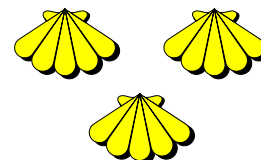


# High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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Head Teacher: Mrs M. J. West

*'This is a Good School' Ofsted Oct 13*

## Autumn Newsletter Year 2 - Yellow Class

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 2! Mrs Wheeler and I are very excited to be working with you and your children this year. Below is a brief outline of the main topics we will be covering this term.

### Reading

Reading is an imperative part of your child's learning. The ability to read and comprehend has direct impact upon the other areas of their learning. Therefore, it is essential that your child is reading at home for at least 10 minutes **every day**. As well as listening to the accuracy of the words being read, please ask your child questions about what they are reading, this will increase their level of understanding. Reading is a process of decoding and understanding. Some helpful questions to ask can be found inside the front cover of your child's reading journal or ask if you would like some guidance. In school, the children will read twice a week with an adult through guided reading. During this time they will work on various decoding, comprehension and inferential skills. Any children seen to be reading 5 or more days a week will receive extra minutes of play. Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. Please write in your child's reading record to indicate that their book needs changing. Books can be read several times to increase confidence and enhance fluency and understanding of a text.

### Writing

In Writing we will be focusing on traditional tales, poetry, recounts and explanation texts. We will recap on the structure of stories and will look more closely at the vocabulary, grammar and punctuation that is used within them. The children will then use what they have learnt to plan, tell and write stories of their own. When looking at poetry, the children will be encouraged to express their opinions and preferences. They will explore alliteration and poetry patterns. They will use simple poetry patterns to create their own poems and practise reading them aloud. In our non-fiction units on explanation texts and writing instructions, the children will learn about the important features of these two types of text. They will then apply their knowledge by writing their own instructions and explanation texts for a chosen purpose. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of phonics and will move on to learning about spelling rules and patterns.

### Maths

In Maths the children will develop their number skills by securing their understanding of fluency to twenty. We will continue to work on our understanding place value and regrouping 2 digit numbers. The children will represent, order and compare numbers to 100 and they will use mathematical language such as more, less, greater and smaller than when talking about numbers and explaining their work. The children will be developing their understanding of number and number patterns through a variety of written and practical work. They will be applying this to different addition and subtraction tasks. Alongside this, the children will continue to



develop their mental maths skills, looking for quicker and more effective ways to solve questions in their head. It would be helpful to practise times tables with your children at home. We will be working mainly on 2,5, and 10 times tables.

### Science

In Science we will be learning about animals including humans. The children will find out about the basic needs for survival and describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene. They will notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults and recognise changes that take place as animals get older. Through simple investigations they will develop their scientific skills - making predictions, following instructions and thinking about what they have learnt or what the results tell them. They will learn to record their results in a variety of ways and will develop their understanding of the importance of a fair test. We have an exciting visit to Colchester zoo planned in October to consolidate some of this learning!

### RE

In RE we will be learning about Judaism. The children will learn simple facts about the faith and explore the stories from their festivals and celebrations. After half term we will be looking Christianity and why Christmas is an important time for Christians.

### History

The children will explore the history behind, and the significance of, Bonfire Night on 5th November. The children will develop a curiosity about the past, asking and answering questions. They will choose and use parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events and begin to develop an understanding of abstract terms such as Parliament and treason.

### Geography

In Geography the children will learn about weather and seasons. This unit has a focus on the local area as well as looking at the wider perspective of the UK. By looking out of the window, collecting data in the playground and thinking about what is happening around them, the children will make more sense of a changing world. They will observe, spot seasonal patterns and talk about changes by using weather-related vocabulary.

### ICT

Our topic in ICT is 'Getting Creative'. The children will explore how ICT can be used to communicate meaning through words, still pictures and animation. They will learn to use tools to create different effects and will save and retrieve their work. We will also be completing reading and comprehension activities on the computer each week.

### Art/DT

Our work in Art this term will involve outdoor learning and using natural resources to create art work. The children will develop their observational drawing skills and use clay to create minute woodland models. They will learn about the work of Artist, Andy Goldsworthy and create their own leaf animals and outdoor art based on his work. They will evaluate and suggest improvements to their work and the work of others. In DT we will be designing, making and evaluating fire engines, particularly focusing on how wheels and axes work together.

### P.E

P.E will be on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school on these days, girls may wear skorts if they wish. The children will go outside whenever possible for PE so it would be advisable to ensure your child has plain dark blue jogging bottoms and/or a plain dark blue sweatshirt to wear. For safety reasons, long hair **must** be tied back and earrings removed. Items of clothing are often lost or mislaid when changing for PE. We would therefore be grateful if you could regularly check all of your child's clothing (school uniform and PE items) to make sure their name is clearly marked. We will be completing a dance unit about weather/bonfire night and learning new hand and feet ball skills through outdoor games.



## Homework

Homework will be set on a Friday and collected in on a Wednesday. It will consist of Maths or English learning that we have covered that week and include their spelling rule.

## Spellings

Children will be given a spelling rule each week rather than a set of words to learn. The children will then need to find their own words, in a variety of texts, where their spelling rule is applied. The children then need to record their words and complete a sentence for each word to ensure their understanding. The children will share these words in class and be involved in a deeper discussion that observes familiar patterns and rules within spellings. We feel this will benefit the children to understand and apply spelling rules to a variety of words and enhance their ability to spell unknown words. At the start of each year your child will be given a list of 'Common Exception Words'. These are a list of words provided by the National Curriculum that are an exception to the rules taught. Please could you help your children to gradually learn these spellings by having them displayed in your home and visiting them little and often. The class teacher will be testing the children on these words termly and discussing them in class to find ways to help them remember each spelling. Pneumonics such as '*big elephants can't always use small exits*' to learn how to spell 'because', are proven most effective in helping your child learn these words.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns. The end of the day is usually the best time, but please be aware that an appointment through the office may be necessary for longer issues.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Smith**  
Class Teacher

