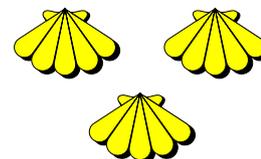


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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'This is a Good School' Ofsted Oct 13

Summer Newsletter - 2017

Year R - Red Class

Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone. We hope you are ready for a busy Summer Term.

This term we hope the weather will be kind to us so that much of the children's learning can take place outside. If you have any spare plants or seeds, flowers or vegetables, we would happily take them off your hands. Likewise if you have any containers that we can grow things in we would like to extend our collection, especially if they are unusual. Of course as you know, where our learning goes is very much led by the children's interests so we wait with excitement to find out what we will be doing while we ensure that all the necessary skills and early learning goals are being taught.

The children are now familiar with the expectations of school and understand what is expected from them in terms of behaviour and 'work'. We continue to help them to develop their independence, selecting their own materials and planning their own learning, as well as being responsible for their own belongings. As before, there will be a balance of directed and self-chosen activities, and initial topic work may evolve depending upon the children's interests.

This half term we are beginning with the theme of 'Animals', chosen by the children. Initially they have chosen to look at domestic pets and then they have asked to move onto wild animals. Some examples of learning include: bringing in pictures from their home or their grandparents' home of the family pets, looking at the different food that animals eat, is there a more popular pet in the class and looking at where the different wild animals live in the world and how their environment is different to ours.

I would be grateful if you could bring in a picture of your family pet. If you don't have a pet, a picture of their Grandparent's pets will be just as good. I wonder who has the most interesting pet?

If you have any books, or objects relating to our topic we would be very grateful as the children always love sharing their objects from home.

All the children are really taking off with their reading now and it is important that they read regularly to practise their skills. 5 - 10 minutes of quality time every day is of huge benefit and those children who get this support at home are known to make better progress. We know that modern life is very busy, however if your child is not reading at home regularly and bringing books back to be changed it will be more difficult for them to make good progress. We aim to change books regularly in school, usually on a Tuesday and a Friday. If they have 'read' a book ask them to talk about what they have read. What do you think happens after this



story has finished? Have you ever had this experience? Children should also hear and share other favourite stories and rhymes regularly. It is important to model language in all its forms so that they can at first absorb it and subsequently use it.

Our Literacy work will continue to involve teaching the names and sounds of the alphabet. Reading and writing are modelled in the classroom both in adult led and play situations. From the start, we will encourage the children to attempt their own writing, gaining confidence in expressing themselves. There will be many opportunities through play activities and adult led sessions for them to practise writing and at all times the child's efforts are praised. Alongside these early attempts at writing we regularly reinforce correct letter formation and pencil grip and we ask that you help us by ensuring these are also reinforced at home. If you are not sure about correct formation or pronunciation (t not tuh, ss not suh) please come and ask. We encourage children to 'have a go' when writing words and help them to sound out words for themselves rather than tell them the correct spelling every time. At this stage, it is important to instil confidence in their own abilities to write phonetically (as they learn their sounds) and not to expect every word to be exactly right. Please don't write in capital letters for your child to copy as this makes learning to write even more difficult.

In Maths, the children will be continuing to practise, recognise and use 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. They should begin to add two groups of objects together and take a group of objects away from a larger group, use shapes to make pictures and models and learn to name and describe basic 2D and 3D shapes, use words such as bigger and smaller to describe size, more or less to describe amounts and longer or shorter to compare lengths. We will be learning to recognise coins and use them in role play so please let them empty your purse!! It is important that children understand the vocabulary we use - more than, less than, the same as, on top of, how many, behind, shape, space, count, number names and position etc.
At home: - help to promote mathematical thinking by playing number games, board games, cooking and using the language of position, shape, and number.

Please continue to access 'Bug club' at home. This is a chance to read at home using Ipads/computers and is very engaging. All the children have a username which is their first name, password hen, school code h6wc. Please log on and you should have a variety of books allocated. Once your child moves up a level, I will then issue another set of books on your child's new reading level. www.activelearnprimary.co.uk. If you are having trouble logging on please come and see us.

A reminder about clearly naming clothes; 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! Our PE days are currently on a Tuesday, 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 and long hair to be tied back please. Activities will include climbing, throwing, and travelling in different ways.

May I say a big thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported their children in making the morning transition to independence run so smoothly. Can I also remind you that the school is a mobile free zone so please respect this and that the play equipment is not to be used before or after school for health and safety reasons. Thank you.

Hopefully this letter will contain much of the information you need. Mrs Mephram, Mrs Rogerson, and I are always available to answer questions, but if you want to have a longer chat just ask, so that a convenient time can be arranged.

Ms Kirk
Red Class Teacher

