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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

April 2022

Class: Sapphire (Year 3 & 4)
Teacher: Mrs Farror
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Townsend

Sapphire Class – Term 5 Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome back to school for **Term 5**. I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break.

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 Secret Garden**'. This is a combined English and Science topic focusing on **Plants**.

English In English, we will be using our core 'rich' text for this term - '**The Paradise Garden**' by **Colin Thompson** - to lead into our writing and the children will be writing 'to entertain', 'to inform' and 'to persuade'.

In our English curriculum we will be supporting children as they develop their skills and will be working towards extended writing pieces each week. We will also have regular spelling, grammar & punctuation sessions where we will continue with our focus on spelling both the 'high frequency words' and the 'common exception words'. We will look at spelling patterns and rules as well as encourage children to learn the spelling of the words, which they use regularly to support their writing. 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, 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. Reading record booklets must be brought into school every day so that these can be checked each morning. Comments and observations will be noted and/or responded to, as required.

Maths Our topic is **Number: Multiplication & Division**

Alongside our topic learning, the children will also continue to learn their multiplication tables facts. The Year 4 children have their formal **Multiplication Tables Check** in Term 6 so the sooner we embed the tables the better. 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 is wonderful to see how quickly the

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children are climbing up our class 'times tables tower'. Daily use of **TTRockstars** and other times tables games will support your child with their times tables practise.

Science Our topic is still '**Plants**'. We will be identifying & describing the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers; exploring the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) & how they vary from plant to plant; investigating the way in which water is transported within plants; and exploring the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

P.E. Our PE sessions are on Monday (**Games**) and Thursday (**Athletics**) afternoons. The children will need P.E on school on those days but are advised to have them in school all week.

R.E. Our RE topic is '**Sukhot**'. We will be looking at the key teachings and beliefs of a religion; referring to religious figures and holy books to explain answers; identifying religious symbolism; giving reasons why religious figures acted the way they did; explaining how beliefs about right and wrong affect people's behaviour; and discussing and giving opinions involving moral dilemmas.

A reminder that R.E is taught in a cross-curricular way so that children are practising skills in reading, writing, speaking & listening while the RE provides the context. Please note, as detailed in government legislation, that you have "the right to request that the pupil be excused from all or part of the RE provided. [You] do not have to provide a reason & the school must comply with [your] request. It is however [your] responsibility to provide alternative work if [your] child is withdrawn. Parents & carers must also be aware that RE is cross-curricular & in primary schools it may be taught as part of another subject area for which there is no legal right to withdraw."

Equipment All equipment / resources are provided for the children when at school. Children must not 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). We are really focusing on Reading Comprehension so, please, when hearing your child read, use the pointers in the children's **Reading Questions Bookmark**. **This bookmark** should be in each child's book bag
- Spellings – your child will have an individual spelling list which is accessed through **Google Classroom** and updated weekly. Spelling tests are on a Wednesday.
- Maths homework will also be set on **Google Classroom**. This homework will meet the requirements of the KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) for this term.
- Children should also use '**TTRockStars**' in order to develop their knowledge of multiplication facts. Times Tables tests are on a Thursday.
- This term there is a task-based homework menu which will be put on **Google Classroom**

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

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