
Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

September 2022

Class: Sapphire (Year 3 & 4)

Teacher: Mrs Farror

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Townsend

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome back to school. I hope you all had a fabulous summer.

We have lots of learning to cover this term and we have high expectations of attainment and progress. Please take a look at the separate curriculum overview attachment to advise you of the topic related learning and please see the 'Home Learning' section of this letter to provide you with further details about how you can best support your child at home.

Learning Journey topic This term our topic is 'The Sound Collector'. This is a combined English and Science based topic.

In **English**, we will be using our core rich text, **Leon and The Place Between** by Angela McAllister & Grahame Baker-Smith, to lead into our reading and writing and the children will be reading for a range of purposes and writing 'to entertain', writing 'to inform' and writing 'to persuade'.

We will also have regular spelling, grammar & punctuation sessions. We will be supporting children as they develop their skills and will be working towards extended pieces of writing.

We will focus on spelling both the 'high frequency words' and the 'common exception words' and we will look at spelling patterns and rules as well as encouraging children to learn the spelling of the words which they use regularly to support their writing.

All the children will work through individualised spelling lists as appropriate.

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.

Thank you for your support with the monitored reading record booklets. We ask that your child reads at home at least 5 times a week but ideally every day. Please occasionally, as your child reads, ask them questions about what they have read, about what is inferred and gauge whether they can reflect on the author's purpose. In addition, please check that they understand the meaning of any unfamiliar or complex words. Each child will have a **Reading Question** prompts bookmark in their reading book so please use that for guidance and suggestions. Reading record booklets should be brought into school every day. Comments and observations will be noted, and/or responded to, as required.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

As part of our assessment cycle, **all Year 3 children will take a Language Check** over the next few weeks. This is a child friendly assessment which takes about half an hour and helps us to identify any child who may have difficulty understanding language that is hard to pick up through our regular observations. You may remember a similar assessment taking place with your child in their Reception Year. In schools and at home, we learn new skills and gain new knowledge by listening to others talking and reading written language. The demands on language skills only increase as children get older and progress through their education. This assessment is nationally recognised and widely used in schools. Following the assessment with your child, if specific support is needed, I will contact you to share what we will do.

Maths Our topic is Number: Place Value.

Alongside our topic learning, the Year 3 children will start to learn their multiplication tables facts. The Year 4 children will have their formal **Multiplication Tables Check** in Term 6 so really need to embed the times tables up to 12x12.

Comprehension of, and access to, times tables understanding will aid your child in all aspects of their Maths learning. To encourage them to learn their times tables we will continue to carry out our weekly 'Times Table Challenge' test. We want the children to work towards having instant recall of the times tables, therefore the tests are formal and are timed – it will be wonderful to see how quickly the children climb up our class 'times tables tower'.

Daily use of **TTRockstars** will support your child with their times tables practise. As the year 3 children are unfamiliar with **TTRockstars** they will be shown how to access it and how to use it at school before accessing it at home.

Science Our topic is '**Sound**'. We will be identifying how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating; recognising that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear; finding patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it; and finding patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.

P.E. Our PE sessions this term will be on Monday and Friday afternoons. The children will need their P.E kits in school on those days but are advised to have them in school all week.

R.E. Our RE topic is '**What is it like for someone to follow God?**'. We will be making clear links between the story of Noah and the idea of covenant; making simple links between promises in the story of Noah and promises that Christians make at a wedding ceremony and making links between the story of Noah and how we live in school and the wider world.

R.E is taught in a cross-curricular way so that children are practicing skills in reading, writing, speaking & listening while the RE provides the context. However, parents and carers should be aware, as detailed in government legislation (Religious education in English schools: non-statutory guidance 2010) and in the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027, that they have the right to request that the pupil be withdrawn from all or part of the RE provided.

"This was first granted when RE was actually religious *instruction* and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents; the school is not expected to make these arrangements."

East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027

Equipment All equipment / resources are provided for the children when at school. Children do not need to bring anything into school other than their P.E kit, their school banded reading book, their reading record booklet, their snack and their lunch (if required), their water bottle and appropriate outer layers. They must not bring in a pencil case.

Home Learning Homework supports your child's learning and consists of the following activities each week -

- **Regular reading** (at least five times a week with an adult acknowledging this in the reading record)
- **Spellings** – your child will have an individual spelling list which is accessed through **Google Classroom** and updated weekly.
- **Maths** homework will also be set on **Google Classroom**. This homework will meet the requirements of the KIRF's (Key Instant Recall Facts) for this term.
- **Times Tables** homework will also be set and children should use 'TTRockStars' in order to develop their knowledge of multiplication facts.

This term there is also a task-based homework menu – this will be put on **Google Classroom**. If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform me immediately.

Communication If you do you have any questions or concerns then please email me at sapphire@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk or please phone the school office.

Yours sincerely,

E J Farror

Mrs E Farror