

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,

Welcome back as we embark upon our final term of the year. This is traditionally a busy one full of exciting and emotional events and activities which we are really looking forward to!

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

For our Learning Journey topic this term, we have a History focus - Smugglers and Pirates - which will include learning about local history and will build on the children's existing knowledge about the area. In addition to the History focus, the topic has links with other areas of the curriculum, including English and Geography.

We will be discussing what children already know about the history of smuggling in the area; sharing their knowledge and understanding is a valuable resource to support the learning of all the children. If they have any family stories or other resources that they would like to share, that would be lovely!

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 exploring a range of writing activities each week.

We will continue with our focus on spelling 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 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.

Science

In Science, our topic continues as 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. We will build on children's knowledge about the living things that we may find in local habitats and their life cycles.

P.S.H.E / R.S.E

Our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) education topic this term is 'Changing Me' which also includes RSE (Relationship & Sex Education).

You will be receiving a letter in due course with more information as you have the right to withdraw your child/ren from a specific lesson, if you wish. In the meantime, any parent/carer can view our PSHE Education and RSE Policy on our school website.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

P.E.

Our regular PE slot this term is Tuesday afternoon and our lessons will take place on the rec.

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. We are also excited to be able to access our swimming pool once again. Lessons will run for a two-week period as soon as we return from half term – please see the letter already distributed for details.

We will take daily opportunities to develop our health and fitness through a range of group activities including yoga/mindfulness, fitness breaks and dance breaks.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is 'How Does Faith Help People When Life Gets Hard?'. 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 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

Home Learning

- Regular reading (at least five times a week with an adult acknowledging this in the reading record);
- Spellings – using the No Nonsense Spelling scheme, children will be encouraged to learn and practise words to consolidate in-class learning. These will be made accessible through Google Classroom;
- 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.

There is no 'project homework' this term.

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.

Communication

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.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Sibson