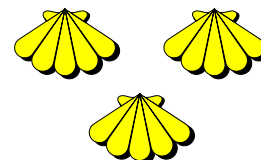


# High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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

## Autumn 2020 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 important 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. 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!

**COVID changes (in line with Government guidance)** - Reading books will still be sent home but there will be a period of 72 hours between books being returned and being re-issued to another pupil. Reading records will still be checked weekly as the child will open their record and show the teacher how many times they have read. We currently will not write in the reading record (to save cross contamination), so please can you record the title of the book that your child has been sent home with and record when you have read. To allow time for reading books to be changed, they need to be **handed in on a Thursday** and a **new book will be sent out on a Monday**. Please write in your child's reading record to indicate that their book needs changing. Books should be read several times to increase confidence and enhance fluency and the understanding of a text. In addition, books from home or books on bug club can be read.

**Phonics screening** - The scheduled Year 1 phonics screening was postponed due to COVID 19. Current guidance from the government is that children will take part in a school phonics screening at the end of the autumn term. Any children who do not reach the pass mark will be required to re-take the formal assessment next Summer.

**Writing** - This term in English, 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 use simple poetry patterns to create their own poems and practise reading them aloud. In our non-fiction units on explanation texts and recounts, the children will learn about the important features of these two text types. They will then apply their knowledge by writing their own recounts 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 of 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. We will be covering a mixture of Year 1 and Year 2 topics in the autumn term to ensure that any key areas are secure.

**Science** - We will be learning about animals including humans in Science lessons. 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 grow. Through simple investigations they will develop their scientific skills - asking questions, 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.

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

**History** - The children will explore the history behind and the significance of Bonfire Night on 5th November. They will also be learning about the Great Fire of London and thinking about whether it made London a better place. 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.

**Computing** - Our topic this half term 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 as well as completing reading and comprehension activities.

**DT/ART** - In DT we will be learning about and designing our own fire engines. The children will then go on to make and evaluate their own fire engines, particularly focusing on how wheels and axels work together. In Art, our main focus will be on painting. The children will learn to control the types of marks made with a range of painting techniques e.g. layering, mixing media, and adding texture. They will continue to experiment with colour mixing, shading and tinting. They will also learn about the work of artist Claude Monet.

**P.E** - P.E will be on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school on these days, girls may wear skorts if they wish. The children will be outside 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. The children will learn dodging and ball skills and also learn about the importance of team work and communication.



**Music** - The first unit is based upon different festivals and Christmas. The children will use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. They will have opportunities to play tuned and untuned instruments and listen to a range of high-quality live and recorded music and experiment with sounds.

**Homework** - Homework will be set on a Friday via J2E to be completed by the Wednesday. It will consist of maths and literacy learning that we have covered that week and include a new spelling rule each week. During this first term, homework books and folders will not be sent home (COVID 19 guidance). However, practical activities, worksheets and online activities using J2E will be set.

**Spellings** - Children will be given a spelling rule each week rather than a set of words to learn. They 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. They 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 within the Year 2 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. The class teacher will be testing the children on these words termly and discussing them in class to find ways to help them remember.

**SNACKS** -We will continue to receive fruit snacks from the government. Named and filled, lift up lidded water bottles must be brought into school every day and taken home each afternoon.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns. The end of the day is usually the best time after the class have been collected by the gate but please be aware that a telephone appointment through the office may be necessary for longer issues.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Smith**  
Class Teacher

