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# 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 have settled fantastically back in to school life and all of the class have adjusted well to the differences in and around school. We now look forward to an exciting second term and the busy build up to Christmas! I'll remind you that all equipment and resources are provided for the children and regularly cleaned to meet current hygiene requirements. Children must not bring anything into school other than a reading book, their reading record, any food and drink for the day and appropriate clothing. As we are limiting the number of items coming to and from home, our home learning resources can be accessed through eSchools. The 'Home Learning' section of this letter will provide further details on this.

## **Curriculum Information**

### **Learning Journey topic**

This term our topic will be 'Journey to Mecca'. This is a History, Geography and Religious Education based topic which will inform learning across the curriculum.

### **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 working towards extended writing pieces 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.

Reading is a vitally important skill in developing every aspect of literacy. We build numerous opportunities to hear your child read throughout the school day in every lesson, including some one to one reading opportunities with those children who we feel would most benefit.

We have successfully reintroduced monitored reading records throughout Key Stage 2. As part of our home learning expectations, we ask that these are brought into school at the beginning of each day and taken home after school every day. We will be looking for 5 recorded 'home reads' to be signed by an adult each week and will acknowledge these within the reading record every Friday. Please be aware that these are intended for you to track home reading only.

### **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

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and recall of these number facts. All children will begin at the base of our in class 'Multiplication Mountain' – the x2 tables. Children with secure recall will quickly climb the mountain through our weekly challenge.

### **Science**

In Science, our topic is 'Evolution and Inheritance'. We will look at the evolution of various species in our natural world as well as humans – highlighting how inherited traits are passed down through generations.

### **P.E.**

Our PE sessions this term will focus on athletics and health and fitness. Our timetabled PE slot is every Friday afternoon. These lessons will take place outside, weather dependent. Due to extraordinary timetabling and demands on in-school space, we will be more flexible with when, where and how we take part in physical activities. Please note that we ask that children do not bring in their PE kit in to school; children are currently expected to wear trainers in school and will take part in PE activities in these and their regular uniforms.

### **R.E.**

Our RE topic this term is 'Islamic Art. This will be largely taught during Art lessons in a cross-curricular way so that children are still practicing artistic skills 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**

- 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 eSchools and 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.

**Following discussions with parents and with the children, there will not be a project in the term leading up to Christmas as there are so many other events that families will be enjoying!**

Please help us to encourage your child to complete their home learning 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 homework is a struggle for your child then please inform us immediately and together we will find ways of overcoming this.

### **Communication**

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. I know that drop off and pick up procedures are very different now but if you do you have any questions or information to share with to me then please email me at [emerald@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:emerald@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk). I will check e-mails after school every day. If there is an urgent matter, please phone the school office to leave a message for me there.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Sibson