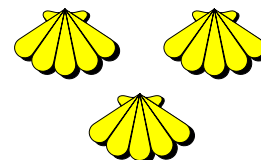


High Wych C E Primary School

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

'This continues to be a Good School' Ofsted March 18

Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Year 5 - Blue Class

Welcome to Year 5 and an exciting term! Last year was certainly an academic year like no other. We experienced the first pandemic of our lifetimes, closed the school, and became remote teachers and learners and what an amazing job you all did! I hope you managed to have a great summer holiday and are looking forward to the year ahead. I am really looking forward to working with you and your children again this year. Here is a brief outline of the main topics we will be covering this term.

Reading is an important part of your child's learning. Please continue to read with your child **at least 5 times each week** - it really does make a difference to your child's development. Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have read - comprehension is as important as identifying the words themselves. Children will still be expected to read good quality (age appropriate) texts five days a week and should record this in their reading record for the teacher to monitor. Those children that are reading 5 times a week will be rewarded with extra play.

Following the guidance given to schools, we are making a few changes to the way we manage home reading this term. Books will be sent home on a Monday and need to be returned to school on Thursday to ensure they are safe to reallocate to other children. All children have access to books online through the Bug Club reading App so please make use of this over the weekends. Log on details can be obtained from your child's class teacher if necessary. Reading is an essential tool for learning and we strongly promote reading every day for around 10 minutes. Please ensure that your child reads every day and that **you record** this in their reading record - whether it is a physical book or one from their bug club selection. At the moment it is not possible for staff to comment personally in reading records, but please be assured that they are checked weekly and children are spoken to about their progress.

Homework will be set each week and will consist of work to consolidate learning such as spellings, reading and mathematics (in particular times tables) on J2e. Homework books will not be used this term. The homework will be set on J2E on a Friday and is to be completed by the following Wednesday. I will mark the homework and record who has completed it. This will be monitored during the first few weeks. No half term projects will be set at this time. This will be reviewed during the term following guidance from the Government carefully.



In English, we will be working to develop our skills in narrative writing, poetry and biography writing. Spelling, grammar and handwriting will also be taught on a regular basis. The children will continue with Big Writing in order to further develop their independent writing skills. We will be reading 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo and using this story to further inspire and develop the children's writing. We will be continuing with learning a spelling rule each week rather than a set of words to learn. Please continue to practise the common exception words at home as this makes a huge difference to your child's learning!

In Maths we will be looking at addition and subtraction in many forms and be exploring units of measure. We will suggest suitable units and measuring equipment to estimate or measure length, mass and capacity. We will develop strategies to count on and back in repeated steps of different numbers. We will use all four operations to solve word problems involving money and measures. We will also be looking at multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentages. A sound knowledge of times tables, up to and including times twelve, is essential and any opportunity for your child to practise their times tables will be of considerable benefit to them across a range of maths topics.

We will begin with the unit 'Forces' in Science. Within this unit we will look at why objects fall towards the Earth and identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces. We will investigate and recognise some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears. Later in the term the children will have the opportunity to explore space through Virtual Reality, more details to follow.

In RE the children will begin to learn about Judaism and Christianity and how they are similar and different to each other. In the lead up to Christmas we will look in detail at the events surrounding the birth of Christ and the significance of Advent as time of preparation.

In Art we will be concentrating on the artist Pablo Picasso and 'Cubism'. We will have a close look at his life and various styles of his work.

In Computing we will investigate how "big data" is used in our world. We will develop a good understanding of the school's computer network as well as improving the accuracy and efficiency of our digital searching.

In Geography, the children will find out about the regions of the United Kingdom, discovering how some of these areas have changed over time. The children will research how specific areas of the UK have been affected by change, before conducting a fieldwork activity on our area and writing a magazine article.

For our History topic we will look at the Anglo Saxons. Children will be exploring the big question "Was the Anglo Saxon Period really a Dark Age?" through the use of artefacts, research and debate.

In French, the children will initially learn how to say, read and spell different pets. Moving onto looking at conversational language, in particular months of the year.

Herts Music Service will continue to work with the First Access children every Friday. They will have another music lesson with Mrs Earl where they will explore Classic Rock and then later in the term Classroom Jazz. At the moment, singing is not allowed in the classroom and so the focus will be on Percussion during these sessions.

We will still be doing PE (**Monday and Tuesday Afternoons**) and expect children to change into their PE kits (clearly labelled) but the offer will be limited as no contact sports are allowed and the sharing of equipment is limited. Please make sure your child bring in their PE bags to leave on their pegs -draw string bags only. Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit, royal blue T-shirt, navy shorts or skorts and plimsolls or trainers, all clearly labelled. As the weather becomes colder your child will need **jogging bottoms** as the majority of PE will be outside.



Please continue to provide your child with fresh fruit or vegetables for snack each day and they will also need a filled water bottle too please with a lift up lid.

We have carefully planned out the start and finish times (**8:30 - 3:10**) to spread out the movement of children so we can reduce the amount of potential contact with those outside their bubbles. Each class will remain as a class group. No parents will be allowed on the school site for the time being. Please respect this. Therefore the school office will be closed to parents for the time being. Please do not book any appointments, e.g. dentists, during the school day as we may not be able to accommodate collection outside of the arranged times. If you need to speak to me please send an email via the school office or arrange a telephone call.

I am really looking forward to an exciting albeit different term with you all! Thank you for your continued hard work and support.

Miss Green, Class teacher

