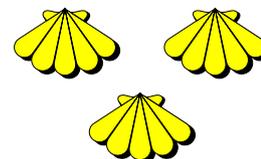


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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'This is a Good School' Ofsted Oct 13

Spring Newsletter 2017

Year R - 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 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, with initial topic work evolving depending upon the children's interests.

This half term we are beginning with the theme of 'Food.' Some examples of learning include: tasting and cooking with different types of vegetables. Looking at where in the world, different vegetables come from. We will be creating a vegetable shop where the children will be experiencing using price labels and money. I would be grateful if you could bring in a vegetable for the children to explore. I wonder who will be able to find the most interesting vegetable. If you have any books, or objects relating to our topic we would be very grateful. The children always love sharing their objects from home.

All children will bring books home to share with you. Please help them to talk about the pictures and enjoy telling stories. Children who read little and often are those who make best 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 choose a favourite picture to talk about - why is it a good picture etc. What do you think happens after this story has finished? Have you ever had this experience etc. Children should also hear and share other favourite stories and rhymes often. It is important to model language in all its forms so that they can at first absorb it and then use it.

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 (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. 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 and password, any problems please ask. 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 day is currently **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. Please do not put the children's spare clothes into their PE bag as this is very confusing for them. Please encourage the children to try to hang up their own coats and put up their own names, so that they can be as independent as possible.

The children will continue to 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. Please remember to bring in a named bottle of water each day.

Red Class runs from 8.40am to 3.20pm. Please aim to be on the playground for just after 8.40am so we are ready to come into class so that gates can be closed by 8.50am to make a good start to the day. Please remember to let us know if someone different is collecting that day.

May I 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.

I am sure that you will support your child in the best way, but if there are any problems please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms Kirk
Class Teacher

