

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

June 2022

Class: Emerald (Year 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back as we embark upon our final term of the year. This is traditionally a busy one full of exciting and emotional events and activities which we are really looking forward to!

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

For our Learning Journey topic this term, we have a History focus - Freedom - which will include learning about The Slave Trade and the British civil rights movement. In addition to the History focus, the topic has links with other areas of the curriculum, including English and Geography.

We will be discussing what children already know about the history of slavery and black civil rights; 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 continues as '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.S.H.E / R.S.E

Our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) education topic this term is 'Changing Me' which also includes RSE (Relationship & Sex Education).

You will be receiving a letter in due course with more information as you have the right to withdraw your child/ren from a specific lesson, if you wish. In the meantime, any parent/carer can view our PSHE

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Education Policy, which we updated in September 2020 in light of the statutory requirements for RSE – you will find this in the policy section of our school website.

P.E.

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 aim to swim on the first week back after half term, so please remember swimming costumes for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday that week.

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 'Justice and Freedom'. 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 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 be no home learning project this term.

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.

Production

We are very excited to be staging a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the end of June. As you can imagine, this is a big undertaking and will require a big commitment from all involved. We ask the children to remain flexible as our timetable will change from week to week in order to accommodate our rehearsals which are sure to keep them engaged and well exercised! We appreciate your full support in our preparations and performance, and welcome any offers of help particularly with regards to set or costume.

As previously stated, this is a packed term full of exciting opportunities and we will keep you informed with all that you need to know regarding trips, events and activities as soon as we are able.

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

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