



Fleet Primary School

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Welcome back - key information for Tuesday's return to school and this term

8th January 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a good break over the Christmas and New Year period. I hope those of you blighted by illness before the break (and I'm sure some during) are fit and well. The staff and I are busy in school today preparing to welcome back your children tomorrow.

Topics and Curriculum:

The new topic letters and topic snapshots will be sent out next week via Parent Hub (with a hard copy of the Topic Snapshot going home with your child). Please ensure you keep the Topic Snapshot to support your child with their Topic learning for this term. It represents the key factual data the children need to have absorbed by the end of the topic and will be referred to throughout the term in class and for homework.

Communication:

We will continue to use Parent Hub for all our parent communications. This has saved us a large amount of money over the last few years by avoiding paper and photocopying costs as well as the large cost associated with sending communications by text message. With the additional financial constraints facing us this year in terms of energy costs and cost of living increases it is more important than ever we are not wasting money. If you have not yet got the Parent Hub app installed please do so we can continue to make savings on text messages. Also, ensure that your phone has notifications switched **ON** for the app so you are alerted when we send a message (the same way you would be if it came by text). Please make sure you have registered your child and not just added the app/school to ensure you get child/class specific messages and not just whole school messages. **Instructions on how to install are in the weekly Wednesday Community Notices Newsletter or you can call Lisa in the office for support.**

Attendance:

Good school attendance is crucial to ensuring a child reaches their potential and maximising the learning opportunities afforded them in school. Regular attendance supports not just academic learning but fosters the forming and maintaining of friendships and social and emotional development. Over the last couple of years, the amount of absence children have been experiencing has increased significantly since pre-pandemic levels. This is particularly the case for the youngest children. Missing a few days here and there may not seem like much but over the course of a year if regular it does impact their progress and can lead to lots of gaps in the foundations of their reading, writing and mathematical skills. While we recognise there are times when children will be too ill to be in school, and last term we do know there were lots of bugs going around, we do also want to encourage resilience – that ability for children to be able to push through even when feeling a bit under the weather. After all, it is a vital life skill required of them throughout their life.

Our target for children's attendance is 96% - to achieve this a child needs to have less than 8 days off in the year. We know the vast majority of children can manage this and this pays dividends in terms of their learning and future life prospects. If you are having any concerns over your child's attendance of any related issues/barriers in meeting this target please do speak to your child's class teacher.

If your child is unwell, please make sure **you call the school early on the first day of illness to tell us why they aren't here, and you need to call every day after that too until they return to school.**

With this in mind we would also remind you that children should not be taken out of school during term time for holidays. While we recognise there may, from time to time, be emergency situations that arise

requiring time off – funerals, family illness etc. a holiday is not a valid reason to take time out of school as described in terms of ‘exceptional circumstances’ laid out by the Department for Education. We understand the intrinsic value gained from holidays and that costs during school holidays can be prohibitive but that in itself does not make them justified. In the majority of situations holidays during term time will be marked as unauthorised absence and risk a fine. If you are in an emergency situation and need to request time off for your child please contact the office as soon as possible to complete the request for leave form providing evidence of the need. Thank you for your ongoing support in this.

Punctuality is also a vital life skill children need to learn. Lessons begin at 9am and that means children should be seated in class at this time. Please do all you can to help your child to achieve this so as to avoid missing vital information/teaching at the start of the day as well as not disrupting the learning of their classmates who have made it in to class on time.

As we did last term, we will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality and from time to time you may receive a letter highlighting any concerns we may have or an invitation to a meeting to discuss these concerns. We want to work with you to achieve the best outcomes for your child and we appreciate your support with this.

Lunches:

If you plan to change your child’s lunch – either from packed lunch to school dinner or the other way round please do communicate any change straight away to the school office to avoid there not being enough or any excess waste. The kitchen prepare meals for children each day based on the information we have. Remember, all children from Reception to Year 6 are now entitled to a free school meal thanks to the Mayor or London’s current scheme.

Equipment and things needed to be brought in:

- **Clothing:** This term the weather is likely to be very changeable. Please ensure the children are prepared for wet and cold weather. We endeavour to get the children outside for playtimes as much as possible so they need to come to school prepared to be outside.
- **Water:** Please send your child in to school with a water bottle (put their name on it) so that they have access to water throughout the day. They will be able to refill their bottles throughout the day. We know hydration is very important to support attention.
- **Stationary:** As is usual, all writing equipment and exercise books are provided by the school. If children do want to bring in their own pencil case and stationary items they are free to do so but it is not required.
- **Bags:** Space in classrooms, especially around coat/bag areas is restricted. We would encourage children to bring in book bags rather than large rucksacks. Not only do they keep books in better condition they also take up less space in the classroom. Packed lunches are not taken up to class but left on the trolley in the hall.
- **PE Kit:** Children need to have PE kit to wear on the PE day. Coach Keleigh’s sessions with Y1-Y6 will continue to be Mondays. Up to Year 4 are free to wear PE kit to school rather than need to change if they prefer. Year 5 and 6 need to bring in a change of clothes for hygiene reasons.
- **Swimming:** The class going swimming this term will be Year 5. They will go every day for a two week period from the 18th – 28th March. More details will be provided to Year 5 families closer to the time.

Homework and Home learning:

In Year 1-6 we will continue to use ‘Seesaw’, the online learning platform, to deliver homework for the first part of this term but will be moving across to Google classroom – more information will be sent when we make the switch.

We continue to use ‘Mathletics’ and ‘Times Table Rockstars’ to support learning in school and for children to practice key maths skills at home.

Obviously to access these online learning resources children will need access to the internet and a suitable device (not a phone!). If you have any problems in this area please speak to us and we can try to arrange support so the children do not miss out through lack of access. If your child is unsure of their individual login details for any of the online learning resources please consult the class teacher.

Book Bags:

Like last term, all children across the school take books home to support their reading development. In EYFS and KS1 as well as their reading for pleasure books there will also be phonics books that the children will be taking home. We have invested heavily in these books and it is really important that any books going home come back in to school **EVERYDAY**. They will usually be changed weekly. We would recommend a school book bag to hold books – this keeps them flat and in good condition and avoids them being damaged from spilled water bottles etc. For the phonics books, in the case of lost or damaged books we do ask for a £5 fee to replace them. Missing books means other children miss out. Fleet book bags can be purchased from the school office (can also be paid for online via ScoPay) and are perfect for carrying these books.

Clubs:

Clubs will start from Monday 15th January. You will be receiving a link to a 'google form' today to request places in this term's clubs. Please ensure that you complete this by Thursday so that we can inform all families on Friday what places have been allocated.

At Fleet we try to run as many of our clubs using volunteers and in school staff as possible so that we can continue to offer them at a low price and make them as accessible as possible. Thank you to those parents who already help to run clubs. Please contact the office if you are able to offer anything for future terms.

Class Assemblies:

These fantastic class performances continue this term. The next one is the last week of this half term with year 6 kicking us off. While we endeavour to stick to these dates, should any need to be changed we will inform you as soon as we can. Provisional dates for this term are below. As usual these will all start at 10am:

- **Year 6** – Friday 9th February
- **Year 5** – Friday 23th February
- **Year 4** – Friday 1st March
- **Year 3** – Friday 8th March
- **Year 2** – Friday 15th March
- **Year 1** – Friday 22nd March

Parents Meetings:

This term's meetings will be held across 2 days. For most classes these will be **Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March** after school (some classes may differ on one of the days due to individual circumstances for the class teacher's availability).

In this meeting as well as an update on how your child is doing there will be a discussion around the progress towards the targets discussed in last term's meeting and what the targets will be moving forward in Maths and English. Closer to the date we will send out a link to sign up to a meeting slot.

Parent Workshops and Support

We'd like to thank all of you who were able to attend some of the many parent workshops we have held this term. We hope to offer more over the coming term – keep an eye on the newsletter and school communications as we will send out notices as these are arranged. We also have access to various avenues of support on an individual level too so if there is anything specific you would like/need please do come and speak with us.

Whole school events:

- **Friday 2nd February** – Y1-Y6 Maths Open Morning @ 9-9.30am
- **Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th February** – Safer Internet Day activities – internet safety workshops for children (a parent session is planned exact date to be determined – more info nearer the time)
- **Thursday 7th March** - World Book Day – Dressing up as your favourite book character – more info nearer the time

Trips and Visits:

Details of the trips for your child's class for those already booked will be shared in topic letter coming home next week. The two weekly newsletters (Wednesday and Friday) also both have dates/events separated out by year group to make things easy to find. We will send letters in advance of any trips via parent hub. As is usual, we are dependent on parent and carer support on trips to enable us to offer them. Let your child's teacher know if you are able to support on any upcoming trips.

Term Dates:

This year's dates are up on the school website at the following address. For your information I include the dates for this term below:

<https://www.fleet.camden.sch.uk/about-us/dates>

First day of term	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Half term (inclusive)	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February 2024
Last day of term	Thursday 28 th March 2024 – finish at 2pm

Family Support Worker:

Lisa Tan continues to work 3 days a week as our Family Support Worker. Those of you who have been supported by her already this year will know how useful and effective her help has been. Anyone who has any concerns, be those around physical or mental health of you or your children, about work, housing, legal issues and many other areas please do contact her to see how she can help. Families experiencing difficulties in any of these areas, while outside traditional school remit, nonetheless can impact on a child's education or on a parents' ability to engage in their education the way they might want to. The support she offers could range from support with grant applications for funding, housing difficulties, accessing local services or being a listening ear and supporting interactions with school and other agencies. If you have any questions or want to access this service please do make contact.

Funding and payments:

If you are having any problems accessing the online payment portal on ScoPay—or are not yet setup and would like to be, please do speak to Lisa in the office. You can now make donations, pay for clubs, book bags and trips online without having to bring in cash via the office. You now also have the ability to pay for a term of clubs without having to remember each week. Please note, the app version will not show the donation tab without there being a balance so we have put £1 here. This is not money you owe! It is simply there so it shows up allowing any who wish to make any size of donation to the school to be able to do so using the app. Thank you.

Office:

Most enquiries can be dealt with either over the phone or via email (admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk). Myself, or other members of the school Senior Leadership team are on hand during drop offs and can also pass on any messages you might have for the class teachers. Please bear in mind that the busiest periods for the

office are the beginning and end of the day – dealing with enquiries either in person, or replying to emails/phone calls, may take longer at these times.

I'd like to thank you for your continued support and trust as we prepare for another successful term. I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow when we welcome back the children.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McGibbon', written in a cursive style.

Don M^cGibbon - Head Teacher