
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, Mrs Townsend and Miss Rogers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school following the half term break. I hope that you had plenty of fun and some rest and relaxation as well! We are settling into the new term and are looking forward to a packed, but fun, Christmas term!

Emerald Class Curriculum Information for Term 2

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will continue as 'The Victorians'. This is a History-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 doing 'Big Writing' 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, 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 the four operations of number before exploring how these can be in calculations involving fractions. 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 Electricity. We will build on children's knowledge about electrical systems and circuits and this will also tie in with our D&T learning.

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P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on gymnastics and outdoor adventurous activities. Our fixed PE slots are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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.

This term, our tag rugby sessions will be led by Mr. Lewis from Seaford Rugby Club and will build on and extend children's skills from last term.

Forest School activities will continue to take place at our Friston Forest site led by a qualified Sussex Wildlife Trust Forest School Leader. As well as the obvious physical health benefits of these sessions and the learning of outdoor skills, they also form part of our PSHEe (Personal, Social, Health and Economics education) curriculum - helping build children's curiosity and investigative skills while also enforcing: teamwork and co-operation; respect and tolerance of others; and the importance of understanding rules regarding safety and conduct.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'Advent Ring'. 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

Homework supports children's learning and consists of core tasks which are ongoing activities: regular reading with an adult which should be recorded in the Reading Record Book, discussing the content in increasing depth in order to further develop comprehension; Spellings – the children have an individual spelling list which is recorded in their yellow Spelling Logs 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. Children's homework folders should be in school every Monday where they will be issued with a maths task to explore for the week.

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 homework 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.

Request

We have some exciting off-site opportunities in planning and would be appreciative of any help with these, as well as in school throughout the year. If you feel you could spare an hour 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, give us a call via the school office or arrange an appointment to see us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to us – it is important that children are happy at school in order to learn to the best of their abilities and we will always try to make time to talk to you. 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,

Mr L Sibson

Mrs K Bliss

Mrs J Townsend

Miss J Rogers

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