

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

September 2017

Class: Sapphire (Year 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss and Mrs Rogers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in Sapphire Class! We do hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break and are ready for the new school year and the challenges it will bring. The children are already settling well and have made a good start on their learning. I am also settling in and enjoying the calm and supportive atmosphere at Alfriston! I am excited to have a bright, newly decorated classroom that is equipped with everything that our pupils need to learn. All equipment and resources are provided for the children so I will take this opportunity to request that children do not bring pencil cases into school.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be 'Out of this World.' This is a Science-based topic, which will link to our explorations on how sound is produced and how it can travel. This will also inform artwork and writing throughout the year.

If children have any additional information to share, it would enhance the learning in class; there may be books or resources 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 also have regular spelling, grammar and punctuation sessions. 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.

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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

In Science, our topic is Sound. We will look at how sound is produced, how it travels and we will explore how our ears are designed to receive and interpret sounds. Children will explore how to ask and answer scientific questions, and begin looking at recording results of scientific enquiries.

P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on dance and swimming. Our fixed PE slots are Monday for dance and Wednesday for swimming. 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. Swimming kit will need to be brought in to school every Wednesday.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'Bar Mitzvah'. 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 Tuesday afternoons. She will focus on French and Music.

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, discussing the content in increasing depth in order to further develop comprehension; Spellings – the children have an individual spelling list which is recorded in their yellow Spelling Logs and updated regularly; children are also encouraged to undertake Maths activities, including the use of the 'ttRockStars' website in order to develop children's knowledge of number facts.

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. 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 in order to develop their confidence.

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Please help us to encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of his or her ability and hand it in on time as this will support their learning and also develop their independence as they prepare for transition to secondary school. 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.

Request

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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to us – it is important that children are happy at school in order to learn to the best of their abilities and we will always try to make time to talk to you. 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,

Mr L Sibson

Mrs K Bliss

Mrs J Rogers