

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

Friday 8th September 2017

Class: Sapphire (Years 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mrs Golding (Mrs Hoyer on Monday afternoons)

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Townsend, Mrs Stonehouse, Miss Rogers

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school, and into Sapphire class! We hope that you have all enjoyed the Summer break and are returning well rested and refreshed. The children are already settling in well together and we are looking forward to the learning and challenges that this new academic year will bring.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be 'Field to Fork.' This is a History-based topic and we will look at some of the causes of the war but our particular focus will be the effect that it had on everyday life, especially for children. We will also be considering the sources of information that we use to find out about the past.

If children have any additional information or resources to share, it would enhance the learning in class; there may be family stories that will bring the topic to life.

English

In English this term, alongside our Learning Journey, we will be using the reading that we do to lead into our writing and we will think about ways to effectively plan written work. We will be using collaboration to develop skills of redrafting, particularly looking at the accuracy of our spelling and punctuation. We will be working with children as they build confidence in independent reading and understanding of text. We will be supporting children as they develop their skills and will be doing 'Big Writing' each week.

We will continue with our focus on spelling, as this is an area that has been highlighted in the National Curriculum, and we will look at patterns and rules as well as encouraging children to learn the spelling of words that they use regularly to support their writing.

Maths

Maths lessons will be taught within the class to enable us to effectively deliver the National Curriculum and we will initially be building on our understanding of the number system. We will also have a focus on mental mathematics, developing a range of strategies for calculating mentally, concentrating in particular on adding and subtracting units, tens and hundreds from any number. We will also begin looking at the multiplication tables, and children will carry out a weekly 'Times Table Challenge', to increase their speed and recall of these number facts.

Science

Our Science topic this term is 'Magnets and Forces'. We will be doing some practical work and investigation into how forces and magnets work and why they are important. Children will explore how to ask and answer scientific questions, and begin looking at recording results of scientific enquiries.

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P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on developing children's dance skills and invasion games. Our fixed PE slots are Monday and Tuesday. Please note that we ask that children bring in their PE kit every day to school; in this way we can be as flexible as possible in order to take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'Stories from the Old Testament'. This will be largely taught during English lessons in a cross-curricular way so that children are still practising skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening while the RE provides the context. Parents and guardians should be aware, as detailed in government legislation, that they have *"the right to request that the pupil be excused from all or part of the RE provided. They do not have to provide a reason and the school must comply with their request. It is however the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide alternative work if the child is withdrawn. Parents and carers must also be aware that RE is cross-curricular and in primary schools it may be taught as part of another subject area for which there is no legal right to withdraw."*

We will continue to take advantage of the curriculum interests and strengths of members of staff, and so Mrs Crystal will be teaching Sapphire Class on Thursday afternoons, while Mrs Golding teaches in Emerald class. She will focus on History and Geography, with links to English.

Home Learning

Homework supports children's learning and consists of core tasks which are ongoing activities: regular reading with an adult which should be recorded in the Reading Record Book; Spellings – the children have an individual spelling list which is recorded in their yellow Spelling Logs and tested on Tuesday, with an updated list given out on Wednesday; Maths games and activities, links to which can be found on the Learning Platform, or independent practise using the 'Times Tables RockStars' website.

In line with our Home Learning Policy, there will also be a project that will be discussed with the children who will be encouraged to plan and complete the task over the term. It will then be presented and evaluated in class. Children will have details of the task for this term and a planning and evaluation sheet; it will also be posted on the Class Page of the Learning Platform. Children will have their own log-in details for the Learning Platform so do please have a look to see what we are doing in class!

If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform us immediately and together we will find ways of overcoming this.

We are always grateful for helpers to come in and listen to the children read or play maths games. If you feel you could spare an hour to do so and you have an up-to-date 'Alfriston School' Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please catch one of us in the playground, give us a call via the school office or arrange an appointment to see us.

Finally, it is so important that children feel happy and supported in school in order to learn and to develop as confident members of our community; this is best achieved when home and school work in partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to us. We are generally available after school but if this time of the day isn't possible for you then we can always arrange a more mutually convenient appointment time – just phone the school office to arrange.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Golding

Mrs C Hoyer

Mrs J Townsend

Mrs S Stonehouse

Miss J Rogers

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