
Alfriston School

North Road
Alfriston,
Polegate,
East Sussex, BN26 5XB



E-Mail: office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk
Website: www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk

Telephone: (01323) 870203

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

Class: Emerald (Year 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mr Sibson

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Bliss

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in Emerald Class! We do hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break and are ready for the new school year. I really look forward to seeing you at the Emerald Class **'Meet The Teacher'** meeting straight after school on **Thursday 9th September**. A crèche will be provided for children and any younger siblings.

The children are already settling well and have made a good start on their learning. It is nice to get back into the swing of things and re-establish a more 'normal' school set-up from what we have recently become acclimatised to. All equipment and resources are provided for the children so I will take this opportunity to request that children do not bring pencil cases into school.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be 'The Amazing Americas'. This is a Geography-based 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.

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 writing for a range of audiences and purposes 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. Children can expect a series of spelling tests to start the year in order to assess levels and establish the correct groups going forward.

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 need to display proficiency for each times table before progressing – remember that revisiting and repeating are key to instant recall learning!

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

Science

In Science, our topic is 'Animals including Humans'. We will look at the human circulatory system as well as how humans change as they grow from infancy to old age.

P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on gymnastics and invasion games. Our fixed PE slots are on Tuesdays (indoors) and Fridays (outdoors – weather dependent). 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.

P.S.H.E.

For the first two weeks of term, we will be focusing on re-establishing our Empowerment Approach to benefit the well-being and pro-learning behaviours within the classroom and across the school. We will be dedicating three full afternoons a week to learning about our brains and how we can be empowered individuals in order to set ourselves up to be at our best.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'Humanism'. 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. I hope to see you on **Thursday 9th September**.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Sibson

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!