



# Alfriston School



Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

Newsletter - 18th March 2024

## World Book Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Alfriston School joined thousands more across the globe in celebrating World Book Day. As always, the whole school was taken over by a host of beloved literary characters and figures as everybody dressed up as their favourite figures from their favourite books. All of the children gathered together for photos and a fun assembly from Mr Sibson which included a wonderful selection of photos of children reading in some of the most unusual places!

The celebrations weren't just limited to the Thursday however, as there were more exciting events through the week. On Tuesday we were visited by the one and only Dame Jacqueline Wilson (thank you to FoAS for arranging!) and on Wednesday, Pearl and Ruby classes were treated to a special book reading from a parent. The day, and the week as a whole, were a great success with lots of smiles and positive comments reported from all around the school!



## Friends Fundraising Event

The Friends of Alfriston School have managed to secure a day at this season's **Arlington Bluebell Walk**. This is an amazing opportunity to fundraise for the school, however lots of help is needed!

The day allocated to the FoAS is **Friday 12th April**. If you are able to help for a couple of hours on the day (or even longer!), please do let us know at the school office ([office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk) or phone 01323 870203) and we will pass on your message to the Friends. Thank you.

## Absences in Term Time

Government legislation means that schools are not allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time. The DfE only allows a headteacher the discretion to authorise an absence if there are exceptional circumstances.

When absences are requested for exceptional circumstances we would expect them to be for no more than one or two days. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are rare, significant, unavoidable and short. By 'unavoidable' we mean an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

Absences can be requested by completing a 'Withdrawal from Learning Application' **at least 14 days before the absence**, these can be obtained from the school office. If we suspect a child has been absent from school due to a holiday that we have not been informed about, the absence will be unauthorised and it is the responsibility of the parent(s) to provide evidence to the contrary ie. a doctor's certificate.

Please note that if absences are unauthorised but are still taken, penalty notices can be issued. This is a fine of £120 per parent for each child.

## Our Curriculum

Each newsletter we will be taking a closer look at what is going on in various curriculum subjects/areas in our school. This edition.... **Science**

Our Science curriculum is underpinned by a broad range of stimulating units designed to bring learning to life through scientific enquiry, scientific contexts, the use of key texts, studies of our locality and school trips. Science is a core subject within the national curriculum for KS1 and KS2 and we use the EduKent Science scheme to follow the National Curriculum programmes of study. Building on the national curriculum, we foster an enquiry-based approach to enable children to develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding whilst understanding the everyday uses and implications of science.

In the Early Years we explore scientific themes and content through the 'Understanding of the World' strand of the EYFS curriculum. This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

### Science Week

British Science Week is an annual ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year it took place between 8 - 17 March 2024 with the theme 'Time'. As well as a whole school assembly on Friday to introduce the week, each class has tied this week's science lesson into the theme and/or has watched one of the BBC live lessons.



### Sapphire Class Trip to Brighton Museum

Sapphire class visited Brighton Museum & Art Gallery this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the mummification workshop where they re-enacted the mummification process using life size mummy dolls to discover how the bodies of rich and powerful Ancient Egyptians were prepared, cleaned, preserved, wrapped and decorated with jewellery and amulets in preparation for their journey into the afterlife. The children also further enhanced their learning by studying all the fascinating exhibits in the Ancient Egypt Galleries. It really was a wonderful day!



## Dates for the Diary 2023-2024

Any new or amended dates will be shown in bold

18th - 21st March	Year 6 Bikeability
19th March	Mid-year reports & parent consultations (15:45 to 18:15) Face to Face (including APDR meetings where relevant)
20th March	Open classrooms (after school)
21st March	Class photos
21st March	Mid-year reports & parent consultations (15:45 to 18:15) via telephone (including APDR meetings where relevant)
25th March	Year 6 SATs parent meeting (after school)
27th March	FoAS non-uniform day
27th March	Mid-year reports & parent consultations (15:45 to 18:15) Face to Face (including APDR meetings where relevant)
28th March	Easter Service at St Andrew's Church, led by Sapphire Class (2-3pm)
28th March	Last day of Term 4
29th March - 12th April	Spring Holiday
<b>12th April</b>	<b>Bluebell Woods fundraising day, organised by the Friends</b>
15th April	Children return to school - Term 5 begins