



High Beech Church of England Primary School

Mott Street, Loughton, Essex IG10 4AP

Telephone: 020 8508 6048 Fax: 020 8532 0161

Email: admin@highbeech.essex.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs S Roffey (Bed Hons)

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to High Beech C of E Primary School. I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are ready for the new year ahead. All children have made a very promising start in Acorn Class and are settling in well.

Below I have outlined what I plan to cover during the Autumn term so that you have a clear idea of what your son or daughter will be learning.

Next week we will start our first topic, *All About Us*, which will focus on ourselves including our interests, our family, our homes, the community we live in, the Christian value of Friendship, our bodies and keeping healthy. As we move through the term there will be opportunities to adapt planning to accommodate the interests of the children so we would love to hear about any hobbies, interests or areas of expertise that your child may have! For this topic, children will need a family photo so if you could email or send one in by Friday 21st September I would appreciate it. During this part of the term we will also learn about Harvest Festival and how it is celebrated by Christians.

In the second half of the term, our curriculum topic will be '*Once Upon a Time*' which will focus on a variety of fairytales. The first fairytale will be *The Three Little Pigs*, followed by *Jack and the Beanstalk* and finishing with a fairytale of the children's choosing. Through these traditional stories, we will focus on retelling the stories, story language, story structure, the character's behaviors and the settings used. During this part of the term the children will also learn about Diwali including why and how it is celebrated.

As we near the end of the term our '*Once upon a time*' topic will lead us nicely into Panto season and Christmas. During this time the children will learn all about Advent and why Christians celebrate Christmas. We will also learn about Hanukah and how it is celebrated within the Jewish religion.

Next week we will begin the Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme - introducing each letter sound in turn in a specific order (not alphabetically). The children will bring home phonics flash cards, in a flash card wallet, to help reinforce recognition of each sound and I will post some information on Tapestry to help you support this learning at home. Please ensure their flash card wallet is kept in their book bag so that we can add to it weekly. To further support you with reinforcing your child's phonics learning at home, I would like to invite you into Acorn Class for a phonics workshop on Wednesday 3rd October at 9.15am.

Some key words will also be introduced each week and a flash card for each word will be sent home in their Letters and Sounds wallet which, again, should be kept in their book bag so that we can add new words. It would be beneficial to your child if recognition of these could also be reinforced at home.

Next week, each child will also be issued with a reading book and a reading diary to accompany it. We will change books and have an individual adult led reading session with each child twice a week as well as group guided reading sessions. Please read with your child and encourage them to read to you regularly (not just once for each book).

Feel free to write any notes regarding your child's reading in their reading record book including particular words they may have found difficult or any comments they may have made about the story. These books are also a great form of communication for us so if there is anything that you need to let us know, please feel free to write us a message.

In mathematics we will be focusing on numbers 0 - 10 and beyond while also covering areas such as estimating, comparing, early addition and subtraction, finding one more/less, sorting and matching.



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During the term we will focus on the Christian value of *Generosity* which we will explore through bible stories, class discussions and games.

Children will take part in Forest Learning with Mrs Stavrou and Mrs Conner on a Wednesday afternoon so please ensure they have full waterproofs, wellington boots and a pair of thick/warm socks in school. Wearing school trousers, rather than shorts or dresses/skirts, would also be a good idea on these days, particularly during the colder months. Their first session will be on Wednesday 26th September so please ensure your child's forest clothing is in school before this date.

Children will also take part in physical development sessions on Thursday afternoons, with their first session being on Thursday 27th September, so please ensure that PE kits are in school for this day. If your child has their ears pierced, please ensure that earrings are removed for PE days or that your child can remove them on their own.

Each week on a Friday, one child will bring home our *Acorn Class Hedgehog Family and Journal* which should be returned to school by the following Wednesday. The journal will be used to help us build a complete profile of your child and their out of school activities which they can share with the class.

A healthy fruit snack is provided for your child each day but if you wish to put an extra piece of fruit in their book bag for morning snack time please do. Your child will also need a named water bottle for the classroom. This will be sent home at the end of each week for you to wash and refill.

I look forward to meeting with you at Parents Consultation Evening later on this term and discussing your child's progress in detail.

I hope this information is of help to you.

Kind regards

Miss Nelmes
Acorn Class Teacher