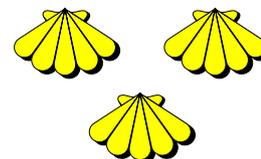


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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

Autumn 2018 Newsletter

Yellow Class

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 2! Mrs Watson and I are very excited to be working with you and your children this year. Below is a brief outline of the main topics we will be covering this term.

Reading is an imperative part of your child's learning. The ability to read and comprehend has a direct impact upon the other areas of their learning. Therefore, it is essential that your child is reading at home for at least 10 minutes **every day and 5 days a week**. As well as listening to the accuracy of the words being read, please ask your child questions about what they are reading as this will increase their level of understanding. Reading is a process of decoding and understanding. Some helpful questions to ask can be found inside the front cover of your child's reading journal or ask if you would like some guidance. In school, the children will read twice a week with an adult through guided reading. During this time they will work on various decoding, comprehension and inferential skills. Any children who read 5 or more days a week that has been recorded in their reading records will receive extra minutes of play.

In writing we will be focusing on traditional tales, poetry and writing instructions. We will recap on the structure of stories and will look more closely at the vocabulary, grammar and punctuation that is used within them. The children will then use what they have learnt to plan, tell and write stories of their own. When looking at poetry, the children will be encouraged to express their opinions and preferences. They will explore alliteration and poetry patterns. They will use simple poetry patterns to create their own poems and practise reading them aloud. In our non-fiction unit on writing instructions the children will learn about the important features of this type of text. They will then apply their knowledge by writing their own instructions for a chosen purpose. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of phonics and will move on to learning about spelling rules and patterns.

In Maths the children will develop their number skills by understanding place value and exploring various ways of making 10 and 20. They will use mathematical language such as more, less, greater and smaller than when talking about numbers and explaining their work. The children will be encouraged to recall number bonds quickly and apply this knowledge when working with larger numbers. The children will be developing their understanding of number and number patterns through a variety of written and practical work. They will then apply this to addition and subtraction tasks. Alongside this the children will continue to develop their mental maths skills, looking for quicker and more effective ways to solve questions in their head. It would be helpful to practise times tables with your children at home. We will be working on 2,3,5, and 10 times tables and learning strategies to aid finding and recalling the answer quickly.

In Science we will be learning about plants and animals. The children will use our school environment to explore different living things and learn more about their habitats, environment and food cycles. Through simple investigations they will develop their scientific skills - making predictions, following instructions and



thinking about what they have learnt or what the results tell them. They will learn to record their results in a variety of ways and will develop their understanding of the importance of a fair test.

In RE we will be learning about Judaism. The children will learn simple facts about the faith and explore the stories from their festivals and celebrations. After half term we will be looking at Christianity and why Christmas is an important time for Christians.

In History we will be learning about World War I with a particular focus on Remembrance Day. The children will gain a better understanding of the symbol of the poppy and will use different sources to find out information, comparing life in the past to their lives today.

In Geography the children will be looking at 'Where We Live' in comparison to a 'Journey Around the World'. This will give the children a chance to explore different environments, climates and seasons and identify animals that are better suited to live in different countries.

Our topic in ICT is 'Getting Creative'. This links closely with our work in Art. The children will explore how ICT can be used to communicate meaning through words, still pictures and animation. They will learn to use different tools to create different effects and will save and retrieve their work.

Our work in Art this term links closely with our work in Science and ICT. The children will develop their observational drawing skills and use different media to paint and print their sketches. They will learn to comment and suggest improvements to their work and will look at the work of some famous artists.

P.E will be on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school on these days, girls may wear skorts if they wish. The children will go outside whenever possible for PE so it would be advisable to ensure your child has plain dark blue jogging bottoms and/or a plain dark blue sweatshirt to wear. For safety reasons, long hair **must** be tied back and earrings removed. Items of clothing are often lost or mislaid when changing for PE. We would therefore be grateful if you could regularly check all of your child's clothing (school uniform and PE items) to make sure their name is clearly marked.

Homework will be set on a Friday and collected in on a Wednesday. It will consist of Maths or English learning that we have covered that week and include their spelling rule.

For spelling the children will be given a 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.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns. The end of the day is usually the best time but please be aware that an appointment through the office may be necessary for longer issues.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Keep and Mrs Watson
Class Teachers

