



Fleet Primary School

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Year 4: Autumn 19



An Adventure Through Time

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It's been lovely to see everyone after the summer holidays and hear about all the adventures you've been having. Our new topic this term is History based and is called An Adventure Through Time. We will be going on a journey through history, exploring the Roman, Tudor and Victorian periods and focussing on our own wonderful city: London.



To kick off our new Topics, alongside our normal topic letter we will also be sending home a 'Topic snapshot'. This snapshot should be a useful introduction to the key learning throughout this term. It would be great if you could discuss the key facts with your child and help them to become familiar with the vocabulary etc. You could keep it on the fridge to refer back to throughout their learning this term!

In English we will start off by researching the Romans and writing some Kenning poems. We will then focus on the Roman invasion of Britain and on Boudicca, doing some drama and writing in role. Next we'll move onto the Tudors, looking at Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and writing our own play scripts and also writing some reports on Henry VIII. When we look at the Victorians we will write some adventure stories about a Victorian street child, using Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist as inspiration and then nearer to Christmas we'll explore A Christmas Carol.

Our History will focus on the three historical periods we're looking at over our topics: looking at aspects of Roman, Tudor and Victorian life and significant events and people. Our Geography will link closely to our History, focussing on Europe and the UK. We will first study the expansion of the Roman Empire over Europe and then focus on how the Romans conquered Britain and how that affects some aspects of our Geography today. We will compare the Roman Empire with the rise of the British Empire in the Victorian times, doing some contrasting map work.

In Science we will begin by looking at changing sounds, which will involve finding out about about sound; how it travels, pitch and volume. After half term, the focus will change to states of matter, looking at solids, liquids and gases.

In RE we will be looking at the start of Christianity in Roman times and how this has developed through History. In Art we will have a focus on portraits: first creating some portraits of Boudicca to link with our writing in English, then studying some Tudor portraits, supported by our visit to



the National Portrait Gallery. We will link our DT to this learning and will be designing and making picture frames. In Maths the children will continue to follow the National Curriculum and will continue to develop skills around place value, written and mental methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, handling data and statistics, time and measures and fractions.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in!

PE this term is on **Tuesday and Wednesday**. The children will need to make sure they have shorts/ leggings/ tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and trainers for these days, although it is often easier for PE kit to be left at school for the duration of the half term. *It would be really helpful if clothes and PE kit bags are labelled!*

The children will be starting trumpet and trombone lessons on **Thursday** so please remind them to bring their instrument and music folder on those days. It would be useful for you to send your child in with a labelled water bottle for school to allow them to get drinks during the day.

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

Wednesday 18th September: Trip to the Museum of London
Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September: Y4 cycle training (*in school*)
Thursday 17th October: Year 4 Class Tea
Friday 18th October: Year 4 Class Assembly
Wednesday 30th October: Parent open mornings
TBC: Trip to the National Portrait Gallery
Monday 11th November: Cinema Trip
Tuesday 29th October: Trip to the CLC
Thursday 28th November: Parent meetings
TBC: Victorians trip

I will send trip letters out with more details nearer the time. I will be putting a sign-up sheet outside Y4 for you to offer to help on our trips. Thank you to all the parents who helped us with our trips and visits last year, it's much appreciated! If you are able, please make sure your child brings in their voluntary contribution of **£2** for each trip and support our class tea by baking, buying or contributing to the class reps. Class teas are really important since they help to fund all the wonderful trips and visitors which we have.

Home learning is continuing as it was last year. Home learning journals and reading diaries are updated with new work to complete **every week**, on a **Friday**. Please ensure your child brings both these book with them to school **daily**.

Year 4 will have a great team of adults supporting them this year. Our class TA will be Alem. Ms Mulji will be teaching the children on Tuesdays and Ms Wood will be covering my PPA on a Wednesday afternoon. Miriam will continue teaching her Wednesday Philosophy sessions and Coach Keeley will be running our Wednesday PE lesson.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, the classroom is open between 8.45 and 9am or you can grab one of us for a chat after school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Ruth Hanfling and Lynley Benbetka

Ways you can help your child at home:

Maths

- 1) Please continue to help your child with their times tables. The children should be fluent in all their times table and division facts by the time they leave Year 4. If you would like any suggestions for how you can help your child learn their times tables, please feel free to speak to me at any time.
- 2) Counting games – practise counting in varying steps (e.g. fives, tens or hundreds) from any given three or four digit number. Bridging tens can be tricky for children (e.g. 89, 99, 109...) so that's a good area to focus. In Year 4, children are expected to be able to write and read 4-digit numbers.
- 4) Please continue to support your child learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks. Start by looking at o'clock and half past, then work on quarter to and quarter past and next focus on filling in the other times. You could also look at reading 24 hour times.

Literacy

- 1) We are continuing to teach spelling on a roughly two week cycle. New spelling lists are sent home at the end of a cycle; please support your child with learning these words. Your child should also be confident spelling the first hundred high frequency words (a list of these can be found online at <http://www.highfrequencywords.org/first-100-high-frequency-word-lists.html> or I can print you one if needed). If you notice your child misspelling any of these, then please practise them. Additionally, if you notice any words in your child's reading diary or home learning which they are frequently misspelling, please feel free to practise these also.
- 2) Please continue to read with your child **every night** for at least 15 minutes. Children should be filling in their reading diary **every day** with a record of which book they were reading and how many pages and then leaving a short comment **once a week**. Feel free to add any additional comments if you wish. Children are also given new follow up tasks **weekly** which follow their reading session with me in class. Please remind your child to complete these! The information supplied in reading diaries is a very useful record for us about your child's reading so your support in keeping the diaries up to date is much appreciated.
- 3) Encourage writing wherever possible. Emails, shopping lists, diaries, postcards and comics are all fun ideas. Whilst keeping it fun, please encourage your child to write in clear sentences with capital letters, full stops and conjunctions such as with, but, so, while to link ideas together and stretch out sentences. We have been working on enriching sentences by looking at, for example, varied verb and adjective choices, adding adverbs and changing pronouns. Children should be familiar with recognising verbs, adjectives, nouns and adverbs but it can be helpful to reinforce this learning by looking for examples as you read or write together.