
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

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

February 2023

Class: Sapphire (Year 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mrs Farror

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Townsend

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sapphire Class – Term 4

Welcome to Term 4. I hope you had a lovely half term.

Please take a look at the separate **curriculum overview** attachment to advise you of the topic related learning and please see the '**Home Learning**' section of this letter to provide you with further details about how you can best support your child at home. As usual, we have lots of learning to cover this term and we have high expectations of attainment and progress.

Learning Journey topic This term our topic is '**Romans – The Empire Strikes Back**'. This is a combined English and History based topic.

In **English**, we will be using our core rich text, **The Roman Soldier's Handbook** by **Usborne Official Books** to lead into our reading and writing and the children will be reading for a range of purposes and writing 'to entertain', writing 'to inform' and writing 'to persuade'.

We will also have regular spelling, grammar & punctuation sessions. We will be supporting children as they develop their skills and will be working towards extended pieces of writing.

We will focus on spelling both the 'high frequency words' and the 'common exception words' and we will look at spelling patterns and rules as well as encouraging children to learn the spelling of the words which they use regularly to support their writing.

All the children will work through individualised spelling lists as appropriate.

Reading is a vitally important skill in developing every aspect of literacy. We build numerous opportunities to hear your child read throughout the school day in every lesson, including some one-to-one reading opportunities with those children who we feel would most benefit.

Thank you for your support with the monitored reading record booklets. We ask that your child reads at home at least 5 times a week but ideally every day. Please occasionally, as

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your child reads, ask them questions about what they have read, about what is inferred and gauge whether they can reflect on the author's purpose. In addition, please check that they understand the meaning of any unfamiliar or complex words. Each child has a '**Reading Question** prompts bookmark' in their reading book so please use that for guidance and suggestions. Reading record booklets should be brought into school every day. Comments and observations will be noted, and/or responded to, as required.

Maths Our topic continues to be **Number: Addition & Subtraction**.

Alongside our topic learning, the Year 3 children will continue to learn their multiplication tables facts. The Year 4 children have their formal **Multiplication Tables Check** in Term 6 so really need to embed the times tables up to 12x12, ideally working towards having instant recall.

Comprehension of, and access to, times tables understanding will aid your child in all aspects of their Maths learning. To encourage them to learn their times tables we will continue to carry out our weekly 'Times Table Challenge' test. We want the children to work towards having instant recall of the times tables, therefore the tests are formal and are timed – it will be wonderful to see how quickly the children climb up our class 'times tables tower'.

Daily use of **TTRockstars** will support your child with their times tables practise.

Science Our topic is '**Living things and their habitats**'. We will be recognising that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; exploring and using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in the local and wider environment and recognising that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

P.E. Our PE sessions will continue to be on Monday and Friday afternoons. The children will need their P.E kits in school on those days but are advised to have them in school all week.

R.E. Our RE topic is '**How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people?**' We will be identifying some Jewish beliefs about God, sin and forgiveness and describing what they mean; making clear links between the story of the Exodus and Jewish beliefs about God and his relationship with the Jewish people; offering informed suggestions about the meaning of the Exodus story for Jews today; making simple links between Jewish beliefs about God and his people and how Jews live; describing how Jews show their beliefs through worship in festivals, both at home and in wider communities; raising questions and suggesting answers about whether it is good for Jews and everyone else to remember the past and look forward to the future; making links with the value of personal reflection, saying sorry, being forgiven, being grateful, seeking freedom and justice in the world today, including our own lives, and giving good reasons for our ideas.

R.E is taught in a cross-curricular way so that children are practicing skills in reading, writing, speaking & listening while the RE provides the context.

Parents and carers should be aware, as detailed in government legislation (Religious education in English schools: non-statutory guidance 2010) and in the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027, that they have the right to request that the pupil be withdrawn from all or part of the RE provided.

“This was first granted when RE was actually religious instruction and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents; the school is not expected to make these arrangements.”

East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027

Equipment All equipment / resources are provided for the children when at school. Children do not need to bring anything into school other than their P.E kit, their school banded reading book, their reading record booklet, their snack and their lunch (if required), their water bottle and appropriate outer layers. They must not bring in a pencil case.

Home Learning Homework supports your child’s learning and consists of the following activities each week -

- **Regular reading** (at least **five times a week** with an adult acknowledging this in the reading record)
- **Spellings** – your child may have an individual spelling list which is accessed through **Google Classroom**.
- **Maths** homework will also be set on **Google Classroom**. This homework will meet the requirements of the KIRF’s (Key Instant Recall Facts) for this term.
- **Times Tables** homework will also be set and children should use ‘**TTRockStars**’ in order to develop their knowledge of multiplication facts.

This term there is a **task-based homework** menu which will also be uploaded onto **Google Classroom**.

Communication If you do you have any questions or concerns then please email me at sapphire@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk or please phone the school office.

Yours sincerely,

E J Farror

Mrs E Farror