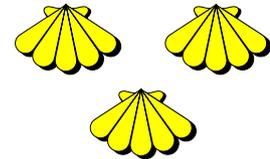


High Wych C E Primary School

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 continues to be a Good School' Ofsted March 18

Autumn Newsletter 2019

Red Class

Dear Parents

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 please be aware that your child's picture may be in another child's learning journal and vice versa. We will be routinely screening new children for speech and language and 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. Once settled, we will begin to observe and assess the children to find out what they already know and what they need to work on next. They will have been assessed at their previous settings so it would be very helpful if you could provide us with a copy of their final preschool report if your child did not attend our Nursery and if you have not already done so. Our learning is very much lead from the children's interests and their curiosities in the Early Years. To begin with we will focus on our core book 'Whatever Next'. Future topics will be decided by the children and we will let you know about these as we go along.

In Reception the children will take part in daily phonics and reading activities. Phonics and reading are the foundation blocks for future learning. It is well documented that good readers do well at school and in order to give your child the best start we will provide homework to reinforce what they have learnt in class for you to support them at home. This homework will include letter sounds and words for the children to learn to recognise by sight as well as a reading book and reading record. When reading with your child, please do not read the book for them but help them to talk about the pictures and identify the words using their 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 - bedtime stories are a great way of developing a love of reading and their reading skills. A parent workshop on supporting children with their phonics and reading will be arranged in the next few weeks so please come along. In addition to this, your child will receive a half-termly homework task to extend their learning. This task is a fun activity for you to share with your child and should be completed and returned to school on the first day back to be added to their learning journal.



Your child will shortly be sent home with a book from our school library. This book is chosen by your child and is for you to read to them, possibly as a bedtime story. The children will be able to change this book weekly so please try and keep it in their reading folder.

In Maths the children will be learning, recognising and using numbers to 10 initially, and then to 20. They will begin to estimate and count groups of objects accurately and talk about them using mathematical vocabulary such as more, less, the same as, etc. We will be exploring time by looking at what we do at different points in the day as well as using sand timers. Through practical activities, the children will investigate length, weight and capacity - comparing objects and ordering them using the correct language. They will explore the shapes they see around them, naming and talking about both 2D and 3D shapes.

Our PE lesson will be on a Wednesday. PE kits need to be brought into school as soon as possible and hung on your child's cloakroom peg. The children will be expected to dress and undress themselves, though we appreciate it is a learning process and will support them where needed. Please begin to encourage your child to be independent at home as well to help us with this. It is vital that all of their PE kit and spare clothes are **clearly labelled** so that they can be returned quickly if they get mislaid. For health and safety reasons it is best that no earrings are worn on PE days please.

The children will have access to a rolling snack each day. This means that they can come and have a drink and free piece of fruit or vegetable each day when they choose to. We do not insist that children have snack but will encourage them to do so as a part of their learning about health and healthy choices. Children should bring a labelled water bottle to school each day and milk is available to order through the school office. Please **only** send **water** in the bottles. Bottles containing squash or other drinks will be replaced with water.

Please be reminded that the school and its grounds are a mobile phone free zone so please respect this. Also the play equipment and other resources in the Foundation Garden are 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 Mepham, 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 19th September we would like you to arrive early to collect your child (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

