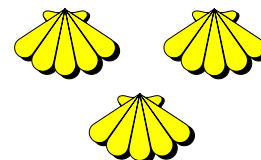


High Wych C E Primary School

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 N - Rainbow Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome your children to Rainbow Class. This newsletter is to inform you about the sorts of activities your children will be engaged in. Obviously in these early days the emphasis is on getting to know your children and ensuring that they are happy and enjoying the challenges that school presents.

Our Nursery team is made up of

Teachers - Ms Kirk (Monday to Wednesday) and Mrs Watson (Thursday and Friday).

Nursery Nurse - Mrs Glasgow every morning

Teaching Assistant - Mrs Dennis every afternoon

Midday Supervisor - Mrs Pegram

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is based around seven areas of learning - Personal and Social Development - Physical Development - Communication - Literacy - Maths - 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, often as part of a group, so your child's picture may be in another child's learning journal. Future topics will be decided by the children and we will let you know about these as we go.

The Foundation Stage gate will be open at 8.45 am for morning drop off, 11.50am for the end of the morning session and at 3.25pm for the end of the school day. We ask all parents to be patient as we familiarise ourselves with getting to know you all. Please inform us if there is going to be a change of adult for collection or if your child is attending After School Club.

Please make sure **ALL** your child's belongings are 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, during the cooler months please also label hats, scarfs and gloves, plus anything else you can think of!

Accidents happen and for this reason we ask that each child has a spare set of clothes in a named carrier bag on their peg so that if necessary they can get themselves change. (No rucksacks please as we have limited storage.) Please make sure your child is able to manage their own clothes and shoes. Don't expect them to do things at school they can't do at home.

Each day your child will receive their milk if you have signed the form requesting this. We also encourage all children to bring in a named, sports style bottle with water in. Please **do not** send in **juice or squash** as it will



be emptied and refilled with water. They will also receive a piece of fruit that is provided as part of the healthy schools initiative.

Our PE session will start as soon as the children are settled, they 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 could children have **one small keyring or object** attached to their book bags so that they can recognise them. Please can you assist us by putting their names inside the bookbag and initials on the front so we can easily recognise them as well.

For the first few days we will be focusing on settling into our new class and introducing the children to new routines. The first half term's theme is 'All about me.' This covers areas including likes and interests, the body and family and friends. Here we will address PSHE issues such as sharing and friendships. Through this topic we will also target any areas the children need to develop as shown in their reports from their previous settings. It would be very helpful if you could provide us with a copy of your child's previous reports, if you have not already done so. We very much lead from the children's interests and their curiosities in the Early Years, so for the second half term I will ask the children for their ideas, through their ideas a topic is found.

Homework is in the form of a half term holiday activity and will contribute to your child's learning journey.

Each week your child will be sent home with a fiction book to share with you. When finished sharing please ask them to choose a favourite picture to talk about - why is it a good picture etc. 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.

From the very start we encourage the children to attempt their own writing, this helps them to gain 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 reinforce correct letter formation and pencil grip and we ask that you help us by ensuring these are also reinforced at home.

Maths work is of a practical nature as children need to have experienced mathematics in a practical way before formal recording. This area of learning is not about writing or doing 'sums'. The children will be learning to recognise and use numbers to 10 and learning to count to 20 and beyond. They will play lots of games and be involved in practical maths activities with a teacher to help them to develop mathematical thinking and to solve simple mathematical problems. At home you could point out numbers in the environment, count stairs, cars, pennies, doors, windows, flowers etc. Play counting games such as snakes and ladders, shops, bingo (it's important to lose sometimes).

May I remind you that the school is a mobile free zone so please respect this. Thank you.

If you need to speak to one of us for more than a brief exchange, please make an appointment via the office for a mutually convenient time as it is not always possible or appropriate at the gate at the start and end of the day. Please park in the village car park and walk around to collect your child to avoid blocking the drop n go.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

Yours sincerely

Ms Kirk and Mrs Watson
Rainbow Class Teachers

