



**Hedgehog Class**  
**Autumn Term 2 2024**

**Christmas Around  
the  
World**

**To make a booklet.**

# Literacy

We are excited to share that our class will be participating in a festive and educational project: writing a letter to Santa Claus! This activity will help your child learn important skills in writing and grammar, as well as understand different types of letters.

## Learning about Different Types of Letters

**Formal vs. Informal Letters:** We will discuss the differences between formal and informal letters. Santa's letter will be an example of an informal letter, where we can express our thoughts in a friendly manner.

**Structure and Components:** Your child will learn about the structure of a letter, including the date, greeting, body, closing, and signature.

**Writing an Envelope:** Children will learn how to correctly write an envelope, including addressing it using appropriate titles, writing the recipient's address, and including a return address.

We will practice clear and neat handwriting as part of this exercise.

**Understanding Past and Present Tense:** We will explore the difference between past and present tense. For instance, how to talk about things they did in the past ("I played with my new toy") and what they want or plan to do ("I want to help decorate the tree").

This will help your child effectively express their wishes and experiences in the letter to Santa.

## How You Can Help at Home:

Encourage your child to think about what they would like to write to Santa. What have they enjoyed about this year? What are they looking forward to? Practice writing addresses and discuss where the recipient of the letter, Santa, "lives" in a fun and imaginative way (e.g., the North Pole).

Discuss and play games focusing on past and present tense to reinforce their understanding.

# Phonics

This half term, we are excited to help your children develop their reading and writing skills through a focus on specific graphemes and high-frequency words (HFWs). Below is an outline of what your child will be learning, along with some tips on how you can support them at home.

Some children will be learning the

**Graphemes:** ear & ure.\*\*

**Examples of words:\*\*** ear (hear, near, ear) and ure (sure, pure, cure).

Some children the graphemes oo, ow, & ur: Examples of words: oo (moon, spoon, book), ow (cow, flower, how), ur (fur, turn, hurt).

**High-Frequency Words (HFWs):**

**Purpose:** High-frequency words are common words that appear often in reading and writing. Learning these words helps children become more fluent readers.

**Examples:** some, one, come, said, here.

**Support from Home:**

**Read Together:** Spend time reading with your child every day. Choose books that interest them and include the sounds and words they are learning. **Play Phonics Games:** Use online resources or apps that focus on phonics, or create your own fun games to make learning engaging.

# Maths

As we embark on an exciting Christmas-themed learning journey, we wanted to provide you with an overview of what your child will be exploring in class during this festive term. Our focus will be on using engaging, hands-on activities to enhance their understanding of shapes, numbers, money, measurement, and time. Here's how we plan to integrate each topic:

**Shapes: Elf's Parcel Sorting Station:** The children will create an imaginary parcel sorting station used by elves. Through this activity, the children will identify and sort parcels based on different shapes. They will learn the properties of common shapes and how they relate to everyday objects.

**Place Value and Money: Kelly's Christmas Budget:** We will help 'Kelly' budget for Christmas gifts and festivities. The children will learn to order monetary amounts from the least to the most. This task will enhance their understanding of place value and simple addition and subtraction with money.

**Measurement: Making Christmas Punch:** The children will follow a recipe to make a festive fruit punch. They will measure ingredients using appropriate units such as litres and millilitres. This practical task will help reinforce concepts related to volume and capacity.

**Language of Time: Advent Calendar Exploration:** Using an advent calendar, children will learn to sequence events and the vocabulary of time. They will discuss concepts like days, weeks, and special dates leading up to Christmas.

These activities are designed to be fun and educational, providing a rich context for learning through the magical lens of Christmas

# Art & Design

This half term, we are delighted to be introducing the children to the inspiring world of art through the work of contemporary artist Katie Malone. Our project will focus on creating a festive-themed "Christmas Vessel," allowing the children to explore various artistic techniques and express their creativity.

## Project Outline:

**Introduction to Katie Malone:** The children will begin by learning about the artist Katie Malone, exploring her unique style and the elements that make her work distinctive. We'll discuss her use of shapes, textures, and colours.

**Drawing and Shaping:** The children will start by sketching their own designs for a Christmas vessel. This stage focuses on understanding shapes and how they can be transformed into 3D objects. They'll develop their drawing skills and begin planning their projects.

**Painting Techniques:** Using watercolours, the children will experiment with mixing different shades and learning about colour blending. This will help them add depth and vibrancy to their vessels, enhancing their visual appeal.

**Clay Modelling:** The next stage involves working with clay to shape their Christmas vessels. Children will learn basic clay modelling techniques, focusing on constructing a sturdy base and forming the body of the vessel.

**Adding 3D Elements and Textures:** To add festive flair, the children will create 3D baubles and incorporate various textures using specialised tools. This will teach them about texture and embellishment, adding a tactile and visual dimension to their creations.

# RE

In RE classes, we will be exploring the fascinating world of symbols and signs within Christianity. These classes are designed to help children understand the importance of symbols and how they are used to convey deeper meanings in religion. We believe that this knowledge will enhance their understanding and respect for different beliefs and traditions.

**Exploring Signs Around School:** We will take the children on a walk around the school to observe various signs. This will help them understand the concept of signs as objects or images that convey information or instructions, like traffic signs or classroom labels.

**Discussion:** What is a sign? Why are they important in our daily lives? What information do they provide?

**Understanding Religious Symbols:** We will introduce the children to some common Christian symbols such as the cross, fish (Ichthys), and dove. These symbols represent different aspects of Christian faith and beliefs. **Discussion:**

What is a symbol in religion? How do symbols help express complex ideas or feelings?

**Creating a Tealight Holder:**

As part of our hands-on activity, each child will have the opportunity to create their own tealight holder. The idea behind this is to reinforce the concept of light as a significant symbol in Christianity, representing hope and guidance. This activity will not only be creative and fun but also help the children think about the meaning of light in various contexts.

# History/Geography

This festive season, we will embark on an exciting educational journey exploring "Christmas Around the World" through our History and Geography lessons. This project is designed to broaden the children's understanding of how Christmas is celebrated in different countries, making connections to their own Christmas experiences

**Introduction to Countries:** The children will choose a country around the world.

The children will locate their selected country on a world map, enhancing their geographical awareness.

**Researching Traditions:** They will explore various Christmas traditions specific to their chosen country. Activities will include reading children's books, watching short videos, and engaging with simple online resources.

**Celebration Differences and Similarities:** We will hold class discussions to compare and contrast how Christmas is celebrated around the world versus in the UK. Children will identify similarities and differences, fostering an appreciation for cultural diversity.

**Presentation:** Each child will present a small booklet about their chosen country's Christmas traditions. This will help develop their presentation skills while boosting confidence in sharing their findings.

**Creative Craft:** As a fun, hands-on activity, children can create a craft related to a tradition from their chosen country. This could be a simple decoration or a festive card.