

# Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

April 2018

**Class:** Sapphire (Years 3 & 4)

**Teacher:** Mrs Golding (Mrs Hoyer on Monday afternoons)

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

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after our Easter break. The children are refreshed and rested from their holiday, and are now settling to our new topics for the term.

## **Curriculum Information**

### **Learning Journey topic**

For our Learning Journey topic this term, we have a Science focus: It's not easy being green. The Science topic is plants and we will be looking at the parts of plants as well as their functions within nature.

### **English**

In English this term, we will be reading some texts linked to our learning journey, both fiction and non-fiction, and the reading that we do will lead directly into the children's writing. We will also look at planning our writing and setting the scene effectively in fiction. Children will be thinking about the description of their written work, considering word choices and sentence structures. We will continue to look at ways to improve our writing.

### **Maths**

In Maths, we will consolidate our knowledge of written and mental strategies for calculating and apply these to problem-solving situations. We will also look at fractions, considering how they can be used both visually and numerically. We will be developing our skills in presenting and interpreting data using tables and graphs.

### **P.E.**

We will be participating in striking and fielding games and gymnastics activities. We hope to begin swimming lessons before the half term break, weather and pool permitting!

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 P.E. slots are Monday and Friday this term.

### **R.E.**

In RE this term, we will be learning about the church and the synagogue. This will be largely taught during English lessons in a cross-curricular way so that children are still

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practising skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening while the RE provides the context.

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 deliver the Science content.

### **Homework**

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

Regular 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 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, independent practice using the 'Times Tables RockStars' website, or handouts which link with in-class learning.

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 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 Golding

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