



# Fleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Don McGibbon



Spring Term 2019-20

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! I trust you all had a lovely break. I am really excited about the term ahead. The children made such fantastic progress during the Autumn term and they have quickly settled back in and are ready for the learning opportunities ahead.

Kerryanne is back with us for the first half of this term. She has been away training at the IoE for the past few weeks and we look forward to welcoming her back.

Our topic this term is *Once Upon a Time*.

Each week we will have a different traditional tale such as; *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Gingerbread Man* to hang our learning on. The children will decide together on the Friday afternoon which story they would like to focus on for the following week.

A big focus of this topic will be promoting language development. For each story we focus on, we will develop a story map with lots of visuals that the children can use to prompt them to retell the story. We will talk about; who is in the story, what happened, when it happened, where and why in relation to the story. We know that when children are really familiar with stories, this can feed into their independent play and imaginative ideas. It also helps them to become confident talkers and writers as they use stories they know as a base to develop their own ideas.

Role-play will be a particularly strong component to this topic. We will have Grandma's House, a Gingerbread Bakery and a den under a bridge for the trolls from *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* to live under. The outdoor learning spaces will be utilised as different areas too, depending on what the children are most interested in.

As always, the children will have many fun opportunities to make and create related to our topic. We have lots of budding artist in our class!

## Reading

Please continue to read with and to your child at home!  
It is one of the best things you can do to support their learning.  
Please remember to bring their book bags in on their reading day.  
I cannot send new books home until I get the old ones back.



The children will continue to get two small readers and two picture books. Please feel free to change the picture books throughout the week, but the readers will only be changed once a week on their reading day.

When I work with my guided reading group, I talk to the children about the strategies good readers use. You might like to use this language when helping your child at home.

### Good Readers...

- Get the first sound on the tip of their tongue.
- Search the pictures for clues.
- Think about what makes sense.
- Think about what sounds right.
- Jump over the word and come back to it.
- Break the word into chunks.

Be careful if asking your child to only sound the words out because as we know, in English this does not always work. It is important they have a variety of reading strategies up their sleeve as well as being able to sound words out.

With all this in mind, we must ensure reading is fun and enjoyable.

If you can see your child is struggling, read the story to them first then they can have a go. They could fill in the gaps, or have a little treasure hunt at the end of the story. Such as, "Can you find the word *the* for me?" or "Put your finger on the word *!*."

Talk to them about what they see in the book and what words might be on the page?

It is always a good idea to ask them a little bit about the book when you have finished to check their understanding. Can they show you their favourite page? Why is that their favourite? etc.

The Early Learning Goal for reading that we want to get the children to by the end of Reception is - 'Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.'

If you have any questions about reading please do not hesitate to ask. Your written feedback in your child's reading diary is also greatly appreciated.

## Favourite Books Box

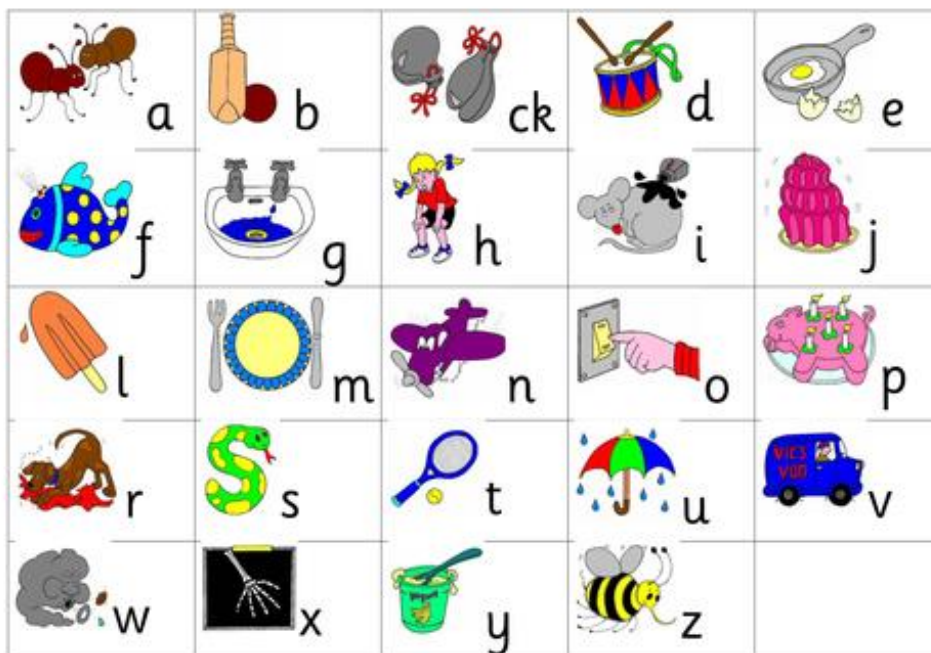
The children thoroughly enjoy hearing their own stories being read to the whole class. For this reason and to further embed a love of books, we have a 'Favourite Books Box'. The children are welcome to bring favourite books in from home to share. This also teaches children to value books and treat them with extra special care. Please ensure they have their name written in the front.

## Phonics

Our phonics programme will continue this term. During our phonics sessions, we will be spending more time applying the letters sounds we have learnt to our reading and writing.

Over the next week, we will spend time revising letters the children have already learnt to make sure the children are secure with them. If your child has any they need help with, I will send a little list home with some ideas for how you can help at home.

We will have a phonics open morning on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of January, so you can see some games you might like to play at home too.



## Mathematics

It was lovely to have so many of you come in for our maths open morning. I'm sure you noticed how many keen mathematicians we have and how much of our maths learning is through games and their play. This term's focus will include; counting irregular arrangements, estimating how many they can see and then checking by counting them, adding small sets and use the language of addition and subtraction. We also really want to ensure the children are secure with number recognition and counting objects with one to one correspondence. We will continue to play lots of fun number games to support this as well as applying maths to everyday contexts.

## Forest Fun

We are so lucky to have the Heath on our doorstep and the children really love being over there (as do I)! This term we will continue to have regular 'Forest Fun' sessions on the Heath. We know that learning outside is really important for children's development and wellbeing. They learn to take risks, be imaginative, learn about nature and develop lots of physical skills. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly on these days. It was fantastic having lots of children wear wellies last term with shoes to change back into when they got back to school. I'm so appreciative of your help on trips so thank you for taking time out of your busy days! Our Forest Fun sessions will run from 9.00 to 11.00 so hopefully not a big chunk to commit to. All the dates for our trips are on the door, so if you are free, please sign up.

Important Dates – Please put these in your diary now.

- Forest Fun on the Heath - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 9.00-11.00
- Phonics open morning – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 9.00-10.00
- Individual Parent Meetings, Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of February after school.
- Reception Class Tea – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, set up from 3.15
- Forest Fun on the Heath – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 9.00-11.00
- Kentish Town Farm – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 - 12.00. Packed lunch required.
- Forest Fun on the Heath – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 9.00-11.00
- Discover Story Centre – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 9.00-3.30. Packed lunch required.
- Forest Fun on the Heath – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 9.00-11.00
- International Food Evening – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 6.00-8.00. If you haven't been to this before, the idea is families bring in a plate of food to share with one another. It's a really lovely evening.
- Last day of school – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2.00pm finish.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Beth Cleine