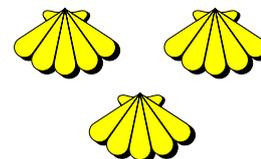


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



High Wych, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. CM21 0JB

Telephone: (01279) 722109 Fax: (01279) 600396

E-mail: head@highwych.herts.sch.uk

admin@highwych.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs M. J. West

'This is a Good School' Ofsted Oct 13

Autumn Newsletter 2017

Red Class

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very pleased to welcome your children to Red Class and hope that they will be very happy. This should be an exciting and special time for everyone, so please feel free to talk with a member of the team whilst your child is settling in.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is based around seven areas - Personal, Social and Emotional Development - Physical Development - Communication and language - Literacy - Mathematics - Understanding the World - Expressive Arts and Design. The children's progress is recorded in a 'special book' called a Learning Journal. We photograph the children frequently for their journals, very often as part of a group, so your child's picture may be in another child's learning journal and vice versa. We will be screening new children for speech and language and for eye sight issues. We will contact you should your child need any extra support.

In the first few days we will be focusing on settling into our new class and introducing the children to the routines of the day. We very much lead from the children's interests and their curiosities in the Early Years. To begin the first topic of learning the children have chosen is 'Dinosaurs'. Through this topic we will target any areas the children need to develop, as shown in their reports from their previous settings. It would be very helpful if you could provide us with a copy if you have not already done so. Future topics will be decided by the children and we will let you know about these as we go.

Homework is in the form of reading books and half term holiday activities that will contribute to your child's learning journey. Children are currently being assessed so we can begin to send reading books home; please do read with your child daily it makes a huge difference. Reading is the foundation of all learning and it is well documented that good readers do well at school. Please do not read the book for your child but help them to talk about the pictures and identify the words using sounds. It is really important that you talk about the book with your child; finding things in the pictures, predicting what might happen next, talking about favourite characters or parts of the story, etc. Also enjoy reading stories to your child.

Through early writing, we reinforce correct letter formation and pencil grip daily and we ask that you help us by ensuring these are also reinforced at home. Please encourage your children to have a go at writing their name/surname and simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words e.g. mum, dad, nan, cat, dog.

'Bug club' will be set up once the children have their reading books and you can access this at home. This is a different form of reading which the children generally find very engaging. All you need to do is log on to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk once we have sent home your child's log in details.



In Maths the children will be learning, recognising and using numbers to 20 and learning to count to 30 and beyond and backwards from 20. They will be involved in practical maths activities with adult support to help them to develop mathematical thinking and to solve simple mathematical problems. Together look for simple 2D and 3D shapes around your home and when you are out. Allow your child opportunities to become familiar with our UK coins. It is important that children understand the vocabulary we use - more than, less than, the same as, on top of, behind, how many, shape, space, count, number names and position etc.

The children enjoy creating objects with your junk. We then transform this into wonderful 3D art. Please send in empty boxes, yogurt pots etc.

We would appreciate it if all your child's belongings could be clearly named; this makes our lives easier, but also makes things much simpler for your child. Names are needed on clothes, PE kit, spare clothes, water bottles, wellies, lunch boxes and book bags - plus anything else you can think of! Please do not put the children's spare clothes into their PE bag as this is very confusing for them. A strong carrier bag is best for the spare clothes as rucksacks take up too much room on their pegs.

Our PE days are currently on a **Monday and Friday**. Children will be expected to dress and undress themselves, though we appreciate this is a learning process so support at home would be wonderful. No earrings or jewellery please, including watches, and long hair must be tied back at all times. Activities will include climbing, throwing and travelling in different ways. We will also have 10 sessions of Tumbletots starting on Friday 22nd September.

The children have a fruit snack each day provided by the Government - they will also have a carton of milk if you have signed the form requesting this. Water is vital to a child's wellbeing. We do not have easy access to drinking water in our classroom and we ask that children all bring in a named bottle of water each day - no squash please.

Our lending library will begin in a few weeks, the children will be able to select a book of their choice; this will change on a weekly basis and should ideally be kept in your child's reading folder.

Red Class attend assembly once a week on a Friday at the church; this is a celebration assembly where two children are chosen each week for various reasons to receive a certificate. Children can also bring in certificates from home eg swimming etc to share with the school.

Please be reminded that the school is a **mobile free zone** so please respect this. Also the play equipment is not to be used before or after school for Health and Safety reasons. Older siblings are expected to stay on their own playgrounds when Foundation children are being dropped off.

Hopefully this letter will contain much of the information you need. Mrs Rogerson and I are always available to answer quick questions, but if you want to have a longer chat please ring the school office to arrange a convenient time.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you. On Thursday 21st September we would like you to arrive early (3pm) where your child will receive a special High Wych teddy to welcome them to the school. We hope you can join us.

Mrs J Monk

Class Teacher

