

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)

Class: Emerald (Year 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in Emerald. It has been such a strange time recently, but it's nice to finally have everyone back in school! The children are settling in well to all of the new routines and expectations. All equipment and resources are provided for the children and regularly cleaned to meet current hygiene requirements, so I will take this opportunity to remind you that children must not bring anything into school other than a reading book, their reading record, any food and drink for the day and appropriate clothing. As we are limiting the number of items coming to and from home, our home learning resources can now be accessed through eSchools. The 'Home Learning' section of this letter will provide further details on this.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be 'Out of this World'. This is a Science-based topic which will inform learning across the curriculum.

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 working towards extended writing pieces 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. In order to ensure accurate recall and to maintain progress following our extended time away from school, all children will begin by revisiting the year 3 / 4 spellings in the first 2 weeks. From here, children will work through individualised spelling lists as appropriate to their progression.

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.

We are reintroducing monitored reading records throughout Key Stage 2. As part of our home learning expectations, we ask that these are brought into school at the beginning of each day and taken home after school every day. We will be looking for 5 recorded 'home reads' to be signed by an adult each week and will acknowledge these within the reading record every Friday. Please be aware that these are intended for you to track home reading only.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

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. 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. All children will begin at the base of our in class 'Multiplication Mountain' – the x2 tables. Children with secure recall will quickly climb the mountain through our weekly challenge.

Science

In Science, our topic is 'Out of this World'. We will look at the planets of our solar system, including our own, as well as looking further into space.

P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on dance and net/wall games. We have an available playground slot on Friday afternoons which may be used for PE (weather dependent). Due to extraordinary timetabling and demands on in-school space, we will be more flexible with when, where and how we take part in physical activities. Please note that we ask that children do not bring in their PE kit in to school; children are currently expected to wear trainers in school and will take part in PE activities in these and their regular uniforms.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'world religions'. 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

- 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 eSchools 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 homework project which can be accessed through eSchools. Children will choose a number of tasks from a selection in order to complete the project, which will then be presented and evaluated in class. 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.

Communication

Finally, it is vital that children feel happy and supported in school in order to learn; this is best achieved when home and school work in partnership. I know that drop off and pick up procedures are very different now but if you do you have any questions or information to share with to me then please email me at emerald@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk. I will check e-mails after school every day. If there is an urgent matter, please phone the school office to leave a message for me there.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Sibson

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!