

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

Class: Emerald (Year 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school after the Christmas holiday. I hope that you have had a restful break over the holiday season and that you managed to connect with as many family members as possible over what was a unique festive time. The children have settled back into school and we have begun our new topic: 'WWII: The Home Front'.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be World War 2: The Home Front. This is a history-based topic inspired by our English focus text, 'Goodnight Mr. Tom' by Michelle Magorian, 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 further.

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 following the No Nonsense Spelling scheme, 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.

Reading is a vitally important skill in developing every aspect of literacy. We include 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 continue to monitor 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.

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 continue to climb our in class 'Multiplication Mountain' before graduating to focus on prime numbers and square and cube numbers. Children with secure recall will quickly climb the mountain through our weekly challenge.

Science

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In Science, our topic is 'Animals Including Humans'. We will build on children's knowledge about the human body and the changes that take place through a human life cycle. We will explore and learn through a series of experiments and tests as well as understanding the theories behind diet, nutrition and exercise.

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 'Why is the Torah so Important to Jewish People?'. This will be largely taught during English lessons in a cross-curricular way so that children are still practicing English skills while the RE provides the context.

Parents and carers should be aware, as detailed in government legislation (Religious education in English schools: non-statutory guidance 2010) and in the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027, that they have the right to request that the pupil be withdrawn from all or part of the RE provided.

"This was first granted when RE was actually religious *instruction* and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents; the school is not expected to make these arrangements."

East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027

Home Learning

- Regular reading (at least five times a week with an adult acknowledging this in the reading record);
- Spellings – using the No Nonsense Spelling scheme, children will be encouraged to learn and practise words to consolidate in-class learning. These will be made accessible through Google Classroom;
- 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 Google Classroom. 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

We are always grateful for helpers to come in and listen to the children read or play maths games. If you can spare some time 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 me in the playground or arrange an appointment to see me via the school office.

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,

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Mr L Sibson