

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,

We hope that you had a fantastic Easter break and are feeling refreshed and relaxed. In Emerald Class, we have a fun and exciting term ahead!

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

For our Learning Journey topic this term, we have a Geography focus, The Sussex Landscape, which will include learning about local history and will build on the children's existing knowledge about the area. In addition to the Geography focus, the topic has links with other areas of the curriculum, including art and science.

We will be discussing what children already know about the area; sharing their knowledge and understanding is a valuable resource to support the learning of all the children. If they have any family stories or other resources that they would like to share, that would be lovely!

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 exploring a range of writing activities 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 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.

Science

In Science, our topic is 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. We will build on children's knowledge about the living things that we may find in local habitats and their life cycles.

P.E.

Our regular PE slot this term is Tuesday afternoon. We are very lucky to have Ollie Smith from Sussex Cricket returning to school to develop our knowledge of the game and the skills required to play cricket. We will continue to wear our school uniforms for our PE lessons and will be wearing trainers to school to avoid the need to change for PE. Be mindful that uniform clothing on Tuesdays should be appropriately chosen for PE lessons.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'Jesus the Healer'. 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

All of our Home Learning resources can now be accessed through Google Classroom and will be made available from the first week of term. 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 Google Classroom and updated regularly;
- Children are also encouraged to undertake weekly Maths activities which will be posted on Google Classroom, as well as 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 their 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.

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,

Mr L Sibson