

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

1st November 2021

Class: Emerald (Year 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school following the half term break. I hope that you had plenty of fun and some rest and relaxation as well! We are settling into the new term and are looking forward to a packed, but fun, Christmas term!

Term 2 Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic is 'The Victorians'. This is a History-based topic which will inform learning across the curriculum.

If children have any additional information to share, it would enhance the learning in class; there may be books or resources that will bring the topic to life.

English

In English this term, alongside our Learning Journey, we will be using the reading that we do to lead into our writing and we will think about ways to effectively plan written work. We will also have regular spelling, grammar and punctuation sessions. We will be supporting children as they develop their skills and will be doing 'Big Writing' each week.

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.

Maths

Maths lessons will be taught within the class to enable us to effectively deliver the National Curriculum, though we find opportunities as much as possible for small group learning to support and reinforce concepts. We will initially continue to build on our knowledge of the 4 operations of number before exploring how these can be in calculations involving fractions. We will also have a focus on mental mathematics, developing a range of strategies for calculating mentally. We will also 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.

Science

In Science, our topic is Electricity. We will build on children's knowledge about electrical systems and circuits and this will also tie in with our D&T learning.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on dance. Our fixed PE slots are for a full Tuesday afternoon. 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.

We will also take daily opportunities to develop our health and fitness through a range of group activities including yoga/mindfulness, fitness breaks and dance breaks.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'The Christmas Story'. 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

All of our Home Learning resources can be accessed through Google Classroom and will be made available from the first week of term. Homework supports children's learning and consists of core tasks which are ongoing activities:

- Regular reading (at least five times a week with an adult acknowledging this in the reading record);
- Spellings – the children have an individual spelling list which is accessed through Google Classroom and updated regularly;
- Children are also encouraged to undertake weekly Maths activities which will be posted on Google Classroom, as well as 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 not be a project in the term leading up to Christmas as there are so many other events that families will be enjoying!

Please help us to encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their 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.

Finally, it is vital that children feel happy and supported by 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 stay in touch through the class e-mail – emerald@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk – or phone the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Sibson