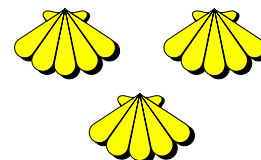


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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Success and Excellence within a caring Christian Environment

Autumn Newsletter

Year R - Red Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome your children to Red Class and hope that they will be very happy.

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 ensure they receive additional support should they need it.

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 led from the children's interests and their curiosities in the Early Years. To begin with we will focus on our core book 'Shark in the Park'. Future topics will be decided in discussion with the children and interests that emerge from our learning.

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 activities to reinforce what they have learnt in class to help you 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 hopefully take place in the next few weeks, or be forwarded to you to explore at home. Reading books will be sent home very shortly. Initially it will be a picture book, building up to simple words once your child has learnt some phonic sounds. Reading books can be changed twice a week - on a Monday and a Thursday. If you want a new book, please place the **book and reading record** in the box at the gate. 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.

In Maths the children will begin by learning to subitise (recognising numbers by their dot patterns). They will develop their counting skills by counting groups of objects accurately and reliably and making comparisons between groups of objects using a range of mathematical vocabulary. They will notice and explore patterns and explore objects by comparing length, thickness and mass. Initially, children will develop their skills working with numbers to 10. Once secure in their understanding they will develop their skills with numbers beyond this.

Our PE lesson will be on a Tuesday. PE kits need to be brought into school as soon as possible. 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 named** so that they can be returned quickly if they get mislaid. For health and safety reasons no earrings should be worn to school on PE days please.

We are fortunate to have a specialist teacher at High Wych and our lesson with her will be on a Friday morning. The children will learn to listen closely to a variety of music styles and share their thoughts and ideas about them. They will also learn about the different elements to a piece of music and explore rhythm and tempo as well as identifying a range of instruments by their sounds.

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 with a lift up lid 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.

Hopefully this letter will contain much of the information you need. If you have any concerns you can drop a note in the box by the gate in the mornings.

Please park in the village car park at the end of the day and walk around to collect your child.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you.

Mrs J Monk

Class Teacher

