
Alfriston School

North Road
Alfriston,
Polegate,
East Sussex, BN26 5XB



E-Mail: office@alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk
Website: www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk

Telephone: (01323) 870203
Fax: (01323) 871754

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

April 2019

Class: Emerald (Years 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mrs Crystal

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Rogers, Mrs Townsend, Mrs Foot

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after our Easter break. The children have shared some of the things that they enjoyed over the holiday and are now settling to our new topics for the term.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

For our Learning Journey topic this term, we have a Geography focus, The Sussex Landscape, which will lead, after the half term break, into learning about local history and will build on the children's existing knowledge about the area. In addition to the Geography focus, the topic has links with other areas of the curriculum, including art and science.

We will be discussing what children already know about 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, we will be thinking about the audience for our writing and choosing the appropriate tone; this will include discussions about Standard English and levels of formality.

Maths

In Maths, we will continue to build children's calculation strategies and to apply these in problem-solving situations. We will have a focus on statistics and measure, using our knowledge to solve mathematical problems and continuing to develop our understanding of mathematical vocabulary. When looking at measure, we will ensure that children can convert between units of measure, for example, grams and kilogrammes.

P.E.

We will be participating in athletics activities. We hope to begin swimming lessons before the half term break, weather and pool permitting!

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 P.E. slots are Monday and Thursday this term.

R.E.

In RE this term, we will be learning about Pentecost and how beliefs can shape the lives of individuals and communities. This will be largely taught during English lessons in a cross-

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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 Music and Computing.

Homework

Homework supports children's learning and includes core tasks, which are ongoing activities.

Regular reading, both in their heads and aloud to an adult, is a priority. The discussions that follow reading are particularly important in developing children's comprehension. Children have a spelling list which is recorded in their yellow Spelling Logs and updated regularly; learning these words will enable children to write with increased fluency and confidence. Children are also encouraged to undertake Maths activities in order to develop children's knowledge of number facts.

In line with our Home Learning Policy, there will also be a project that will be discussed with the children. They are encouraged to plan and complete the task over the term and 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, which is developing their confidence and skills in this area.

If you find that homework is a struggle for your child then please inform us and together we will find ways of overcoming this.

Request

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 one of us in the playground, give us a call via the school office or arrange an appointment to see us.

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