

Alfriston School

North Road Alfriston,
Polegate, East Sussex BN26 5XB



E-Mail: office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk
Website: www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk

Telephone: (01323) 870203
Fax: (01323) 871754

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

7th January 2019

Class: Sapphire (Year 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss and Miss Rogers

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy new year to you all and we trust that you enjoyed the festivities over our break. We would like to thank you all for your kindness and generosity last term – it was greatly appreciated. We are pleased to report that Sapphire Class are back in and raring to go!

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term, our topic will be 'The Romans' This is an historical topic with elements of physical geography as we take on a case study in Pompeii. We will be learning about what life was like in a Roman city as well as what famously happened on the day that Mount Vesuvius erupted.

Our science topic will look at living things and their habitats. We will explore the variety of local and international habitats and understand how animals have adapted to be specially suited to survive in their habitats.

English

In English this term, alongside our Learning Journey, we will be using the reading that we do to broaden our factual knowledge and lead into our writing, and we will think about ways to effectively plan written work across a variety of styles and genres. We will also have regular spelling, grammar and punctuation sessions.

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. Our testing will continue with progression earned once we can see that children have not just learned a correct spelling but are applying them consistently within 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 multiplication and division as well as applying our number skills to contexts including measurements. We will continue to look at the multiplication tables, and children will carry out a weekly 'Times Table Challenge', to increase their speed and recall of these number facts. Progression will be based on consistency and accuracy.

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P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on dance and cricket. Our fixed PE slots are Monday for dance and Tuesday for cricket, though these are subject to change. Cricket this term will be led by a Sussex Cricket instructor. 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.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'The Nature of Promises and Marriage' and will cross religions as well as incorporate elements of PSHE. 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 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.

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

Miss Rogers

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