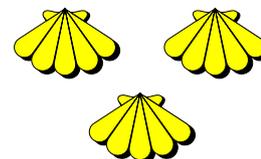


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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'This is a Good School' Ofsted Oct 13

Spring newsletter 2018

Reception - Red class

Dear Parents

We hope you had a great Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year!

Our emphasis on practical and play-based activities continues this term. The children have now settled well into school and understand what is expected from them in terms of behaviour and 'work'. We will continue to develop their independence, selecting their own materials and planning their own learning, as well as being responsible for their own belongings. Please support us in this by arriving at school promptly and encouraging your child to come into the cloakroom on their own. We will always help the children if they need any support. As in the Autumn Term, there will be a balance of directed and self-chosen activities during the day. Our learning takes place through topics which are chosen by the children and these will change and evolve depending upon the children's interests.

This half term we are beginning with the topic of 'Night Time Animals'. Through this topic we will explore the features and movements of different Night Time animals as well as finding out about their habitats. The children will learn about what different animals need to survive and will relate this to themselves when looking at healthy food, exercise and healthy choices. Part of our learning will include cooking - this will, where possible, be sent home with the children but where this is not possible we will inform you in advance in case of allergies.

The children will continue to bring books home to share with you. Please continue to help them to talk about the pictures and enjoy telling stories. The pictures remain an important strategy for reading and the children should be encouraged to make use of them. In school we have been working on our phonics and our recognition of some of the common words in our reading. In guided reading, the children have been looking out for these words in the texts and using their phonics to read simple 3 letter words. Please encourage them to do the same when they read with you. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that children who read little and often are those who make best progress in all areas of their learning. 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.** As last term, books will be changed every Tuesday and Friday. The books sent home from school will take your child through learning to read step by step and have a valuable part to play, but reading should also be for enjoyment. It is really important that they also enjoy a bedtime story. It is great for children to hear adult models of reading and it is good to predict what might happen next or talk about these stories in the same way as the school books. Please don't forget Bug Club as well - this is a great resource and a new and interesting way for the children to read. Books on Bug Club are, however, limited at this early stage but we will endeavour to move children on just as soon as they are ready. We are continuously assessing and are keen to move your child on as quickly as



possible, but it is important that the timing is right so that each child is confident and motivated to continue. Moving on too early can knock this confidence and hinder your child's progress.

In English we will continue to develop the children's phonic knowledge. Reading and writing are regularly modelled in the classroom both in adult led and play situations. From the start we have encouraged the children to attempt writing in a range of situations, 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. This term we will be focusing more on using our phonics, as well as the words we are able to read, to support our writing. At this stage we aim to develop the children's confidence in using their sounds to spell words, not focusing too much on the accuracy of their attempts. 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. 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. Homework this term will include letter formation sheets to support this. Please speak to any member of staff if you need any support or guidance with this and we will be happy to help.

In Maths, the children will be continuing to develop their number skills - recognising number, making amounts, matching numbers and counting both forwards and backwards. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical language - finding one more or less, groups that are the same and practically carrying out simple addition. In shape and space we will be exploring the main 2D and 3D shapes, learning to recognise the shapes by name and talking about their properties. In practical activities we will explore positional language and compare objects, talking about their weight, length and capacity. You can support this learning at home by:

- playing board games - particularly those involving dice or cards (children need to be able to recognise the patterns for the different numbers).
- Counting at every opportunity with different objects (those they can move and those they cannot).
- Looking out for shapes and numbers in the environment.
- Talking about the position of things - in front, behind, next to, on top of, in, under, etc.

Our Tumble Tots sessions have now finished so PE will be on a Monday. It would be really helpful if children did not wear earrings on these days. The curriculum in Reception is very active so there will be plenty of opportunities to use a range of equipment and develop various skills throughout the day. For formal PE sessions, the children are expected to dress and undress themselves and they are getting more confident with this. With so many children changing at one time it is inevitable that clothing can get muddled up. Please help us by ensuring that your child's uniform, spare clothes and PE kit (indeed anything at all) are clearly labelled. Spare clothes are best kept in a separate bag if possible please.

The children will continue to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day at snack time. There is also the opportunity for the children to have a carton of milk - please see the office if you are interested in this. Those children not having milk should bring in a clearly labelled bottle containing water only please. Please be aware that we will encourage the children to have a snack and drink each day but we do not insist on this.

Red Class will be attending assembly once a week on a Friday at the church with the rest of the school. This is a celebration assembly where two children are chosen each week for various reasons to receive a certificate.

Thank you for all your help and support last term and we look forward to working with you again this term. Please feel free to speak to any member of staff if you have a concern but it might be necessary to make an appointment through the office for longer issues.

Mrs J Monk

