
Alfriston School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Hudson BA (Hons)

September 2018

Class: Emerald (Years 5 & 6)

Teacher: Mrs Crystal

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

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in Emerald Class! We do hope that you have all enjoyed the Summer break and are ready for the new school year and the challenges it will bring. The children are already settling well and have made a good start on their learning.

Curriculum Information

Learning Journey topic

This term our topic will be 'Out of This World'. This is mainly a Science topic but we will also be following the theme across the curriculum. We will be finding out about our solar system as well as the technological advances that enabled space travel. If children would like to share any information books or facts that they have found linked to our topic, it would enhance their learning.

English

In English this term, much of our learning will be linked to our Learning Journey topic. We will read some fiction that links to the subject as well as researching and writing information texts. We will have regular spelling, grammar and punctuation sessions. For our spellings, 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.

We will also be supporting children as they develop their writing skills, particularly when planning their work, and we will be doing 'Big Writing' each week.

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, concentrating in particular on the multiplication tables. A great deal of this first term's maths sessions will involve 'number' – revising, consolidating and furthering the children's skills in place value, and using the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in context.

P.E.

Our PE sessions this term will focus on invasion games, developing children's skills and teamwork. We also hope to take advantage of continuing fair weather so that we can use the swimming pool! Our fixed PE slots are Monday and Thursday; we will be swimming on Monday afternoons. Please note that we ask that children bring in their PE kit every day to school; in this

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way we can be as flexible as possible in order to take advantage of any extra PE slots in the timetable.

R.E.

Our RE topic this term is to compare and contrast three different religions. 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.

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.”

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.

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.

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 important 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 Mr J Windsor Mrs J Townsend Mrs J Rogers Mrs S Stonehouse

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