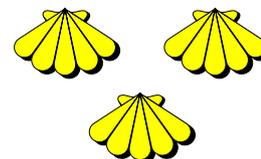


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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'This continues to be a Good School' Ofsted March 18

Autumn 2018 Newsletter

Violet Class

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting school year. I hope you had a great Summer holiday and are looking forward to the year ahead. I am looking forward to working together to ensure your child enjoys their time in Year 4.

Here is a brief outline of the main topics we will be covering this term:

In English we will be working to develop our skills in narrative writing with a focus on Traditional Tales. As well as poetry and report writing we will also be looking in depth at one selected book - The Spiderwick Chronicles. The children will continue with Big Writing in order to further develop their independent writing skills and be working towards their pen licence.

Children will be given a spelling rule each week rather than a set of words to learn. The children will then need to find their own words, in a variety of multi-modal texts, where their spelling rule is applied. The children then need to record their words and complete a sentence for each word to ensure their understanding. The children will share these words in class and be involved in a deeper discussion that observes familiar patterns and rules within spellings. We feel this will benefit the children to understand and apply spelling rules or patterns to a variety of words and enhance their ability to spell unknown words through using this knowledge. At the start of each year your child will be given a list of 'Common Exception Words'. These are a list of words provided by the National Curriculum that are an exception to the rules taught. Please could you help your children to gradually learn these spellings by having them displayed in your home and visiting them little and often. The class teacher will be testing the children on these words termly and discussing them in class to find ways to help them remember each spelling. Mnemonics such as 'Big Elephants Can't Always Use Small Exits' to learn how to spell 'because', are proven most effective in helping your child learn these words.

In Maths we will be looking at place value to order and compare numbers beyond 1000 and develop skills of rounding and estimation. We will also be looking at securing addition and subtraction fluency as well as using formal written methods. We will use all four operations to solve problems including measures and perimeter. We will suggest suitable units and measuring equipment to estimate or measure length, mass or capacity. There is also a focus on multiplication and division facts therefore a sound knowledge of times tables, up to and including twelve times, is essential and any opportunity for your child to practise their times tables **for quick recall in any order** will be of considerable benefit to them across a range of maths topics.

We will begin with the unit "Living things and their habitats" in Science. Within this unit, we will study animals and organisms that live in a variety of habitats and also their food chains. We will also look at the impact humans have on a variety of habitats. Within our overall topic, we will be looking at how to improve the environment around the school. We will also be looking at animals and humans with a particular emphasis on the digestive system, teeth and a variety of food chains.



SCHOOL
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In RE the children will begin to learn about Hinduism and Christianity and how they are similar and different to each other. In the lead up to Christmas we will look in detail at the events surrounding the birth of Christ and the significance of Advent as a time of preparation.

In Art we will be concentrating on the 'Expressionist Movement' with a close look at the life and work of Russian artist Wasily Kandinsky.

We will use the ICT suite twice a week to continue developing our general computer skills. Our first unit will be on developing an understanding of simulations which provide environments that mimic the real world. We will design an algorithm for an onscreen programming task which includes repeat functions and procedures.

In Geography we will begin to develop a greater knowledge of the countries of Europe (including Russia) using maps to focus on the key physical features and major cities.

Early on in the term we will be looking at the anniversary of the ending of WW1 and completing activities linked to this along with the rest of the school for a 2 week project. Following this our History topic will look at the Anglo-Saxon settlements and the fall of the Roman Empire. This topic will enable the children to explore the world of the Anglo-Saxons, understand why they came to Britain and learn how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. We will visit Cressing Temple in October.

In P.E. we will be developing our skills within dance with a focus on World War One. We will also be developing our skills in tri golf and rapid fire cricket. Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit, royal blue T-shirt, navy shorts/skorts and plimsolls or trainers, all clearly labelled. As the weather becomes colder, you may wish to provide your child with jogging bottoms too. Please have hair tied back and earrings removed. Our P.E days will be on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon. We will also be swimming this half term.

In Music we will be exploring rhythmic patterns whilst also exploring songs and music linked to our Anglo-Saxon topic. The children will also be exploring string instruments during our weekly music lessons.

French will be taught each week and our units for the Autumn term will include 'How To Present Myself' and 'The Family.'

Homework will continue this year. It will be given out on a Monday and needs to be returned on Friday please. Please continue to read with your child each night. It really does make a difference to their development. Projects will continue this year and they will be based on topics being studied at school. I will give more information on these nearer the time.

Please continue to provide your child with fresh fruit or vegetables for snack each day and they will also need a water bottle too please.

Attendance - It is essential that your child arrives to school in good time. Your child should be lined up at 8.50 when the school bell is rung. If they arrive after this time, they will need to go via the school office and will be marked as late. For a prompt start could all parents please leave the playground when the classes are lined up.

As always, if you ever have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via the office to arrange a mutual time to meet.

I look forward to a great year with you all.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Green
Class teacher

