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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,

Welcome back to school after the Christmas holiday. I hope that you have had a restful break over the holiday season and that you managed to connect with as many family members as possible over what was a unique festive time. The children have settled back into school and we have begun our new topic: 'Secret Agents'.

## **Curriculum Information**

### **Learning Journey topic**

This term our topic will be Secret Agents. This is a geography-based topic inspired by our English focus text, 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz, 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 continue to monitor 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 and recall of these number facts. All children will continue to climb our in class 'Multiplication Mountain' before graduating to focus on prime numbers and square and cube numbers. Children with secure recall will quickly climb the mountain through our weekly challenge.

Alfriston School: Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

## **Science**

In Science, our topic is 'Properties of Materials'. We will look at what makes different materials and how they are similar and different.

## **P.E.**

Our PE sessions this term will focus on gymnastics. Our fixed PE slots are for a full Tuesday afternoon. 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 will also 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 'Creation Stories'. This will be largely taught during English lessons in a cross-curricular way so that children are still practicing English 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**

All of our Home Learning resources can 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.

There will also be a homework project which can be accessed through Google Classroom. Children can complete the project and either submit through Google Classroom or bring items in to share and show for the deadline at the end of term.

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 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](mailto:emerald@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk) – or phone the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Sibson

Mrs K Bliss