

# Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

**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 do hope that you had a restful week. We are settling into the new term and are looking forward to continuing our Learning Journey topic – Field to Fork. We will also be participating in the evening performance of the Big Sing on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December and have begun to learn the songs.

## Curriculum Information

### Learning Journey topic

The children enjoyed their learning last term and are looking forward to extending their knowledge and understanding of World War Two. They have identified some specific aspects that they would like to focus on, including Dunkirk.

### English

In our reading, we will be investigating the use of questioning to develop comprehension skills and we will use the reading that we do to inform and inspire written work. The reading that we will do will link closely to the Learning Journey: there are so many rich texts written for children linked to the subject.

We will also continue to think about ways to effectively plan and organise written work and to choose vocabulary and grammar appropriately for the task.

### Maths

Children will be taught Maths within the class and we will continue to develop children's knowledge of basic number facts and strategies for performing mental and written calculations. We will also build on children's understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages and of 2D and 3D shapes. We will be giving children the opportunity to apply their mathematical understanding in a variety of problem solving situations.

### Science

Our Science topic this term is 'Animals including humans'. We will focus on the changes that affect humans as they develop through life as well as how we can keep ourselves healthy.

### P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will be focussing on invasion games and gymnastics. 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 and take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable. Our fixed PE slots are Monday and Friday this term.

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## R.E.

Our RE topic this term is linked to the Christmas season: Advent and the Christmas Story with a focus on Mary, Mother of Jesus. 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.”

## Home Learning

Homework supports children’s learning and consists of core tasks, which are ongoing activities. Regular reading, both in their heads and aloud to an adult, continues to be a priority and the discussions that follow reading are especially important in developing comprehension. Children have an individual 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, which may be set on the ‘ttRockStars’ website in order to develop children’s knowledge of number facts, including the multiplication tables and associated division facts.

In line with our 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 an area that interests them 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.

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 the learning done in school and also develop independence as children 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.

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 me in the playground or arrange an appointment to see me via the school office.

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

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