



Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

June 2018

Class: Sapphire (Years 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mrs Golding (Mrs Hoyer on Monday afternoons)

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Stonehouse, Mrs Townsend, Miss Rogers, Mrs Bliss

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after the short break. The children have settled really sensibly into our assessment week. We are very proud of how hard they are working.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

For our Learning Journey topic this term, we are continuing with our Science-based topic, 'It's not easy being green'. The unit of study for the Science topic is 'Living things and their habitats' and we will be looking at the ways in which human activity impacts the environment.

English

Our learning in English this term will be linked to the learning journey. We will be aiming to meet our final writing targets, preparing ourselves to take on next year. Children will be undertaking research and presenting their findings in structured, illustrated texts. We will continue to look at ways to improve our writing.

We will continue to develop children's skills in spelling, grammar and punctuation in regular teaching sessions and we will also be doing our 'Big Writing' session regularly in order to develop children's fluency and to enable them to use the skills that they have built up.

Maths

Children will be taught Maths within the class and we will continue to ensure that children have a clear understanding of the number system as well as a good knowledge of basic number facts and strategies for performing mental and written calculations. They will be applying these when solving mathematical problems. We will also be consolidating knowledge learned throughout the year, and addressing issues raised from our most recent assessments.

P.E.

We will be participating in athletics activities as well as our weekly swimming lessons.

Swimming lessons for Sapphire Class take place on Mondays and our fixed P.E. slot is on Friday. Please note that we ask that children bring in their PE and swimming kits every day to school; in this way we can be as flexible as possible and take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable, especially if the weather is lovely this term!

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R.E.

In RE this term, we will be learning about promises, particularly those of marriage. This will be largely taught during English lessons in a cross-curricular manner so that children are still practising skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening while the RE provides the context.

Later in the term we will be exploring and discussing Relationships and Sex Education. In line with our policy on this topic, we will send out a further letter with more specific information about the content and timetable for these lessons. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

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. She will focus on Science.

Homework

Homework supports children's learning and includes Core Tasks, which are compulsory ongoing activities.

Daily reading, both in their heads and aloud to an adult, continues to be a priority. The discussions that follow reading are particularly important in developing children's comprehension. Children also 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. Children may wish to continue practising their mental fluency through the 'Times Tables RockStars' website or using online games, which can be found on the Learning Platform.

Children will also have a weekly maths activity sheet which will be followed up in class. They do not need to produce anything to show they have done this, but anything they do bring to share which demonstrates their learning will be enjoyed and rewarded.

Following the Home Learning meeting with parents and governors last term, we will not be setting a Home Learning project during this busy term. Please see our newly reviewed Home Learning Policy, on our school website, which gives more detail about what was agreed.

If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform us 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 vital 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,

Mrs R Golding

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