

# Alfriston School

North Road  
Alfriston,  
Polegate,  
East Sussex, BN26 5XB



E-Mail: [office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Telephone: (01323) 870203

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

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

September 2020

**Teacher:** Mrs Farror

**Teaching Assistant:** Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and – at long last – a very big welcome back to school. What a strange time it has been but it is so good to finally have everyone back in school. I am also delighted to be able to welcome Mrs Hannah Young as Sapphire Class teaching assistant.

For the majority of the children this has been an unprecedented time away from school and I know that for some children coming back to school has resulted in great excitement and for others there is a degree of uncertainty. There are lots of necessary new routines in place and lots of new expectations too but rest assured that we are ensuring that all the children get plenty of time to settle back into the new swing of things and that through all of this I still have high expectations of behaviour and equally high expectations of progress.

## Equipment

All equipment and resources is provided for the children when at school and these are regularly cleaned to meet current hygiene requirements. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the children do not bring anything into school other than a reading book, their reading record booklet, their snack and lunch (if required), their drink for the day and appropriate clothing. They must not bring in a pencil case or a P.E kit.

As we are limiting the number of items coming into school and going home, our home learning resources can now be accessed through the eSchools learning platform. The 'Home Learning' section of this letter will provide further details on this.

## Learning Journey topic

This term our topic is 'The Sound Collector'. This is a combined English and Science topic which will inform learning across the curriculum. Our class book for the term will be The BFG by Roald Dahl.

## 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 1/2 spellings in the first 2 weeks. From here, 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.

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 each day and taken home every day. We will be

**Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!**

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. Any further questions or concerns should be raised through our class e-mail addresses.

### **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 number concentrating on place value and then on addition and subtraction. 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 'Time tables Tower' – the x2 tables. Children with secure recall will quickly climb the mountain through our weekly challenge.

### **Science**

In Science, our topic is 'Sound', where we will be identifying how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating; recognising that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear; finding patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it; finding patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it and recognising that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

### **P.E.**

Our PE session this term will focus on Dance. Our class PE slot is on a Thursday. Your child will not be changing for P.E and will not need their P.E kit.

### **R.E.**

Our RE topic this term is 'Bar Mitzvah'. This will be taught during English lessons in a cross-curricular way so that children are still practicing skills in reading, writing, speaking and 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 and the school must comply with [your] request. It is however [your] responsibility to provide alternative work if [your] 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 (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 menu. This can be accessed through eSchools. Children will choose tasks from this menu to complete which can 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. 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 times are very different now but 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 to leave a message for me there.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Farror

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!