

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, Mrs Townsend and Miss Rogers

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. The children have settled back into school and we have begun our new topic: Ancient Greece. We are excited to welcome Mrs Farror as a teacher at Alfriston in Sapphire Class. In order to best take advantage of the unique skills that the teachers at Alfriston have to offer, Mr Sibson and Mrs Farror will be swapping classes every Wednesday afternoon. This means that Emerald Class will be taught French and PE by Mrs Farror every Wednesday.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic is 'Ancient Greece'. This is a combined history and geography 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 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 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 Animals including Humans. We will build on children's knowledge about the animals that live on our planet with a specific focus on humans, including how we age, how we are affected by influences on our bodies and how we can keep ourselves healthy.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

PE

Our PE sessions this term will focus on gymnastics and games. Our fixed PE slots are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please note that children should bring their PE kit to school every day; in this way we can be as flexible as possible in order to take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable.

This term, our indoor PE sessions will take place on Tuesday afternoons and we will be using a range of techniques and apparatus in creating gymnastic sequences.

Our outdoor PE sessions will take place on a Wednesday afternoon and will be led by Mrs Farror.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'Mosque'. 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

Home learning further supports the 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 any learning for home 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 this is a struggle for your child then please inform us immediately and together we will find ways of overcoming this.

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 in 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 come and speak to me. I am 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

Mr L Sibson