



Fleet Primary School

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Adventurers



Year 1 Topic Letter - Autumn Term

September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and to Year 1! I hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic Summer and that you are rested and ready for the new academic year. I'm excited to very much looking forward to getting to know you all better over the coming weeks.

The children are settling well into our new routines as we get to know each another and we are all very excited about our Geography-based Autumn topic: **Adventurers**. We have begun preparing for our adventures already by discussing what we will pack in our Adventure Bags, to be taken with us on all our journeys this term. We have written lists and added accompanying drawings detailing the contents of our bags - the children have been practical as well as imaginative in their choices! We will begin our adventures in Outer Space, coming back down to Earth to explore London then sailing off into the Atlantic Ocean, finishing our travels in the icy cold Antarctic. We will look closely at a variety of fun, high-quality texts relating to each of our adventures, including: **Man on the Moon**, **Katie in London**, **Miranda the Castaway** and **Lost and Found**. I will also be reading the children an array of different stories and poems throughout the weeks and using these as a springboard for our learning across all the curriculum subjects.





In **History**, we will focus on astronauts and pirates as significant historical figures, including the infamous Irish explorer of the high seas, **Anne Bonny**. We will also learn about the **Great Fire of London**.

Continuing to investigate the connections History has with **Geography** and **Science**, we will learn about animals, including humans, investigating the journeys and findings of **Charles Darwin** and **David Attenborough**, discovering how the explorations of each of these incredible individuals have contributed to our understanding of our world. As we journey, we will learn about the continents and oceans of the world.

We will then use our knowledge in **Geography** and **Maths** and connect this with learning in **Computing**, coding in order to navigate different spaces.

We will link **Computing** with **Art**, using the iPads to take photographs of ourselves as astronauts and fashioning these into 3D images of our astronaut alter egos. This will be followed in **DT** by using junk-modelling techniques to design and construct a figurehead for our pirate ship as we venture into the Atlantic Ocean. We will explore a variety of sea creatures specific to the Atlantic alongside the repeated shapes we find throughout the natural world, linking our learning in **History**, **Geography** and **Science**.



Maths

In **Maths** we will become Mathematical Adventurers following the National Curriculum using the Mastery approach to learn the most vital concepts. We will focus on key Big Ideas and the children will have lots of opportunities to apply and develop their mathematical language, fluency and understanding as well as to solve problems and extend their reasoning skills.



Philosophy

New to Y1, we will take an adventure into the world of Philosophy. These sessions not only enable and encourage the children to think critically, which skill they will put to use across the curriculum, but also to have fun drawing on their learning and foster independent opinions on a range of topics.



P.E

This term, we have **P.E. every Tuesday**. Children should wear trainers and comfortable clothes that are easy to move in.



Reading

I will read formally with your child once every week during a **Guided Reading** session. Please note that the children need to have their **Book Bags in school every day**. Please **read to and with your child on a daily basis**.



Phonics

Phonics will be taught in class **daily** with observational assessment.



Supporting Your Child's Learning



Literacy

- Read **every night** to and/or with your child for **at least 15 minutes**.
- Encourage writing wherever possible. A special writing book and pens can help with motivation. Whilst still keeping it fun, please help your child to write in clear sentences with a capital letter and a full stop.



- <https://discoveryeducation.co.uk> (username and password required - see Class Teacher)
- lovelybooks.co.uk
- phonicsplay.co.uk
- teachhandwriting.co.uk

Maths

- Help your child to learn all Number Bonds to 20.
- Help your child to tell the time by knowing o'clock and half past and to relate times on clocks and watches to daily routines.
- Working with measures supports many areas of Maths (eg: help your child to add up small totals of money, work out change, measure ingredients when cooking or baking etc.)



- <https://discoveryeducation.co.uk> (username and password required - see Class Teacher)
- uk.mathletics.com (username and password required - see Class Teacher)
- nationalnumeracy.org.uk
- ictgames.co.uk
- www.topmarks.co.uk



Special Request: Water Bottles



In Year 1, we ask you to **provide your child with a Water Bottle**, which they can store in our Water Bottle Trolley in the classroom **every day**. The children can drink water throughout the day in class and, if required, they can refill their bottles during break. This is a change from Reception and gets the children into good habits as they progress through school.



Topic Snapshot

To make a strong start with our new topics this year, we are adding a Topic Snapshot to our usual Topic Letter. This Topic Snapshot is an introduction to the key learning throughout this term. It would be really useful if you could discuss this with your child and help them to become familiar with the vocabulary etc., and maybe even add to it as the children's learning progresses over the term. Have fun discovering!



Important Dates

Class Meeting - Thursday 12th September
Bicycle Training - Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October
The October Gallery - Thursday 3rd October
ZooLab - TBC
Open Morning (Phonics) - Wednesday 30th October
VUE Cinema *Missing Link* - Thursday 7th November
Y1 Class Tea - Thursday 14th November
Y1 Class Assembly - Friday 15th November
Camden City Learning Centre (CLC) - Tuesday 19th November
Parents' Evening - Thursday 28th November
Infants' Christmas Show - Friday 6th December
Infants' Christmas Party - Tuesday 17th December



We hope you will become as enthused as we are about our new topic! If you have any items of interest relating to the topic that you are happy for us to see or temporarily borrow then please feel free to bring them in to class. I have set up a **Topic Table** in the classroom. Also, if you know of anyone who would be willing to speak to the children on any area related to our Topic then please do let me know.

Finally, if you have any questions, queries or ideas to share, please do not hesitate to see me after school. Here's to a successful and happy first term!

Karen Coulter
Y1 Class Teacher