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# Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

31<sup>st</sup> October 2018

**Class:** Emerald (Years 5 & 6)

**Teacher:** Mrs Crystal

**Teaching Assistant/HLTA:** Mr Windsor, Mrs Townsend, Miss Rogers, Mrs Stonehouse

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after our short break. I do hope that you had a restful week. We are settling into the new term and are looking forward to continuing our Learning Journey topic – Meet the Flintstones! We will also be participating in the Big Sing performance at Glyndebourne on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December and have already begun to learn the songs.

## **Curriculum Information**

### **Learning Journey topic**

The Learning Journey topic this term, Meet the Flintstones, has a history focus, looking at changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will look at the chronology, using historical terms and will find out about some of the sources of information that we can draw on to develop our knowledge about the past.

Our Science topic, Evolution and Inheritance, will link to our Learning Journey. We will observe that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but that they are not identical to their parents. We will also look at how animals have adapted to their environments and the way in which this may lead to evolution.

### **English**

In our reading, we will continue to develop the use of questioning to develop comprehension skills, using some texts are linked to the Learning Journey topic. Using these, we will evaluate how writers' use of language enhances the reading experience.

We will continue our ongoing grammar and spelling activities in order to support the children's writing across the curriculum.

### **Maths**

Children will be taught Maths within the class and we will continue to develop children's knowledge of basic number facts and strategies for performing mental and written calculations using the four operations. We will also be building on children's understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. We will be giving children the opportunity to apply their mathematical understanding in a variety of problem-solving situations.

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## **P.E.**

*Our PE sessions this term will be focussing on invasion games and gymnastics. 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 Monday and Thursday this term.*

## **R.E.**

*Our RE topic this term is linked to the Christmas season, looking at the gospel accounts with a focus on Mary, Mother of Jesus. 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.*

*We will continue to take advantage of the curriculum interests and strengths of members of staff, and so Mr Sibson will be teaching Emerald Class on Tuesday afternoons. He will focus on Art and Computing.*

## **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.*

*Following discussions with parents and with the children, there will not be a project in the term leading up to Christmas as there are so many other events that families will be enjoying!*

*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 feel you could spare an hour 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.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to me – it is important that children are happy at school in order to learn to the best of their abilities and I will always try to make time to talk to you. 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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