



Midhurst C of E  
Primary School  
LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

HEADTEACHER – MR M JEFFERSON BA(HONS) MMUS QTS

September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Hazel class. I hope you had a lovely summer holiday, and it doesn't feel like too much of a distant memory. The children have made a brilliant start to Year 2 and have settled into the routines well. I am already so impressed with their attitude towards their learning; they have shown enthusiasm and determination and are a pleasure to teach. I am excited about the learning journey we are embarking on.

This term our topic is 'Sparks.' Below is an outline of our areas of study for this topic:

**Science:** Children will explore materials and their properties and carry out some experiments to discover which material is best for certain jobs. We will identify the uses of everyday materials in a familiar location, identify and describe the range of materials that can be used to make a single given object, describe how the shape of some materials can be changed by twisting, bending, squashing or stretching, relate a material's physical properties to its uses e.g. describe or demonstrate how a material can be unsuitable for a given task due to its ability to be changed by squashing and bending and compare significant individuals who have developed useful materials e.g. Charles Macintosh and John Dunlop.

**Geography:** Children will use maps to locate and name their home area, county and country. They will name and locate continents and oceans on world maps. They will answer directional questions and add information to maps. They will use simple map references to explain how they would get from one place to another, for example, start in B3, move south into B2.

**History:** In history we will be learning about the Great Fire of London and the Gunpowder plot. Children will learn when the Gunpowder Plot occurred, who the conspirators were and who the target was.

They will learn where and how the Great Fire of London started, who was King at the time, why it spread so quickly, what people did to try and stop it, how we know what happened and how London changed after the fire. We are going to visit Midhurst Fire station on 7<sup>th</sup> October to find out about modern firefighting so we can learn about how firefighting has changed since the Great Fire.

**Design technology:** In DT the children will be learning about structures. They will learn about centre of gravity and how to make a structure stable. They will make their own free-standing structures with their final piece being a stable chair for baby bear.

**Art:** Children will learn about the artist Alma Thomas and her work. They will learn about tertiary colours and mix paint colours to suit a task. They will select and match colours when

painting from observation, explaining how different colours can represent feelings/emotions. They will produce work in the style of Alma Thomas.

**Religious Education:** We will focus on Judaism for the first half-term and for the second half-term we will be looking at the question: 'What do Christians believe God is like?'

**Computing:** Children will learn about online safety, they will learn how to carry out an effective search and finally they will make music digitally.

**Music:** Children will be doing work based around the song, 'Hands, feet, heart.' They will listen to and appraise pieces of music, learn and build on their knowledge and understanding about the interrelated dimensions of music through games, songs, singing, playing instruments and improvisation.

**Physical education:** Our PE days are Mondays and Tuesdays. On Mondays the children will be doing dance with me, where we are choreographing and performing a dance inspired by fire. On Tuesdays the children are doing multi-skills with Jack from Aspire where they will be developing their balance, agility and co-ordination.

In addition, maths and literacy lessons will be linked to our topic work when appropriate. The children will have regular phonics and guided reading lessons, as well as other opportunities to practise reading skills by reading to adults in school.

### **Homework:**

**Reading:** You can help support our work in reading by listening to your child read as often as possible, preferably each day. Our aim is to improve children's confidence, fluency and comprehension in reading. If, when you listen to your child read, they are doing lots of 'sounding out' and lack fluency, takes turns to share the book and model fluent reading to them. Every Monday we will look at how often children have read over the past week, if it is 5 or more times, they will be rewarded with a reading star stamp in the back of their red log book.

**Spellings:** From this week, I will send home spellings for the children to practise and learn. These will be sent home on Friday and the children will be tested on them the following Thursday. They will be words from the spelling pattern we have been learning in class that week or taken from the Key Stage 1 curriculum spelling list. They will come home in their homework folder.

**Maths:** From this week, I will send number facts, or times tables for the children to practise for a weekly test. These will be sent home on Wednesday for a test the following Wednesday.

This year, the children are very lucky to have Ms Rose as their teaching assistant.

Should you have any questions you can catch me most mornings and any afternoon, except Tuesday. Alternatively, please leave a message for me at the office and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

E Alden