and the important classification skills of observing and questioning. They will learn what classification keys are and how they identify living things. Your child will learn the characteristics of the five vertebrate groups and the six main invertebrate groups. They will learn how to identify vascular and non-vascular plants and sort vascular plants into the three main groups. They will also examine and classify real plants and create a classification key based on

their observations. They will learn about some newly discovered plants and animals and use a classification key to classify each discovery.

RE

In RE, your child will be learning about Gospel with a focus on the question: What kind of world did Jesus want? They will learn about how the Gospel tells the story of the life and teaching of Jesus. They will also be able to make clear links between the calling of the first disciples and how Christians today try to follow Jesus and be “fishers of people”. Your child will be able to make simple links between Bible texts and the concept of “Gospel”.

In Term 4, your child will learn about Salvation, this time with a focus on the question: Why do Christians call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’?

ICT

In ICT lessons, your child will be learning about programming. This unit is the first of the two programming units in Year 4, and looks at repetition and loops within programming. Pupils will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language.

PSHE

In term three, your child will cover the topic “Dreams and Goals”, where they will fit together the six pieces of learning about my dreams and goals to create Our Garden of Dreams and Goals. In term two your child will cover the topic “Healthy Me”. Here they will learn about how to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

Reading and Home Learning

Your child will receive a reading book in accordance with their ZPD. This will be sent home daily and needs to be returned to school daily. It is important that your child reads daily so that they are able to make as much progress as possible. Please fill their reading record in at home to show the reading your child has completed. Do let us know if they have enjoyed the book. We do also like hearing about any other books they have been reading at home. Your child will also receive home learning weekly. Please complete each week in their home learning book or feel free to email it to me. Home learning will be sent out on a Friday and needs to be returned the following Wednesday.

P.E.

This term, PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child wears a full PE kit (white t shirt, black shorts/jogging bottoms and plimsolls or full black trainers) in school on these days so that they can fully participate in the lessons. No earrings are allowed to be worn during P.E. lessons, therefore they need to be able to take them out themselves, or have them taken out in the morning before school.

If you need to contact me at any point, please email me at t.donoghue@teynham.kent.sch.uk

Kind regards,
Miss T Donoghue
Year 4 Class Teacher