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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

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

June 2021

**Teacher:** Mrs Farror

**Teaching Assistant:** Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are, already in Term 6 – I hope you had a lovely May half term and had a chance to enjoy the fantastic weather.

This term is a seven week term and, as usual, we have lots of learning to cover and I have high expectations of attainment and progress.

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.

**Learning Journey topic** This term our topic is 'Much Ado About Nothing'. This is a combined English and History topic. In English, we will be studying several of Shakespeare's plays and in History, we will be studying 'Life in Tudor & Elizabethan England'. Plans for a whole class trip to further enhance the children's learning are underway. Details to follow.

**English** In English, we will be using our core 'rich' text for this term - 'A Stage Full of Shakespeare Stories' as retold by Angela McAllister to lead into our writing and the children will be writing 'to entertain', 'to inform' and 'to persuade'.

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

We will continue with our 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.

As usual, 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.

The use of the monitored reading record booklets has been incredibly successful so thank you for your support with this. As part of our home learning expectations, we ask that your child reads at home at least 5 times a week but ideally every day. We request that the reading record booklets are brought into school each day so that these can be checked each morning. Comments and observations will be noted, and/or responded to, as required.

**Maths** In Maths this term we are finishing off Number: Division and then moving on to Number: Fractions and Geometry: Properties of Shapes.

Alongside our topic learning, the children will also continue to learn their multiplication tables facts. The Year 4 children have their formal **Multiplication Tables Check** during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> June – please refer to the letter sent home at the end of last term, a copy of which is on Google Classroom.

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

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tests are formal and are timed – it is wonderful to see how quickly the children are climbing up our class 'times tables tower'.

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

**Science** In Science, our topic is '**States of Matter**'. We will be comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observing that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measuring or researching the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C); identifying the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associating the rate of evaporation with temperature.

**P.E.** Our PE sessions this term will consist of a two-week block of swimming lessons in week 3 and week 4 of the term and a weekly athletics session. Our weekly athletics slot will be on a Thursday afternoon and further information about the swimming lessons will follow.

The children will not be changing for P.E and will not need their P.E kit. Please note that they should be wearing trainers at all times.

**R.E.** Our RE topic is 'Abraham'. We will present the key teachings and beliefs of the Jewish religion; refer to religious figures and holy books to explain answers and give some reasons why religious figures may have acted as they did. 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. Please note, as detailed in government legislation, that you have "the right to request that the pupil be excused from all or part of the RE provided. [You] do not have to provide a reason & the school must comply with [your] request. It is however [your] responsibility to provide alternative work if [your] child is withdrawn. Parents & carers must also be aware that RE is cross-curricular & in primary schools it may be taught as part of another subject area for which there is no legal right to withdraw."

**P.S.H.E / R.S.E** Our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) education topic this term is 'Changing Me' which also includes RSE (Relationship & Sex Education).

Year 4 parents/carers will be receiving a letter in due course with more information as they have the right to withdraw their child/ren from a specific lesson if they wish. In the meantime, any parent/carer can view our PSHE Education Policy, which we updated in September 2020 in light of the statutory requirements for RSE - you will find this in the policy section of our school website.

**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 has an individual spelling list which is accessed through **Google Classroom** and updated weekly.
- 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.
- Children should also be encouraged to use '**TTRockStars**' in order to develop their knowledge of multiplication facts.

Please note that here is no additional task based homework menu set in Term 6.

If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform me immediately.

**Communication** Finally, it is vital that children feel happy and supported in school in order to be able to learn. If you do you have any questions or concerns then please email me at [sapphire@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:sapphire@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible or please phone the school office.

Yours sincerely,

*E J Farror*

Mrs E Farror