

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
Fax: (01323) 871754

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

September 2019

Class: Sapphire (Years 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mrs Crystal

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Townsend

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in Sapphire Class! We do hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break and are ready for the new school year and the challenges it will bring. The children are already settling well and have made a good start on their learning.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be 'Around the World'. This is a Geography-based topic but we will also be following the theme across the curriculum, particularly in the texts that we will read in English. We will be finding out about the physical and human geography of different locations, using maps and atlases to locate countries and we will be naming features on the globe such as the equator and the tropics. If children would like to share any information books or facts that they have found linked to our topic, it would enhance their learning.

English

In English this term, we will read a range of texts that link to our Learning Journey, discussing the language used that captures the reader's imagination. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer questions in order to deepen their comprehension. When writing, we will focus on creating settings and characters as well as the plot of a narrative.

For our spellings, 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.

We will also be supporting children as they develop their writing skills, particularly when planning their work, and we will be doing 'Big Writing' each week.

Maths

Maths lessons will be taught within the class to enable us to effectively deliver the National Curriculum and we will be focussing on developing the children's understanding of the number system, revising, consolidating and furthering the children's skills in place value. We will also be using the mathematical operations of addition and subtraction, looking at both mental and written methods as well as solving problems using these skills in context.

Science

In Science, we will be studying animals including humans. We will look at nutrition and describe the basic parts of the digestive system. We will also be investigating food chains, using the appropriate scientific terms.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on invasion games, developing children's skills and teamwork. These lessons will be delivered by Mr Lewis from Seaford Rugby Club. We will also be looking at how Yoga can develop our balance and wellbeing. Our fixed PE slots are Tuesday and Friday. 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.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is stories from the Old Testament and comparing creation stories. 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. It will also have links to our Learning Journey, as we will look at creation stories from different traditions. 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

Homework supports children's learning and consists of core tasks which are ongoing activities: regular reading with an adult which should be recorded in the Reading Record Book, discussing the content in increasing depth in order to further develop comprehension; spellings – the children have an individual spelling list which is recorded in their yellow Spelling Logs and is 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 and regular practice of the 'KIRFs': Key Instant Recall Facts. We will give children sheets to support this.

In line with our Home Learning Policy, there will also be a project that will be discussed with the children who will be encouraged to plan and complete the task over the term. It will then be presented and evaluated in class. Children will have details of the task for this term and a planning and evaluation sheet. 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. 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.

Request

We are always grateful for helpers to come in and listen to the children read or play maths games. If you feel you could spare an hour to do so and you have an up to date 'Alfriston School' Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please catch one of us in the playground, give us a call via the school office or arrange an appointment to see us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to us – it is important that children are happy at school in order to learn to the best of their abilities and we will always try to make time to talk to you. We are generally available after school but if this time of the day isn't possible for you then we can always arrange a more mutually convenient appointment time – just phone the school office to arrange.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Crystal

Mrs J Townsend

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!