

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

February 2018

Class: Emerald (Years 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mrs Crystal

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mr Windsor, Mrs Bliss, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Downton

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after our short break. I hope that you enjoyed the week despite the rather changeable weather! The children are settling back into school and we are hard at work, continuing our Learning Journey topic about Ancient Egypt.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

Our focus for the Learning Journey topic this term is looking at the different sources of information that we have in order to develop our knowledge about the past. We will look in particular at archaeology in the area and at the discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamen.

English

In English this term, we will use information sources linked to our Learning Journey to develop language skills. We will also look at drawing inferences in reading and justifying opinions with evidence from the text. It is important that children are able to assess and improve their own writing, and this will continue to be a focus.

Maths

In Maths, whilst continuing to build on children's knowledge of the number system and ability to calculate accurately using a range of strategies, we will also look at ratio and proportion and algebra. Children will continue to apply their mathematical understanding in a variety of problem solving situations.

Science

Our Science topic this term is 'Electricity'. We will be constructing simple circuits and also drawing diagrams using recognised symbols. Safety around electricity will also be discussed.

P.E.

Our P.E. session this term will centre around Invasion Games and Aerobics. We do suggest that children have their P.E. kits in every day; in this way we can be as flexible as possible and take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable. Please ensure that children have something warm to wear for outdoor sessions: a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt are ideal. Our fixed PE slots will still be Monday and Friday this term.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

R.E.

In RE this term, we will be learning about the Qu'ran, which links to last term's learning about the prophet Mohammed. 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.

Home Learning

Homework supports children's learning and includes core tasks, which are ongoing activities.

Regular reading, both in their heads and aloud to an adult, is a priority. The discussions that follow reading are particularly important in developing children's comprehension. Children have a spelling list which is recorded in their yellow Spelling Logs and updated regularly; learning these words will enable children to write with increased fluency and confidence. Children are also encouraged to undertake Maths activities in order to develop children's knowledge of number facts.

In line with our current Home Learning Policy, there will also be a project that will be discussed with the children. They are encouraged to plan and complete the task over the term and 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. These projects support children's learning in several ways; they enable children to research and to work creatively to present their learning. They are also able to present their work to an audience, which is developing their confidence and skills in this area.

If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform us 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 can spare some time 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 me in the playground or arrange an appointment to see me via the school office.

Finally, it is vital 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 me. I am 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 Crystal