
Alfriston School

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Drive Safely, Park Safely, Walk Safely

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

January 2019

Class: Emerald (Years 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mrs Crystal

Teaching Assistant/HLTA: Mrs Stonehouse, Miss Rogers, Mrs Townsend, 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. The children have settled back into school and we have begun our new topic: The Romans.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

For our topic this term, we have a History focus that looks at the Romans, focussing on the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. We will use this topic to look at the sources of evidence that we use to deduce information about the past as well as to use appropriate vocabulary to communicate our learning. Geography this term will link to this topic, learning about volcanoes, looking in particular at the eruption of Vesuvius.

English

In English this term, we will use texts linked to the Learning Journey, continuing to use the reading that we do to develop our language skills. We will be looking at how language, structure and presentation can contribute to meaning and we will be thinking carefully about word choices and considering how sentence structure can affect the reader.

Maths

In Maths, we will continue to develop children's knowledge of basic number facts and to use these to solve problems. We will be building children's understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also look at geometry, including reflecting and translating shapes. Children will continue to apply their mathematical understanding in a variety of problem solving situations.

Science

Our Science topic this term is 'Animals including humans.' We will revise prior learning about the main body parts and internal organs. We will also learn about the circulatory system and the impact of lifestyle on the body, including diet and exercise. Children will have the opportunity to investigate these concepts practically.

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P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will be focussing on cricket and gymnastics. Cricket sessions will be delivered by an outside provider. 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 and take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable. Our fixed PE slots are Tuesday and Thursday this term.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is Mohammed and the Qu'ran. This will be 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.

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 is 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 and regular practice of the 'KIRFs': Key Instant Recall Facts. We will give children sheets to support this.

In line with our Home Learning Policy, there will also be a project that will be discussed with the children who will be encouraged to plan and complete the task over the term. It will then be presented and evaluated in class. Children will have details of the task for this term and a planning and evaluation sheet. These projects support children's learning in several ways; they enable children to research and to work creatively to present their learning. They are also able to present their work to an audience in order to develop their confidence.

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.

We are always grateful for helpers to come in and listen to the children read or play maths games. If you can spare some time 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 me in the playground or arrange an appointment to see me via the school office.

Finally, it is vital that children feel happy and supported in 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 come and speak to me. I am 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,

Mrs R Crystal

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