



Fleet Primary School

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Year 2 Topic Letter – Autumn Term



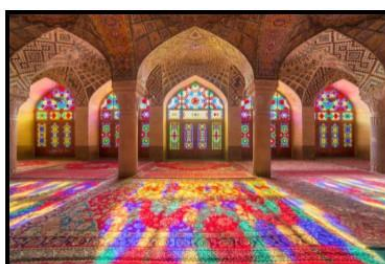
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school, I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. This term our class topic is 'Intrepid Travellers', a Geography and History based topic focusing on the seven continents of the world. Our journey started in the first week of term when we visited China and learnt about the Terracotta Warriors. Each child has carefully constructed their own Warrior out of play-dough and these are now on display in the classroom. During the first half term, Year Two will explore Asia and Africa. We will study some of the wonders of the world, compare cultures and learn about different traditions. We will link History, Art, DT and Science throughout the term for each country we visit. After the half term break, we will take a journey through the United Kingdom starting here in London. The children will learn about the Great Fire of London and we will visit the London Monument.

For English, in keeping with our topic, we have started reading the Julia Donaldson version of the traditional Chinese tale 'The Magic Paintbrush'. The children will be introduced to different versions of the story before rewriting the tale with their own original ending. Our next English Unit will be about how to write instructions. The children will learn to cook a simple Moroccan dish and will then be able to write down the recipe instructions.

Art this term will be inspired by our visits to Asia and Africa. We will start by exploring the blue city of Chefchaouen in Morocco. The children will then be challenged to create paintings using only shades of one colour. They will need to carefully consider line, shape, form and space in order to express their ideas. Our first Design and Technology project will be to make Kaleidoscopes inspired by the colourful Nasir-ol-molk Mosque in Iran. Later in the term, we will begin to prepare for our class show by learning and rehearsing songs, and making masks and costumes.

Our Science learning will be focused on materials this term. Children will learn to identify different materials and we will construct experiments to determine which materials are most suitable for particular uses. Our first investigation will be to find the best material to make a waterproof coat for our classroom teddy.



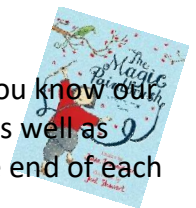
The children have made a great start to Maths learning this term. Please feel free to look at the classroom Maths Learning Wall where the key maths concepts for the week will be explained. This term, we will focus on numbers up to 100 and addition and subtraction, supporting children to gain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. We will focus on: mathematical language, where children will be encouraged to explain their maths thinking, understanding objects and pictures before moving on to symbols and signs then problem solving. The children should be becoming more fluent with their number facts and be able to recall number bonds from memory.

Reading

Please read to and with your child daily. I will read formally with your child each week during a guided reading session where the children will change their books. Children will be given two levelled reading books and they will be able to select two books to enjoy at home. A list informing you which day your child will change his or her books will be placed on the classroom door and children will need to bring their Book Bags on these days, however, it is useful for children to have their Book Bags in school every day. Please note that children will not be allowed to take books home unless they have their Book Bag in school. If your child does not yet have a Book Bag, please speak to Lisa in the school office where you can purchase one. Each child will also have a reading diary. This is for you to record your comments on your child's reading, for the children to write about their books (eg: whether they enjoyed a book, whether they found it difficult or easy to read and why etc.) and for adults in school to make comments also.

Spelling

Throughout the year, the children will be taught a range of spelling rules. We will let you know our focus for spelling and send home a supporting list of words for your child to practise, as well as suggestions for activities to support their learning. These lists will be sent home at the end of each spelling rule taught, which is roughly every two weeks.



PE

This term, children will have PE on Tuesdays with me and on Wednesdays with the PE coach. Children should wear trainers and comfortable clothes on these days that are easy to move in.

Home Learning

The children will all receive a Home Learning journal this year to take home every week with activities or suggested games for them to complete. It is essential that all children bring their Home Learning Journals to school every Wednesday, so they can be checked and are ready for the new home learning to be added for the following week.

Important Dates:-

Thursday 12th September - Class Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 30th Sept – Friday 4th Oct – KIT Theatre Week
Monday 21st – Friday 25th October - Half Term
Wednesday 30th October – Spellings and Phonics Open Morning
Thursday 7th November – Year Two Class Tea
Monday 11th November – Trip to the Camden Learning Centre
Friday 15th November – Trip to the Vue Cinema, Piccadilly
Thursday 28th November – Parents' Evening
Friday 6th December - Infant Show
Saturday 7th December - Christmas Fair

Tuesday 17th December - Infant Christmas Party

This term my PPA time will be covered by Rebecca Wall on Wednesday afternoons.

Thank you for a great start to the year. If you have any queries, please feel free to see me before school.

Kind regards,

Rachel Webb



Help at Home

Literacy

- Read every night to and with your child for at least 15 minutes.
- Encourage writing wherever possible. Writing emails to family or friends as well as shopping lists, comics, a diary and secret notes are good ideas. A special writing book and pens can be helpful with motivation. Whilst still keeping it fun, please help your child to write in clear sentences with a capital letter and a full stop.
- The following website has free games that are brilliant in giving a boost with phonics - www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Maths

- Practise telling the time and encourage children to relate times on a clock to their daily routines.
- Working with money helps many areas of maths. – Add up small totals when at the shop, work out change, add up the coins in your purse or wallet etc
- Play board games that involve adding two dice together.