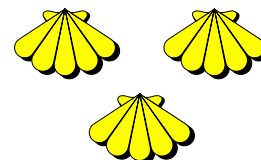


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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'This is a Good School' Ofsted Oct 13

Spring newsletter

Reception - Red class

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! Our emphasis on practical and play-based activities continues this term. 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 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 particular interests.

This half term we are beginning with the theme of 'Cold' while the weather is at its coldest and after half term we will be changing to the theme 'Hot'. Both of these topics offer many opportunities to develop all seven areas of the curriculum. Some examples of learning include: creating an igloo and a traditional rural African house to read and play in. The children will be exploring the words 'Cold and Hot', tasting a variety of food from Africa, exploring animals that live in a range of places. If you have any books, soft toys or objects relating to our topic we would be grateful if we could borrow them as the children always love sharing their objects from home. As part of our new topic on 'Cold', we would very much like you to create a piece of work with your child at home to represent the word cold.

All children will bring books home to share with you. Please help them to talk about the pictures and enjoy telling the stories. The children's books will be changed on a Tuesday and a Friday. Regular reading supports your child in many ways, including vocabulary and listening skills so please support us in sharing a book with your child daily. If they have 'read' a book ask them to choose a favourite picture to talk about - why is it a good picture etc. Children should also hear and share other favourite stories and rhymes regularly. Please record this in your reading records daily.

Our Literacy work will 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 please come and ask one of us. 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. We ask that you 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 learn, 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. Together look for simple shapes 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, 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 i-pads/computers and is very engaging. All the children have a username, which is red class, password 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

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!

Our PE days are currently on a Tuesday 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 and long hair to be tied back please. Activities will include climbing, throwing and travelling in different ways.

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. Please encourage the children to try to hang up their own coat & put up their own names, so that they can become independent.

It helps the children to identify their book bag if a key ring of their choice is clipped on to the handle. 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 so we ask that children all bring in a named bottle of water each day.

Red Class runs from 8.40am to 3.20pm. Please wait by the Foundation Stage gate at the beginning and end of the session. When you come into the classroom to collect your child they will all be sitting on the carpet and the teacher will call your child's name - they will soon learn that they must wait until they are called and this means that we know that they are safe with their grown up.

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.

May I inform you 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. Thank you.

All parents and friends are members of the PTA, who do so much to raise money for the school. Look out for the next scheduled meeting and join us if you can.

Hopefully this letter will contain much of the information you need. Mrs Hills, Mrs Pegram, and I are always available to answer questions, but if you want to have a longer chat just ask, for a mutual time.

Ms Kirk Red Class Teacher

