

Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

Class: Sapphire (Year 3 & 4)

January 2020

Teacher: Mrs Farror

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Townsend

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and a belated Happy New Year! Welcome back to school - I hope that you had a wonderful break. I am delighted to be the new Sapphire class teacher and Mrs Townsend and I feel that the children have settled back into the school routine really well. We all had a fantastic week last week getting to know each other better. I have high expectations of behaviour and progress and we spent valuable time last week sharing our hopes and expectations for the year and establishing our classroom rules.

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic is 'Legends: Ancient Greece'. This is a combined history and geography topic which will inform learning across the curriculum.

Some children have already brought in some wonderful resources to share, so thank you for that, but if anyone else has any additional information to share then I would love to see it.

English

In English this term, alongside work on our topic of Ancient Greece, we will be using our reading 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.

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 multiplication and division. We will also have a focus on mental mathematics, developing a range of strategies for calculating mentally. We will also continue to learn the multiplication tables so that the children can increase their speed and recall of these essential number facts.

Science

In Science, our topic is Magnets and Forces, where we will be comparing how things move on different surfaces, observing how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others. We will be identifying some magnetic materials, we will be describing magnets and predicting whether 2 magnets will attract or repel each other.

PE

Our PE sessions this term will focus on Dance and Cricket. Our class PE slots are on Tuesdays and Fridays. (Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day).

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

RE

Our RE topic this term is 'Life and parables of Jesus'. This will be largely 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 parents and guardians 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

Homework supports children's learning and consists of core tasks which are ongoing activities. Regular reading with an adult is so important and should be recorded in the Reading Record Book – please encourage your child to discuss the content in increasing depth in order to further develop comprehension. Spellings – the children have an individual spelling list which is now recorded in their homework folders and this is updated weekly. Their yellow Spelling Logs are now being used for the actual spelling tests and these will be kept in school. The children are also encouraged to undertake Maths activities, including the use of the 'TTRockStars' website in order to develop their knowledge of number facts and regular practice of the 'KIRFs': Key Instant Recall Facts. The KIRF sheets will come home this week.

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 also be given details of the task for this term this week. 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 - this will support their learning and also develop their independence. If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform me immediately and together we will find ways to help.

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 one of us in the playground or arrange an appointment to see me via the school office.

In order to best take advantage of the unique skills that the teachers at Alfriston have to offer, Mr. Sibson and I will be swapping classes every Wednesday afternoon. This means that whilst I am teaching French and Art in Emerald Class that Sapphire Class will be taught Computing and Music by Mr. Sibson.

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. If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to either myself or Mrs Townsend. We are 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,

Mrs E Farror