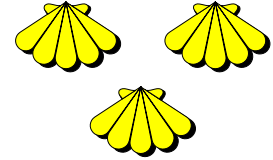


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



High Wych, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. CM21 0JB

Telephone: (01279) 722109

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

admin@highwych.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs M. J. West

Success and Excellence within a caring Christian Environment

Autumn Newsletter Year 2 - Yellow Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 2! We 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- Reading is an imperative part of your child's learning. The ability to read has a direct impact upon all of the other areas of the curriculum. Therefore, it is essential that your child is reading at home to you or another adult for at least 10 minutes **every day**. As well as listening to the accuracy of decoding the words, please ask your child questions about what they are reading, this will increase their level of comprehension. Reading is a complete process of decoding along with understanding. Some helpful question starters can be 'Who? Where? How? What?' And in particularly 'Why?'. 'Why?' challenges their level of inference and assesses if they understand the characters and plot.

Reading a more challenging text to your child is also important as this exposes them to a wider range of vocabulary useful for language development and their writing. 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 child reading 5 or more days a week- recorded in reading diaries- will receive extra minutes of play.

Writing- During English, we will be focussing on alternative versions of traditional tales such as 'The Wolf's Story': the wolf's perspective in the traditional tale Little Red Riding Hood. We will be sharing a variety of these twisted texts identifying similarities, differences and preferences. We will begin to explore a variety of writing tasks such as creating 'Wanted Posters', newspaper reports and engage in role play such as acting as the police interrogating the different characters from these stories. Throughout these tasks we will be focussing on adjectives, capital letters and full stops, exclamation and question marks as well as composing coherent, sequences of writing. The children will continue to develop their knowledge and awareness of phonics and will move on to learning about spelling rules and patterns.

Maths- 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 move on to applying 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 the answer.

Science- In Science we will be learning about animals including humans. The children will use our school trip to Colchester Zoo to ignite their interest in animals and how they live and survive. In class we will explore different living things and learn more about their offspring, habitats, environment and food cycles. Through simple investigations they will develop their scientific skills - make predictions, follow instructions and analyse and discuss what they have learnt. We will learn how to investigate questions and how to record findings.

RE- In RE we will be looking at Christianity and answering two questions 'What do Christians believe God is like?' continuing the work they explored in Year One. To finish the term we will look at 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?' Alongside these we will look at the school values and see how they are the building blocks to become effective learners at school. We will focus on one value a month, please see the school website for ways to support this at home.

History- In History we will be learning about Local Heroes with a particular focus on Remembrance Day. The children will learn about heroes from the past and present and discuss what a hero means to them. 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. If any families know of any family or friends who have served as a hero in war or in their community, please bring in any information to share with the class. This would bring the learning to life and make it special for the children to learn about heroes we know.

Geography- In Geography the children will be looking at Weather and Seasons, building upon the work they have worked on before and understanding the weather patterns linked to each of the seasons. The children will also look at the UK as a whole and see how patterns of weather change in different areas. We will look at the symbols used and weather forecasts, something you may like to also do at home.

Computing- We use a scheme as school called 'Purple Mash' which has been developed to introduce the children to many different programmes in a simplified way. We begin the year with some coding activities, then move onto looking at how to stay safe online then finishing with looking at producing simple spreadsheets. Each year skills will build upon ones developed the previous year.

Art- Our work in Art this term will be focussing on painting skills. We will look at the elements of art such as colour, line, shape, texture and patterns. We will look at how artists use these in their work then apply the ideas we gather to our own pieces of artwork. We will be looking in particular at some pieces by Vincent Van Gough and Claude Monet.

PSHE

We will cover two areas this term, the first being 'Being me in my world' a lovely time for the children to look at themselves and how they work with others including the responsibility they have to each other to make school a good environment for all. We will then look at 'Celebrating Difference' where the children will learn how we can all be the same but also how it is also good to be different to each other.

PE- P.E will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. 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- Homework will be set on a Friday and collected in on a Wednesday. It will consist of maths, topic or English learning and include their spelling rule. It is expected that all children complete the homework or they will have to complete with teacher during their play times. If a child is struggling with homework please feel free to contact us before the Wednesday and assistance or differentiation will be given.

Spellings- Children will be given a spelling rule/pattern to learn each week rather than a set of meaningless words to learn. The children will then need to find their own words (in a variety of multi-modal texts such as: newspapers, magazines, TV guides, comics, books etc), where their spelling rule is seen. The children then need to record their words (5-10) and complete a sentence for five of their selected words to ensure their understanding and recognition of the spelling rule.

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. The children will need to be seen spelling these words correctly within their writing to meet the expected standard for their year group. Therefore, 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. Pnumonics 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 Pavett
Class Teachers

